Sunday, February 21, 2021

11 am Livestream Worship

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Photo by Dr. Edward Alan Moore
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 21, 2021 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

PRELUDE
“O Kind Creator, bow thine ear
To mark the cry, to know the tear
Before thy throne of mercy spent
In this thy holy fast of Lent.”

“All, benigne conditor”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ
Gerald Near

OPENING WORDS
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.

ACOLYTE CANDLE LIGHTING VIDEO
Holly Kascal-Hicks and Hadley and Felix Mims

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: O give thanks to God, who is good;
People: Whose steadfast love endures forever.
Leader: Praise to Jesus Christ, who is the light that came into the world;
People: May this light chase away our brokenness and sin.
Leader: Come near to us, Holy Spirit, for by your grace we are made whole.
People: Let us worship now our Triune God. Amen.

HYMN #350 (vs. 1, 3, 4) “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.
Refrain: Sisters, don’t grow weary; brothers, don’t grow weary;
Children, don’t grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.
We are climbing Jacob’s ladder; we are climbing Jacob’s ladder;
We are climbing Jacob’s ladder, for the time is drawing nigh. (Refrain)
Every round goes higher, higher; every round goes higher, higher;
Every round goes higher, higher, for the time is drawing nigh. (Refrain)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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)
ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
¡Alaben a Dios! ¡Aleluya! Praise God! Alleluia!

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON Romans 10:9-13
Julie Kascal
If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
Leader: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC VIDEO
“I Believe This Belongs to You” written by Jan Garrett
Anthony Brown, baritone soloist

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
The Rev. Schoenewolf

HYMN #166 (vs. 1, 3, 4) “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” ST. FLAVIAN
Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
Yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.
Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
An Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
The Rev. Dr. Bush

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON “Devilish Distractions” The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION
Feb 21 • 1st Sunday in Lent

SPECIAL MUSIC
“Hear the Lambs A-Cryin”
Denise Sheffey-Powell, soloist
arr. Harry T. Burleigh

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER
The Rev. Woodworth

OFFERING INVITATION & PRAYER
The Rev. Patrice 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 if you would like to make a contribution.

HYMN #834
“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”
Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.
When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near;
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION
The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE
“Postlude in D”
Dr. Moore, organ
Healey Willan

As part of ELPC’s mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on:

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www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian

YouTube
http://tiny.cc/elpc-youtube

and archived at www.ELPC.church

If you would like to make a contribution, please visit:
www.ELPC.church/donate

PARTICIPANTS
IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Julie Kascal
Holly Kascal-Hicks and Hadley and Felix Mims

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist/
Music Director
Denise Sheffey-Powell, Cantor/Soloist
Michael Painter, Cantor
Anthony Brown, baritone soloist
1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.
2 It's our faith makes us happy; it's our faith makes us happy, for the time is drawing nigh.
3 We are climbing Jacob's ladder; we are climbing Jacob's ladder, for the time is drawing nigh.
4 Every round goes higher, higher; every round goes higher, higher, for the time is drawing nigh.

Refrain
Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary;

This African American spiritual has a biblical basis in the parable of the ten maidens (Matthew 25:1–13), but the text actually sung could vary greatly. Such variation can be seen here in the annexing of an often freestanding spiritual based on Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10–17).
children, don’t grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.
LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS (vs. 1, 3, 4)

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
2 As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win, O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.
3 And through these days of penitence, and through this Pas-sion-tide, yes, ever more, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.
4 Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past, an Easter of un-ending joy we may attain at last.

Like many of this author’s hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ’s temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.
1 Precious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I light; take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2 When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near; when my life is almost gone,

fall; take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.