



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 ADVENT DECEMBER 6, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Partita on Winchester New”
Chorale-Meditation-Bicinium-Aria-Trio

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Bruce Neswick

OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **Y también contigo.**

And also with you.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY (*responsive reading*)

Jon, Cami, William and Bennett Teacoach

Leader: In preparing for Christmas, may we look outward in love, look forward in hope, and look around expectantly for Christ, the Word made flesh, who is coming to us once more.

People: **We light the second candle of hope, praying in the words of the prophet Isaiah that the earth may be full of the knowledge of God, just as the waters cover the sea.**

Leader: Living Christ, Light of the World, shine in our lives and shine among us now.

HYMN #82

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

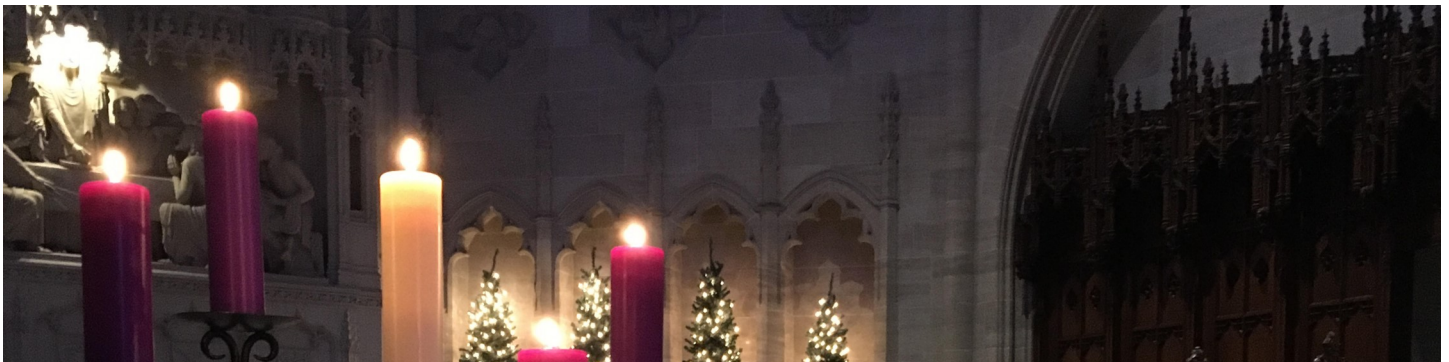
HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy



GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:1-11

The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

HYMN #108 (*vs. 1, 2, 6*)

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!**

**By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon’s soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,
Evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Philippians 2:4-11

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SERMON

The Word Becomes Flesh Again:
“Making Joy Complete”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HYMN #526 (*vs. 1, 3*)

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

LINSTEAD

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
Bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! (*Refrain*)

— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Rev. Richardson-Eckes

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Richardson-Eckes

Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ, your steadfast love and faithfulness have met and your righteousness and peace have joined together for our well-being. For the meal we’ve shared, for the grace you’ve provided, for the light of Advent hope that shines around us, we offer you our prayers of gratitude. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. 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.

HYMN #767 (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

“Together We Serve”

SAN ANSELMO

Together we serve, united by love, inviting God’s world to the glorious feast.
We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God’s love to the last and the least.
We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.
Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Partita on Winchester New – Toccata”

Dr. Moore, *organ*
Bruce Neswick


PARTICIPANTS

Preaching:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists:	The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes Jon, Cami, William and Bennett Teacoach
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore, <i>Organist/Music Director</i> David Jennings-Smith, <i>Cantor</i>
A/V:	Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

If you would like to
make a contribution,
please visit:

ELPC.church/donate

COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN (*vs. 1, 2, 6*)



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one
 5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised
 es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

LET US TALENTS AND TONGUES EMPLOY (vs. 1, 3)



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: bread is bro - ken; the wine is poured;
 sets the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain;
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



earth can breathe a - gain; pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Maracas and other rhythm instruments may be used. ||: ♩. ♩. ♩. :||

This "communion calypso" (as the author called it) affirms the continuing presence of Christ both in the sacramental meal and in the lives of Christians. Because this text was written to fit a pre-existing tune, it has a rather telegraphic style that encourages pondering.

TOGETHER WE SERVE (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm7)
B \flat F Gm Dm7

1 To - geth - er we serve, u - nit - ed by love,
2 We seek to be - come a bea - con of hope,
3 We wel - come the scarred, the wealth - y, the poor,
4 To - geth - er, by grace, we wit - ness and work,

(C) (G) (Am7) (Dsus) (D)
E \flat B \flat Cm7 Fsus F

in - vit - ing God's world to the glo - ri - ous feast.
a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
the bus - y, the lone - ly, and all who need care.
re - mem - ber - ing Je - sus, in whom we grow strong.

(G) (D) (C) (Bm)
B \flat F E \flat Dm

We work and we pray through sor - row and joy,
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
We of - fer a home to those who will come,
To - geth - er we serve in Spir - it and truth,

(G) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)
B \flat E \flat B \flat Cm F7 B \flat

ex - tend - ing God's love to the last and the least.
un - til we see Christ in each per - son we meet.
our hands quick to help, our hearts read - y to dare.
re - mem - ber - ing love is the strength of our song.

The first three words of this text appear in the website address for First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo, California, for whose centennial the hymn was commissioned. The text draws on Ephesians 4:11-16, a passage describing the many gifts and ministries within the body of Christ.

THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE — DUE DEC 9

As in years past, the ELPC Deacons are organizing the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families from ELPC's Mission, Christian Education, and Hope Academy ministries, East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM); and Casa San José.

This year's Giving Tree will be different. There will be no physical gifts, only gift cards to stores like Target and Walmart. Instead of having the Giving Tree outside of different services, we will be using SignUpGenius.

Visit our website for the sign-up form, where you will be able to select that you will purchase a real gift card. You also could choose to send donations for the purchase of a gift card. Both gift cards and donations will need to be sent to the church by Dec 9. You can mail the gift cards or drop them off at the church's front desk. Donations can be sent in via checks made out to "ELPC Giving Tree" or through the "Donate" button at ELPC.church. Please designate that your donation is for the "Giving Tree."

If you would like to help out with the Giving Tree gifts, contact Trish Buben (tab190@gmail.com; 410.504.2561) or Pastor Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net).

TIME(S) TO CENTER DOWN: A SURVEY

As winter arrives and we continue to live amidst the realities of this pandemic, there's a growing need for us to have regular time and space to center down in God, be still, and pray with each other. If that resonates with you, the Rev. BJ Woodworth invites you to take a brief survey to learn what types of spiritual practices would benefit you. Take the survey at www.tiny.cc/slc-survey.

PW'S BIBLE STUDY — DEC 7

Join Presbyterian Women on Monday, Dec 7 at 7 pm on Zoom for this month's lesson *Lamenting Death*. If you have questions or need the Zoom ID info, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT — DEC 13

Even though we continue to gather "virtually" as a community of faith, we will still celebrate the story of Christ's birth together! Join the kids of ELPC on Sunday, Dec 13 at 10 am via Zoom for our annual Christmas Pageant, led by kids of all ages. Contact Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net) for the Zoom link to attend! *No Sunday School classes will be held this day.*

CHRISTMAS IN EAST LIBERTY CONCERT — DEC 18

Join us for our virtual *Christmas in East Liberty* Cathedral Concert and relive some of our favorite Christmas performances by The Brass Roots, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and the ELPC Chancel Choir! Watch on Friday, Dec 18 at 7:30 pm on our YouTube or Facebook pages. Please visit www.ELPC.church for more details.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS — DEC 19

This year has brought many challenges to our physical, emotional, and spiritual lives. As the season of Christ's birth approaches, the ELPC Deacons invite you to join us in worship on Saturday, Dec 19 at 7 pm to feel God's presence in this time of unprecedented isolation, loss, and distress. Our *Blue Christmas* service is designed as a resource of strength, hope and community as we journey together through Advent. Due to ongoing safety considerations, this year's *Blue Christmas* service will be held virtually on our YouTube or Facebook pages. Visit www.ELPC.church for more details.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING — DEC 20

God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The *Christmas Joy Offering* addresses the support needed by our leaders—including leadership development programs in communities of color and Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Will you consider supporting this offering when you receive a *Christmas Joy Offering* envelope in the mail from the Mission Board? The offering will be received on Sunday, Dec 20.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES — DEC 24

The season of Advent and Christmas is a time of joy and celebration. And while we may not be able to worship in person on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec 24, we will livestream our services. Join us virtually for our *Friends & Family* service at 5 pm, and our *Candlelight* service at 8 pm. Both services will be available on YouTube and Facebook. Visit our website for links (www.ELPC.church).

