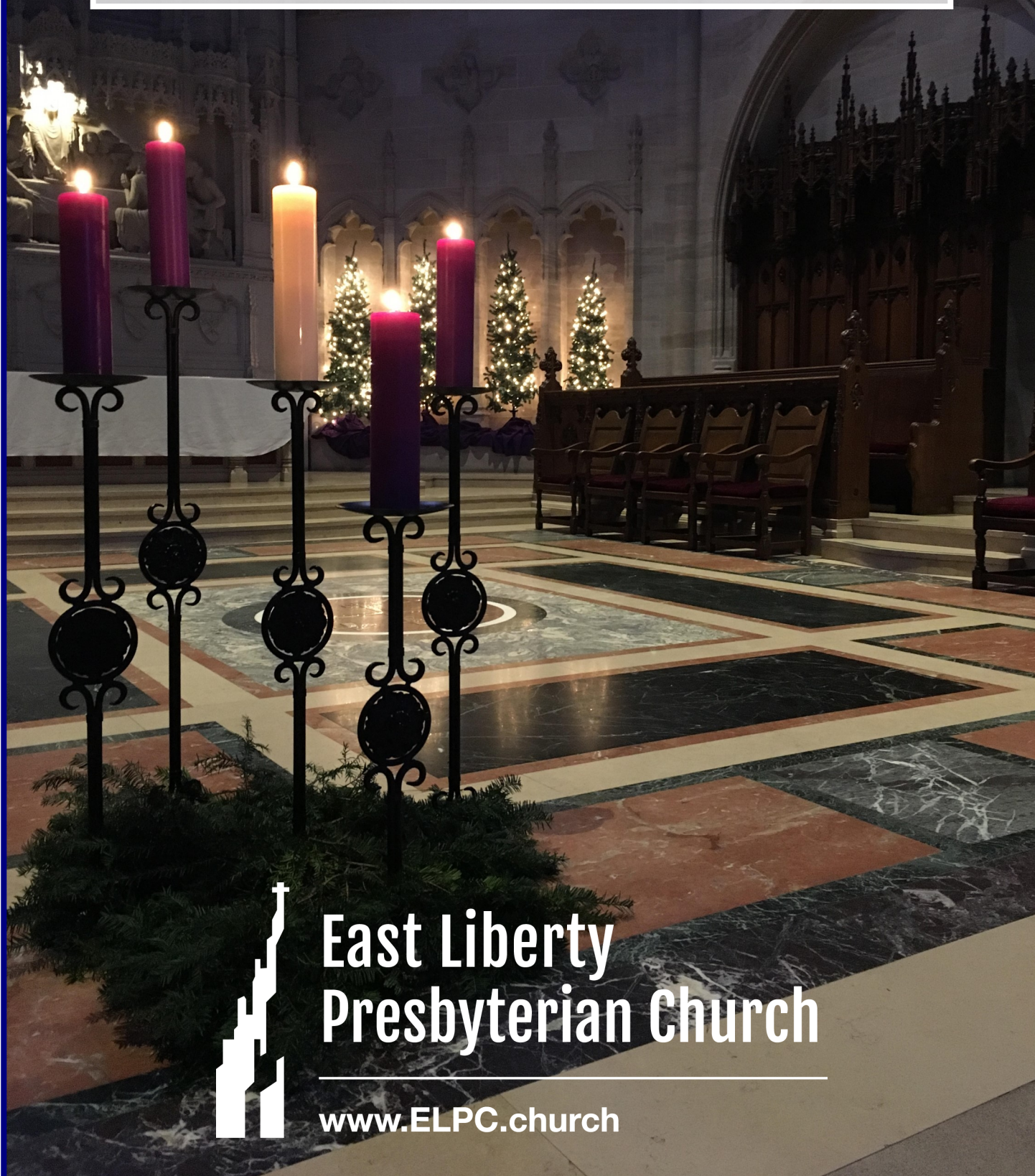


December 13, 2020 • 11 am Livestream Worship

*Third Sunday of Advent*



East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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)*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 13, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

### 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*)

Paige McKenzie and Melia Chandler

Leader: We light Advent candles as an act of prayer, trusting that our preparation for Christmas includes looking outward in love, looking forward in hope, and looking around expectantly for Christ, the Word made flesh, coming to us once more.

People: **We light the third candle of joy, remembering the ancient promise that when God comes among us, the deaf shall hear, the blind shall see, and the tongue of the speechless shall sing for joy.**

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

### HYMN #96 (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

WINCHESTER NEW

**On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

**Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Todd Hoffman, Debbie, Charlotte and Samantha Brake-Hoffman

### ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Todd Hoffman, Debbie, Charlotte and Samantha Brake-Hoffman

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!  
¡Alaben a Dios!**

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
Praise God!**



**DOXOLOGY HYMN #607**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all creatures here below.  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

**GREETINGS FROM PC(USA)**

The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter  
*Director of Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 3:1-6

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Kathryn Ophardt

**HYMN #127** (*vs. 1, 2, 3*)

“Jesus, The Light of The World”

WE’LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

**Hark! The herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world.**

*Refrain:* **We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
O, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Joyful all you nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world. (*Refrain*)**

**Christ by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the light of the world.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord; Jesus, the light of the world. (*Refrain*)**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Luke 3:23-38

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli, son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Melchi, son of Jannai, son of Joseph, son of Mattathias, son of Amos, son of Nahum, son of Esli, son of Naggai, son of Maath, son of Mattathias, son of Semein, son of Josech, son of Joda, son of Joanan, son of Rhesa, son of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, son of Neri, son of Melchi, son of Addi, son of Cosam, son of Elmadam, son of Er, son of Joshua, son of Eliezer, son of Jorim, son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Simeon, son of Judah, son of Joseph, son of Jonam, son of Eliakim, son of Melea, son of Menna, son of Mattatha, son of Nathan, son of David, son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon, son of Amminadab, son of Admin, son of Arni, son of Hezron, son of Perez, son of Judah, son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham, son of Terah, son of Nahor, son of Serug, son of Reu, son of Peleg, son of Eber, son of Shelah, son of Cainan, son of Arphaxad, son of Shem, son of Noah, son of Lamech, son of Methuselah, son of Enoch, son of Jared, son of Mahalaleel, son of Cainan, son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.

SERMON

*The Word Becomes Flesh Again:*  
“In Praise of Older Siblings”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HYMN #144 (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

*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](http://www.ELPC.church/donate) if you would like to make a contribution.*

HYMN #106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

*Refrain:* O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. (*Refrain*)  
Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace,  
And tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.  
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. (*Refrain*)

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“The King Shall Come”

Dr. Moore, *organ*  
arr. David N. Johnson



# ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY (vs. 1, 2, 4)

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our  
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

TEXT: Charles Coffin, 1736; trans. John Chandler, 1837, alt.

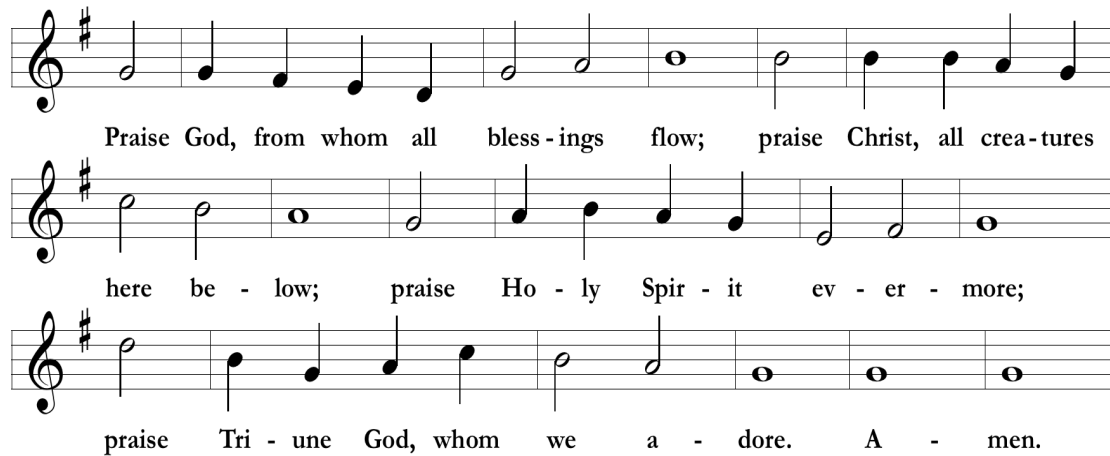
MUSIC: *Musikalisches Handbuch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk, 1847, alt.

WINCHESTER NEW

LM

(alternate tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR)

## DOXOLOGY



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea - tures  
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;  
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
The Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter  
*Director of Racial Equity and  
Women's Intercultural Ministries*  
Todd Hoffman and  
Debbie, Charlotte and Samantha  
Brake-Hoffman  
Paige McKenzie and Melia Chandler  
Kathryn Ophardt

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist /  
Music Director*  
Adrianna Cleveland, *Cantor*

A/V: Tim Benedict and 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](http://www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian)

#### YouTube

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

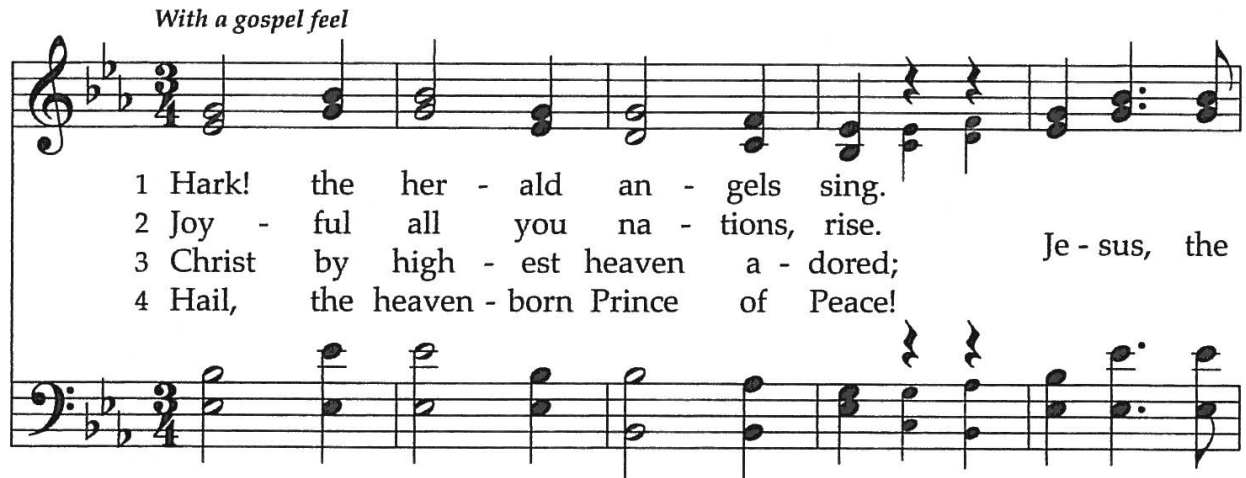
and archived at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

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If you would like to make a  
contribution, please visit:  
[www.ELPC.church/donate](http://www.ELPC.church/donate)

# JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (vs. 1, 2, 3)

*With a gospel feel*



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing.  
 2 Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise.  
 3 Christ by high - est heaven a - dored;  
 4 Hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Je - sus, the



light of the world. Glo - ry to the  
 Join the tri - umph  
 Christ, the ev - er -  
 Hail, the Sun of



new - born King,  
 of the skies. Je - sus, the light of the world.  
 last - ing Lord;  
 righ - teous - ness!

This blues-tinged setting of a familiar Christmas carol participates in a longstanding African American practice of adapting Anglo-European texts, as is done here by incorporating a repeated internal line and by appending a refrain that expands that line's language and imagery.

Refrain

We'll walk in the light, beau - ti - ful light.

The first line of the refrain is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody in the treble clef consists of eighth and quarter notes, often beamed in pairs. The bass line provides a harmonic accompaniment with dotted half notes and quarter notes.

Come where the dew - drops of mer - cy shine bright.

The second line continues the melody and accompaniment. It features a triplet of eighth notes in the treble clef on the word "shine". The bass line continues with a steady accompaniment.

O, shine all a - round us by day and by

The third line of the refrain shows the continuation of the musical theme. The treble clef melody uses various note values, including eighth and quarter notes. The bass line maintains the harmonic support.

night. Je - sus, the light of the world.

The fourth line concludes the refrain. The treble clef melody ends with a half note and a whole note. The bass line concludes with a half note and a whole note, ending with a double bar line.



## IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

1 In the bleak mid-win-ter, frost-y wind made moan;  
 2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;  
 3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there;  
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign;  
 cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
 in the bleak mid-win-ter a sta-ble place suf-ficed  
 but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,  
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

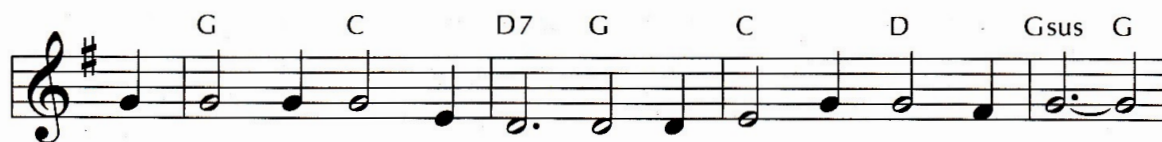
in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a-go.  
 the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.  
 wor-shipped the be-lov-ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Though this text describes winter weather in England rather than in Palestine, the poet is using familiar surroundings as a means of making the Nativity more immediate and personal. The tune name honors a Gloucestershire village near the composer's birthplace in Cheltenham.

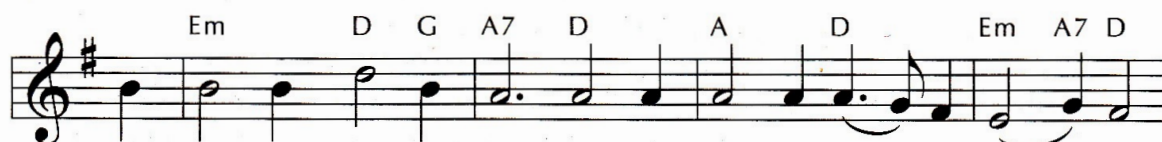
# PREPARE THE WAY, O ZION



- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,

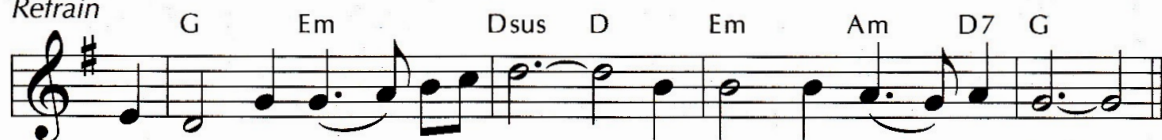


Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.  
All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

*Refrain*



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812; rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;  
adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN  
7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

CCLI #689547



## FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC — DEC 20

ELPC's Mission Board, in partnership with the Birmingham Free Clinic, will be hosting a *Free Flu*

*Shot Clinic* on Sunday, Dec 20 from 12-4 pm in ELPC's South Highland Ave circle driveway. All are welcome to receive a free flu shot! No appointments are necessary. Visit our website for more details at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

## 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. The offering will be received on Sunday, Dec 20.

## PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHRISTMAS EVE FRIENDS & FAMILY SERVICE — DEC 24

On Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec 24 at 5 pm, we will worship together at our Friends & Family service from the comfort of our own homes! Our service will be an intergenerational celebration of the birth of the Christ Child, including hymns, scripture, prayer, Communion, and the candlelight singing of *Silent Night*. We hope to include as many people as possible in our service, so that we can enjoy this experience in community together. We are looking for participants to:

- Sing in an Intergenerational Choir (film yourself singing a part of a Christmas carol that we will edit together)
- Lift a lit candle as part of the singing of *Silent Night*
- Serve as a liturgist (read scripture or lead a prayer)

If you and your family are interested, contact Pastor Heather for details ([HeatherS@coh.net](mailto:HeatherS@coh.net)).

## Virtual Holiday Events at East Liberty Presbyterian Church



### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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 our YouTube or Facebook pages. Please visit [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church) for more details.

**FRIDAY, DEC 18 @ 7:30PM**



### BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

To feel God's presence in this time of unprecedented isolation, loss, and distress, the ELPC Deacons invite you to *Blue Christmas: A Light in the Darkness* service designed as a resource of strength, hope and community as we journey together.

View on YouTube and Facebook or listen by calling 1.929.205.6099  
Meeting ID: 188 135 194

**SATURDAY, DEC 19 @ 7PM**



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

The early *Friends & Family Service* at 5 pm will feature an intergenerational celebration of Christ's birth and a sermon by Pastor Heather.

The later traditional *Candlelight Service* at 8 pm will have the familiar components of special music, Christmas quotes, and a sermon by Pastor Randy.

*Both services will include communion and a candle-lit version of Silent Night.*

**THURSDAY, DEC 24 @ 5 & 8PM**



# FREE FLU SHOTS



**Sunday, December 20**  
**Noon to 4 pm**

**at East Liberty Presbyterian Church**  
116 South Highland Ave • Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Birmingham Free Clinic and East Liberty Presbyterian Church are offering FREE FLU SHOTS to the Pittsburgh community.

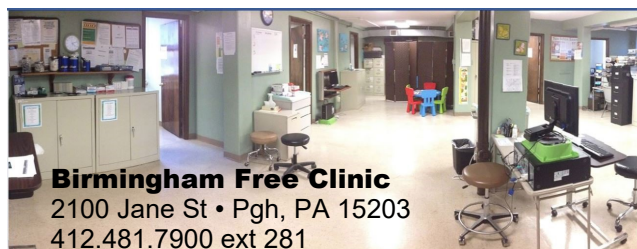
**NO RSVP or appointment is necessary!**

Walk or drive to the church's circular entrance to receive your free flu shot! All are invited to participate!



**East Liberty**  
**Presbyterian Church**

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)



**Birmingham Free Clinic**  
2100 Jane St • Pgh, PA 15203  
412.481.7900 ext 281

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