

# **11 am Livestream Worship** Sunday, March 14, 2021

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Photo by Dr. Edward Alan Moore

# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 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 IN LENT / GIFTS OF WOMEN March 14, 2021 — 11 am Livestream Worship

#### PRELUDE

"O Waly Waly" "Beach Spring" Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ* arr. Emma Lou Diemer arr. Janet Linker

**OPENING WORDS** 

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

SHARING GOD'S PEACE Sonia Degenholtz La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes. Leader: The peace of Christ be with you. People: Y también contigo. And also with you. **ACOLYTE CANDLE LIGHTING VIDEO** Stephanie Creasy **CALL TO WORSHIP** Jean Kennedy Leader: We come from our own homes, our own lives, our own work to become God's people in this place. **People:** We see the kingdom of God among us, seeking God's guidance in our worship, fellowship, laughter, tears, our faith and our uncertainties. Leader: Let us worship God. HYMN #7 "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" NORWICH Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world. Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun. Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light, Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace. Mothering Spirit, nurturing one, in arms of patience hold me close, So that in faith I root and grow until I flower, until I know. **PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS** The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" HEAR MY PRAYER

HYMN #471 (sing 3x)"O Lord, Hear My FO Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer.O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

#### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Hannah Moon

Leader: God of Rachel and Mary, God of the mothers of Bethlehem, you are with us when we rejoice and when we mourn. You are with us in our individual sorrows and in the sorrows we share. As we study your word may we hear our sisters' stories, and, in hearing, relieve some of their burdens.

People: Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy By the rivers of Babylon-there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

Remember, O Lord, against the Edomites the day of Jerusalem's fall, how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down! Down to its foundations!" O daughter Babylon, you devastator! Happy shall they be who pay you back what you have done to us! Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!

Leader: This is the word of the Lord. **People:** Thanks be to God!

#### VIDEO PRESENTATION

**TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES** 

SPECIAL MUSIC

#### "I Love The Lord Who Heard My Cry"

Genesis 21:8-20

#### **HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow.

**SERMON** 

"Imposter Syndrome"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I'm Here (from The Color Purple)"

Brenda Russell, Allee Willis Stephen Bray

Kelli Booher

Sara Hackett

Richard Smallwood

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Psalm 137

#### March 14 • 4th Sunday in Lent

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **OFFERING INVITATION/MINUTE FOR MISSION**

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 #785 "In Deepest Night" ROSE MARY In deepest night, in darkest days, when harps are hung, No songs we raise, when silence must suffice as praise, Yet sounding in us quietly there is the song of God. When friend was lost, when love deceived, dear Jesus wept, God was bereaved; so with us in our grief God grieves, And round about us mournfully there are the tears of God. When through the waters winds our path, around us pain, Around us death, deep calls to deep, a saving breath, And found beside us faithfully there is the love of God. **BLESSING & BENEDICTION** The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

"Prelude in F"

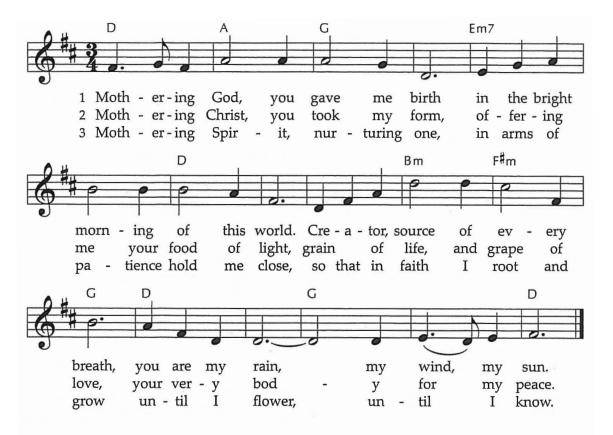
B

Dr. Moore, organ Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

Kathryn Ophardt

Mary Alice Lightle

### MOTHERING GOD, YOU GAVE ME BIRTH



As the tune name hints, this text is derived from images in the writings of the English medieval mystic, Julian of Norwich. In 1393 she wrote down an account of her sixteen remarkable visions experienced twenty years earlier; they formed the basis of her theology of God's love.

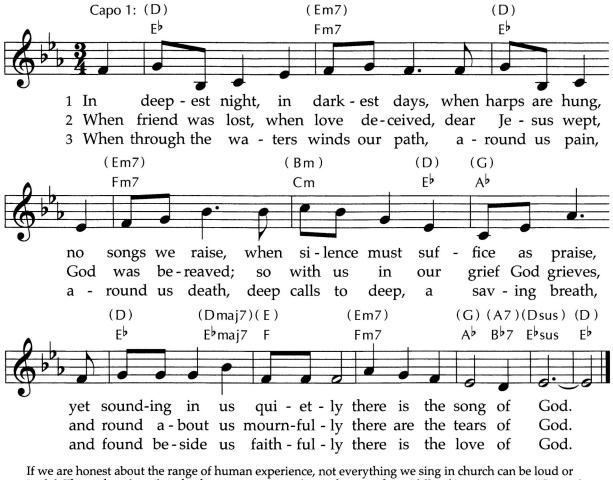
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**O** LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER (sing 3x)



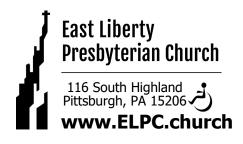
This chant from the Taizé Community in France is provided with two sets of words, either of which can be used as best suits the occasion. The first text is based on Psalm 102:1–2, and the second is an amalgam of phrases drawn from Psalms 118:14, 25:5, 36:9, and John 4:14.

### IN DEEPEST NIGHT



If we are honest about the range of human experience, not everything we sing in church can be loud or joyful. The author describes this hymn as "a song of quiet hope in the middle of intense sorrow." It speaks eloquently of God's presence with us through our most difficult times.

TEXT: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1995		ROSE MARY
MUSIC: David Schwoebel, 2008		8.8.8.8.6
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Music © 2008 Celebrating Grace, Inc.		



Some of the prayers used in this service are adaptations of prayers included in this year's Horizons Bible Study.

## **PARTICIPANTS** IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching:	The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy Kelli Booher, Stephanie Creasy Sonia Degenholtz, Sara Hackett Jean Kennedy, Mary Alice Lightle Hannah Moon, Kathryn Ophardt
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist/ Music Director Adrianna Cleveland, Cantor/Soloist Todd Farwell, Cantor
A/V:	Tim Benedict Wavne Gaines

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