Christmas Eve
5 pm Family Worship Service 2020
East Liberty Presbyterian Church
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)

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2020 — 5:00 PM

TIME OF PREPARATION
“O Holy God, we hear the story of shepherds and magi, of maiden and carpenter, of prophets and angels, and we too come to Bethlehem for a blessing. You are born in our hearts because you have chosen the weakness of our bodies for your birth. We are filled with love because you have taken upon yourself our humanity; we are filled with hope because you have offered us your Spirit, your life and your light; we are filled with faith because all that is meek and lowly and humble in us and in creation becomes holy this night. Our salvation has come into this holy time and we gather to say together, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.”

— Maren C. Tirabassi

PRELUDE
“In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729”
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ
Johann Sebastian Bach
Cody Conley, violin
Gustav Holst
Cody Conley, violin
Adolphe Adam

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

“O Holy Night”

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SHARING GOD’S PEACE
Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.
The peace of Christ be with you.
People: Y también contigo.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP
Deborah, Devo, Alex and Christopher Hughes-Ihone

Leader: The angel said, “I bring you good news of great joy! For to you a Savior is born! And so it is with joy that we tell this story once more.”

People: And so it is with joy that we tell this story once more.

Leader: The angels sang “Glory to God in the highest heaven! And on earth, peace for all.”

People: Together we sing praise to God and pray for peace.

Leader: Tonight we share this good news once more: Emmanuel, God-with-us, has come, and is coming again!

Leader: With hearts filled with joy, hope, peace and love, let us worship and praise God!

CAROL
“Joy to the World”
Antioch

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
Carol Bonner and Kathy Callahan
Loving God, the Bible tells us that when Jesus was born, your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We thank you for becoming one of us to show us the fullness of your love. Open our ears so that we might hear the story of Jesus’ birth with joy, and find strength and hope from this good news. Help us then to tell this story, not just in words but through our lives. May your love be visible through us as we point to the peace you provided through the Christ-child born in Bethlehem. In the name of your son Jesus we pray. Amen.
Moments With Our Children

Hearing God's Word

Carol

"Away in a Manger"

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:1-20

Homily

"Unprecedented Love in Unprecedented Times"

Offering Invitation

Leader 1: Together, we have heard the good news of Jesus' birth
Leader 2: Together, we have received God's precious gift to all of us.
Leader 3: We respond in faith and offer our gifts too, as an act of worship, thanks and praise.
Leader 4: With joyful hearts let us now receive this evening's offering.
Leader 5: Let us pray: Gracious God, we are amazed by your love for us. As you entered this world in Christ, we pray that we may respond to this precious gift with the courage of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the praise of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds and the generosity of the magi. May our joy and our generosity mark our celebration not only today, but every day. In the name of the Christ-child we pray. Amen.

Anthem

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

— The Lord's Supper —

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
We lift them up to the Lord.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

The Rev. Woodworth

Words of Institution

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Sharing the Bread & the Cup

Prayer after Communion

Leader 1: In Jesus, you took on flesh and lived among us to show us the fullness of your love.
Leader 2: We thank you that you are Emmanuel, God-with-us, not just today, but always.
Leader 3: By you grace, dwell with us. Fill us with your hope, strengthen us to serve you, and equip us to share your good news through the living of our lives and the love we share with all.
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE & SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST
John 1:1-5
The Rev. Schoenewolf

CAROL
“Silent Night, Holy Night!”
STILLE NACHT

CHARGE & BENEDICTION
The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE
“Toccata on A ntioch”
Dr. Moore, organ
Craig Phillips

PARTICIPANTS
in today’s service

Preaching:
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Participants:
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Sara and Brianna Hackett
Amy Bialek
Carol Bonner and Kathy Callahan
Victor Castrejon and Kathryn Ophardt
Barbara Griffin and Jeff, Joan, Josphat and Kira Mukogosi
Alex, Katie and Tobias Haas-Conrad
Mike Hellman
Deborah, D evo, Alex and Christopher Hughes-Ihonde
Alex and Mackenna Karaczun and Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun
Bryan, Heather and Josh Lawrence
Amy, Drew and Ethan Simpson
Isaiah Wilson

Musicians:
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist/ Music Director
Cody Conley, violin

Quartet:
Adrianna Cleveland, Todd Farwell
Robin Schneider, Michael Painter

A/V:
Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Music Videos Recording and Editing