



# 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)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

“Prelude on *Once in Royal David’s City*”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
David Willcocks

### 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*)

Andrea DeVries, Sonia and Annabel Degenholtz

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 fourth candle of love, echoing the dramatic prophecy of old that “a young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel, meaning God-with-us.”**

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

### HYMN #100 (*vs. 1, 3, 4*)

“Canticle of the Turning”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great

And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.

You fixed your sight on your servan’t plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,

So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

*Refrain:* My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.

Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.

Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.

The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;

There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (*Refrain*)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast;

God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,

Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (*Refrain*)

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Molly Peck

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Molly Peck

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!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Todd Farwell, *soloist*  
John Prindle Scott

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 1:26-38

Lynne and Keith Irvin

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**HYMN #140** (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

"Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Colossians 2:6-12

The Rev. Dr. Bush

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

SERMON

*The Word Becomes Flesh Again:*  
“Living Your Lives in Christ”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*from A Brief Statement of Faith*)

In life and death we belong to God. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

We strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying “Come, Lord Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

HYMN #92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

WAITING

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.  
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.  
Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.  
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

arr. Sean Salamon

OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER

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

HYMN #141 (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

PERSONENT HODIE

On this day earth shall ring  
With the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King,  
Born on earth to save us;  
Him the Father gave us.

*Refrain:* Ideooo, ideooo, ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth;  
When he came down to earth  
Bethlehem saw his birth;  
Ox and ass beside him  
From the cold would hide him. (*Refrain*)

On this day angels sing;  
With their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, heaven’s King,  
Born on earth to save us;  
Peace and love he gave us. (*Refrain*)

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661”  
(*Savior of the Nations, Come*)

Dr. Moore, *organ*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

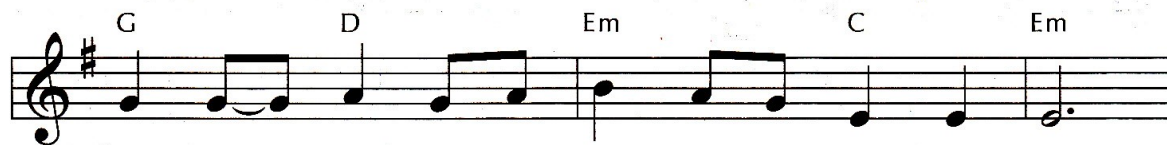
# CANTICLE OF THE TURNING (vs. 1, 3, 4)



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
 jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.  
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

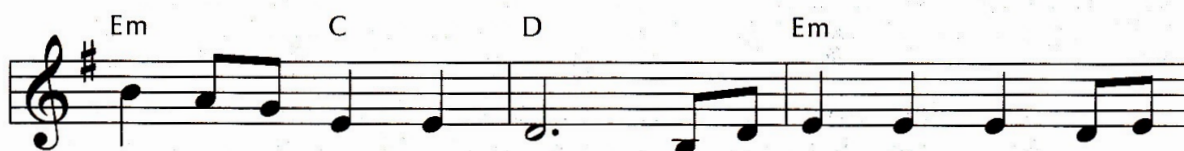


name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

# ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY (vs. 1, 2, 4)

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and  
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

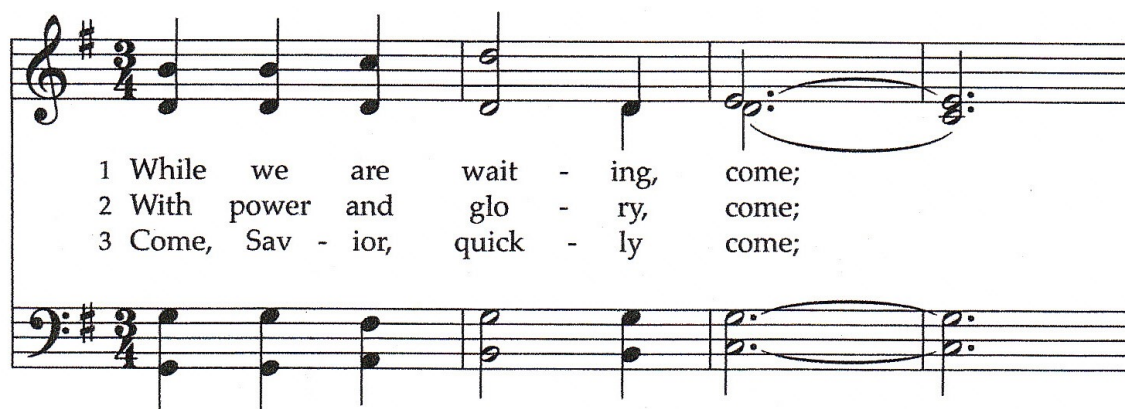
man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and  
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our  
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.



# WHILE WE ARE WAITING, COME



1 While we are wait - ing, come;  
2 With power and glo - ry, come;  
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;



while we are wait - ing, come.  
with power and glo - ry, come.  
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.

This simple and meditative Advent hymn is so uncomplicated in both text and tune that it can be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book, which might make it effective as a prayer response. It would also lend itself to improvised stanzas on appropriate occasions.

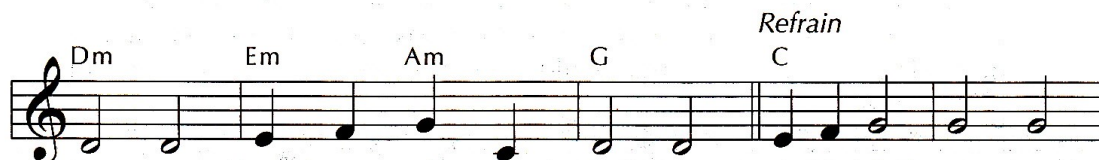
# ON THIS DAY EARTH SHALL RING (vs. 1, 2, 4)



1 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
 2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came  
 3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three  
 4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to  
 down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -  
 to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -  
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
 side him from the cold would hide him. \*Id - e - o - o - o - o,  
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



id - e - o - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

\*Therefore, glory to God in the highest.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this Latin carol for Christmas may have roots several centuries older than its 16th-century emergence, the text was all in one language until its 20th-century translator chose to adopt the original last two lines of the fourth stanza as a unifying refrain in all stanzas.



# Church Events and Announcements

December 20, 2020 • Fourth Sunday in Advent



## FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC — TODAY!

ELPC's Mission Board, in partnership with the Birmingham Free Clinic, will be hosting a *Free Flu Shot Clinic* today from 12-4 pm in ELPC's South Highland Ave semi-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 — TODAY!

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 today.

## 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).

## *Christmas Eve Worship 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.*

# 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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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists:	The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf Andrea DeVries and Sonia and Annabel Degenholtz Lynn and Keith Irvin Molly Peck
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore, <i>Organist / Music Director</i> Todd Farwell, <i>Cantor/Soloist</i>
Guest Musicians:	Monique Mead, <i>Violin</i> Andrés Cárdenes, <i>Violin</i> Isabel Cárdenes, <i>Harp</i> Tino Cárdenes, <i>Piano</i>
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:  
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