



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God – the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS JANUARY 3, 2021 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“O lauffet ihr Hirten”
(Come Running, You Shepherds)

Ethan LaPlaca, *organ*
Max Drischner

OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

ACOLYTE CANDLE LIGHTING VIDEO

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive reading)*

Frances Wilson

Leader: From before there was time, God was God – a God of light, a God of love, a God of life.

People: **And we have been claimed as children of God, clothed in righteousness, a gift of grace.**

Leader: Let us worship the God whose unlimited grace is full of surprises – a God who even took on our flesh in Christ so that we might believe that we are loved.

HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *(selected verses read in Spanish)*

Kathryn Ophardt

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!**TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Sara Hackett

HYMN #139

"That Boy-Child of Mary"

BLANTYRE

Refrain: **That boy-child of Mary was born in a stable, a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.****What shall we call him, child of the manger? What name is given in Bethlehem? (Refrain)****His name is Jesus, God ever with us, God given for us in Bethlehem. (Refrain)****How can he save us; how can he help us, born here among us in Bethlehem? (Refrain)****Gift of the Father, to human mother, makes him our brother of Bethlehem. (Refrain)****One with the Father, he is our Savior, heaven-sent helper of Bethlehem. (Refrain)****Gladly we praise him, love and adore him, give ourselves to him of Bethlehem. (Refrain)****GOSPEL LESSON**

John 1:1-18

The Rev. Schoenewolf

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON

"Children of God"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SOLO

“This Christmastide (Jessye’s Carol)”

Gail Novak Mosites, *soloist*
Donald Fraser

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

We offer our gifts in response to God's love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation. Please visit www.ELPC.church/donate if you would like to make a contribution.

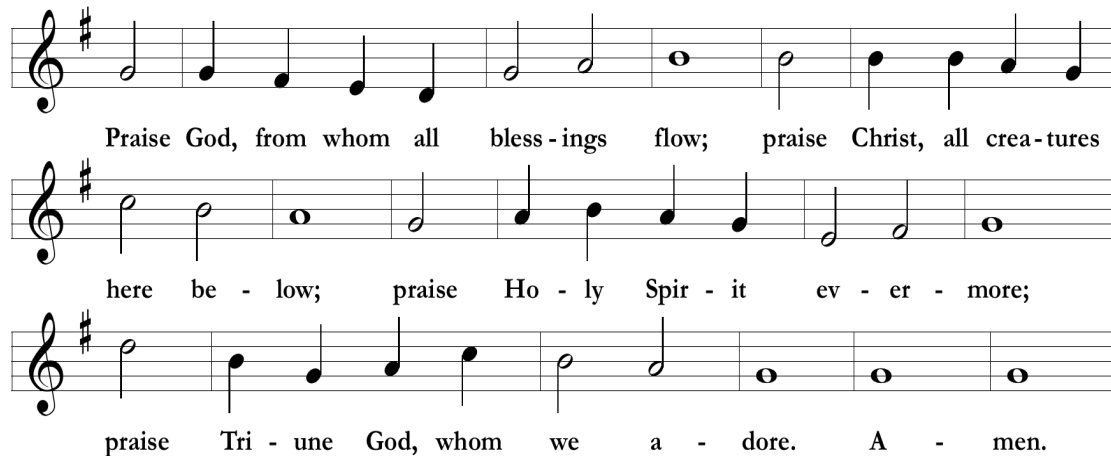
SPECIAL MUSIC

“We Three Kings”

Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt

DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

The Rev. Schoenewolf

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

HYMN #377

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

HOUSTON

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: **In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. (*Refrain*)

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. (*Refrain*)

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729”

Ethan LaPlaca, *organ*
Johann Sebastian Bach

JOY TO THE WORLD

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

THAT BOY-CHILD OF MARY

Kerrian

F C7

That boy-child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble, a

F Dm Gm C7 F Fine

man-ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.

F Gm7 C Am7 Dm

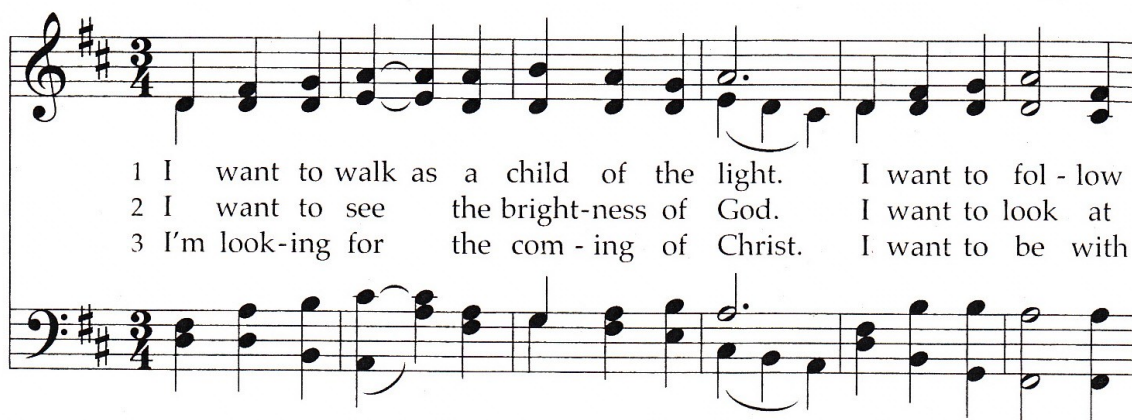
1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
3 How can he save us; how can he help us,
4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,
5 One with the Fa - ther, he is our Sav - ior,
6 Glad - ly we praise him, love and a - dore him,

Dm Gm C7 F to Refrain

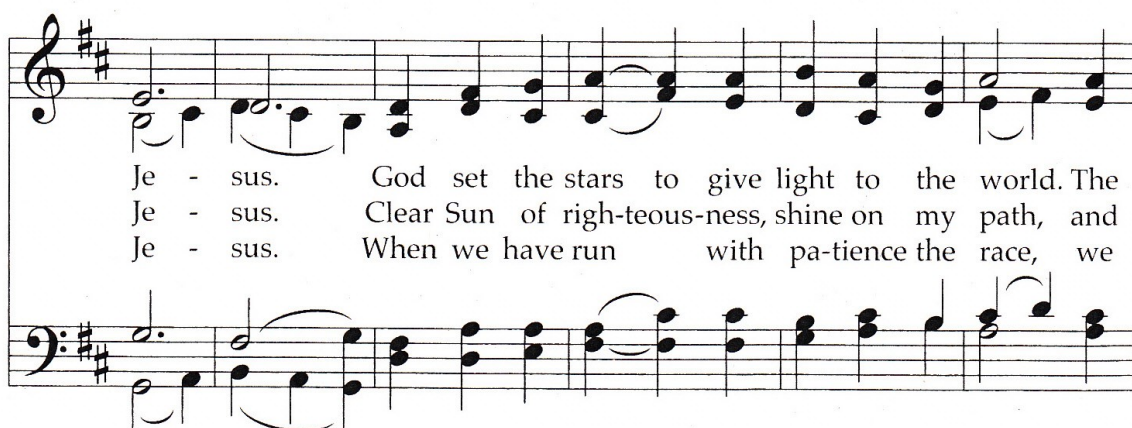
What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?
God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.
born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?
makes him our broth - er of Beth - le - hem.
heav - en - sent help - er of Beth - le - hem.
give our - selves to him of Beth - le - hem.

Written by a Scottish missionary for use at St. Michael's Cathedral in Blantyre, Malawi, this hymn on the meaning of Christ's birth and name reflects an aspect of that African culture, where naming often expresses the conditions of a child's birth or hopes for his or her life.

I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT

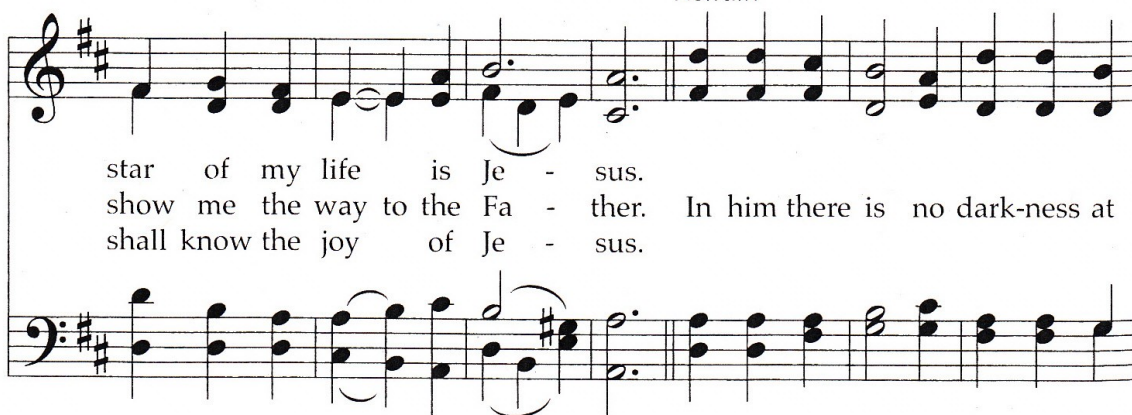


1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to fol - low
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to look at
 3 I'm look-ing for the com - ing of Christ. I want to be with



Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain



star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.



all. The night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

The author/composer of this unrhymed hymn regards it as a meditation and prayer deeply rooted in many scriptures, most connected with the theme of light: Genesis 1:17; Psalm 139:12; Isaiah 60:19; Malachi 4:2; John 14:8; Ephesians 5:8; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 John 1:5; Revelation 21:23.



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Preaching: | The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf |
| Liturgists: | The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy Sara Hackett Kathryn Ophardt Frances Wilson |
| Musicians: | Ethan LaPlaca, <i>Guest Organist</i> Gail Novak Mosites, <i>Cantor/Soloist</i> |
| A/V: | Tim Benedict Wayne Gaines |

As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on:

Facebook

www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian

YouTube

<http://tiny.cc/elpc-youtube>

and archived at www.ELPC.church

If you would like to make a contribution, please visit:
www.ELPC.church/donate

PW VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY: LAMENTING LIFE

Monday, Jan 4 from 7–8:30 pm

Tuesday, Jan 5 from 10 am–12 pm

The practice of lament has the power to change us and our lives. Such change may be most evident when we lament lives filled with suffering and pain beyond our control. Job cursed the day he was born (Job 3). Yet, he persisted in his lament until God answered. Job has much to teach both lamenters and their companions.

All women are invited to practice lament. Join PW on Tuesday, Jan 19 from Noon-1 pm to *Share Lament*. For details and Zoom info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

LGBTQ MINISTRY

- Friday, Jan 8 from 5-6 pm: Happy Hour*

At the end of a long week, come together with friends. Pour your favorite beverage, log on/call in to Zoom, and share in fellowship and fun for an hour. “See” you there!

- Saturday, Jan 16 from 9 am-7 pm: Day Retreat*

Members and friends of ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry are invited to spend the day with our church family while we celebrate the new year through worship, discussion, creative activities, reflections, and fellowship on Zoom. This will be a fun and safe place to explore and to laugh. Please RSVP to Wil by Sunday, Jan 10, or contact him with any questions (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

- Sunday, Jan 10 from 12:30-1:30 pm: Letter Writing*

A letter can make someone feel loved, whether it’s a note to a friend, a message to someone in your church family, or a letter advocating for justice half way around the world. Youth in grades 6–12 will write letters to folks both in our church and through Amnesty International’s *Write for Rights* campaign. RSVP to Sara so she can mail you supplies ahead of time (SaraH@coh.net).

- Sunday, Jan 17 from 5:30-6:30 pm: Tween Night Cooking Class*

Tweens in grades 4–6 will gather on Zoom to make dinner for their families. We will be making an easy ricotta gnocchi and “dirt” for dessert.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION?

Spiritual direction is the practice of accompanying another in their own attentiveness to the movement of God and their everyday, ordinary lives. The practice involves silence, listening, reflection and discernment. If you think you might be interested in this or are just curious, contact Rev. BJ Woodworth (BJW@coh.net).

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

- Friday, Jan 8 from 7-9 pm: Virtual Game Night*

This Game Night will begin with trivia followed by other games on the Jack Box platform. Everyone can play along on their own mobile devices by using a browser. Two devices do make it easier but you also can go between Zoom and browser. Grab your snacks and settle in for a night of fun!

- Wednesday, Jan 13 from 8-9 pm: Do the “Write” Thing*

One Wednesday every month, we take a different approach to “writing,” whether it is reflecting, drawing, meditation, visual art, social justice, or communicating to others. Whether you write, type, voice text, use communication symbols, or draw, please join us!

- Monday, Jan 18 from 1-3 pm: Virtual 29th Annual MLK Celebration*

Peoria, Illinois, Public Employees for Community Concerns’ 29th annual MLK Celebration is virtual this year. Hear Dr. Bernice King speak from 1–2 pm, and then YAMs may join our Zoom discussion from 2–3 pm. Ticket cost will be covered by Young Adult Ministry. Please RSVP to Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net) to attend.

**MLK DAY OF SERVICE
SOCK COLLECTION**

Observed each year on the third Monday in January as “a day on, not a day off,” MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer in their communities.

In observance of MLK Day, to fulfill the theme of “a day on, not a day off,” and to live into being a PC(USA) Matthew 25 Church, ELPC is hosting a

**Drive-by Sock Collection
Sunday, Jan 17 from 1–3:30 pm**

Typically, people living in homelessness spend their days walking in their community—and we all know and appreciate that when your feet are cold, your entire body is cold. Socks are the most requested items of clothing from ministries and organizations that serve individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

Please purchase warm socks in sizes for men, women, and children to be donated to local shelters.

This ministry opportunity is sponsored by the ELPC Mission Board, Neighbors Committee, and the Board of Deacons. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net).