



# CHRISTMAS EVE

5 pm Family Worship Service 2020



East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church

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



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Avenue, 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)*

## 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

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.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Deborah, Devo, Alex and Christopher Hughes-Ihonde

Leader: The angel said, “I bring you good news of great joy! For to you a Savior is born!”

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.

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## Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Service

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MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Rev. Dr. Bush  
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
Sara Hackett  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
The Rev. BJ Woodworth

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

vs. 1 and 3

vs. 2

MUELLER

CRADLE SONG

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

The Rev. Schoenewolf

HOMILY

“Unprecedented Love in Unprecedented Times”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERING INVITATION

Barbara Griffin and Jeff, Joan, Josphat and Kira Mukogosi

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”

Cody Conley, *violin*

ADESTE FIDELES

— THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

People: Y también contigo.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Alex and Mackenna Karaczun and Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun

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 your 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.



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## Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Service

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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 *Antioch*”

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, Devo, 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*