

ELPC

EAST LIBERTY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY
AUG 8
2021

10AM
SUMMER
WORSHIP SERVICE



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church



THE PRAYER ROOM
at ELPC



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)

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 8, 2021 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

GATHERING MUSIC

HYMN #14 (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

HYMN #544 (*sing 3x*)

“Bless the Lord”

BLESS THE LORD

PRELUDE

“Caprice No. 11”

Cody Conley, *violin*
Niccolò Paganini

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

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 (*from Psalm 34*)

Ayres Freitas and Lucyna de Barbaro

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; God's praise will continually be on my lips.

People: **O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt God's name together.**

Leader: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in our God.

People: **The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them all.**

Leader: Let us worship our gracious God this morning.

* HYMN #815

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”

FESTAL SONG

Give to the winds thy fears; hope, and be undismayed.

God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.

Through waves and clouds and storms God gently clears the way.

Wait patiently; so shall this night soon end in joyous day.

Leave to God's sovereign sway to choose and to command.

So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way, how wise, how strong God's hand!

Let us in life, in death, thy steadfast truth declare,

And publish with our final breath thy love and guardian care.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Leader: Let us come together to speak the truth to our neighbors, to reflect honestly on our shortcomings, and confess our sins before God and one another. Let us pray.

* Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

* Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have nursed grudges against our adversaries. We have hoarded the fruits of our labors rather than share our bounty with the needy. We have not built up our neighbors with words of kindness but indulged in gossip and mistrust. Heal us, O God, and give us the grace to love as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!**
¡Alabado sea Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Praise God!

HYMN #792 (vs. 1, 2; remain seated)

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

BALM IN GILEAD

Refrain: **There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;**
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (*Refrain*)

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend. (*Refrain*)

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Allemande from Partita No. 1”

Cody Conley, *violin*
Johann Sebastian Bach

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Esther 1:1-3, 10-12, 15-22

The Rev. Dr. Bush

This happened in the days of Ahasuerus, the same Ahasuerus who ruled over one hundred twenty-seven provinces from India to Ethiopia. 2 In those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, 3 in the third year of his reign, he gave a banquet for all his officials and ministers. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were present. 10 On the seventh day, when the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who attended him, 11 to bring Queen Vashti before the king, wearing the royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the officials her beauty; for she was fair to behold. 12 But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs. At this the king was enraged, and his anger burned within him. 15 “According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus conveyed by the eunuchs?” 16 Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, “Not only has Queen Vashti done wrong to the king, but also to all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. 17 For this deed of the queen will be made known to all women, causing them to look with contempt on their husbands, since they will say, ‘King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.’ 18 This very day the noble ladies of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will rebel against the king's officials, and there will be no end of contempt and wrath! 19 If it pleases the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be altered, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. 20 So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, vast as it is, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike.”

21 This advice pleased the king and the officials, and the king did as Memucan proposed; 22 he sent letters to all the royal provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, declaring that every man should be master in his own house.

* *Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.*

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

“It Is God Who Holds the Nations”

VISION

It is God who holds the nations in the hollow of their hand;
It is God whose light is shining in the darkness of the land;
It is God who builds the City on the Rock and not on sand:
May the living God be praised!

It is God whose purpose summons us to use the present hour,
Who recalls us to our senses when a nation's life turns sour;
In the discipline of freedom we shall know the saving power:
May the living God be praised!

God reminds us every sunrise that the world is ours on lease –
For the sake of life tomorrow may our love for it increase;
May all races live together, share its riches, be at peace:
May the living God be praised!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Proverbs 31:4-5, 9

The Rev. Dr. Bush

It is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to desire strong drink; 5 or else they will drink and forget what has been decreed, and will pervert the rights of all the afflicted. 9 Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“A Tale of Three Banquets – Esther part 1”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

OFFERING INVITATION

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, or leave your donation in the collection box in the Courtyard.

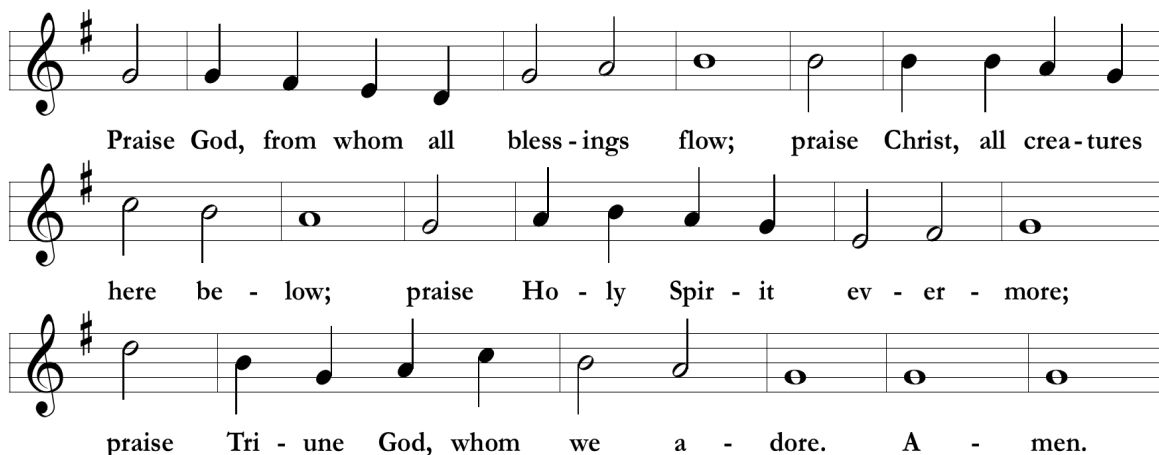
ANTHEM

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Calvin Hampton

* **DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea - tures
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

* *Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.*

*** PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

The Rev. Dr. Bush
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader:	El Señor esté con ustedes.	The Lord be with you.
People:	Y también contigo.	And also with you.
Leader:	Levantemos nuestros corazones.	Lift up your hearts.
People:	Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader:	Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People:	Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.	It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Leader:	Generous, transforming God, thank you for the blessings through which you have provided these gifts. In a world of division, distrust and deprivation, may these resources go forth as an expression of your love and justice for the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	

*** CLOSING HYMN #372** (*vs. 1, 2, 5*)

“O for a World”

AZMON

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preaching:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists:	The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf The Rev. BJ Woodworth Ayres Freitas Lucyna de Barbaro
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore, <i>Organist/Music Director</i> ELPC Summer Choir Cody Conley, violin
A/V:	Tim Benedict Wayne Gaines

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

Facebook

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
or put your donation in the
donation box in the Courtyard.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

ELPC's Mask Policy Has Been Updated (effective 08.06.21)

We seek to be a place of radical hospitality for all of God's people. During this time of pandemic, the manner in which hospitality is lived out continues to change. While directives about mask-wearing vary from place to place, we seek to be a community where all people—especially the most vulnerable—can be safely welcomed.

We are encouraged by increasing rates of vaccination in our area, but there are still many members of our community who cannot be vaccinated (due to age and/or compromised immune system).

- ♦ **During this recent period of increased Covid-19 cases in Allegheny County, we are requiring masks to be worn while on church property regardless of vaccination status.**
- ♦ **We will continue our practice of allowing vaccinated preachers/singers/liturgists to not be masked while leading worship services, whether inside or outside.**

Thank you for your full observance of these updated policies.

Café Justo Sales Resume TODAY!

Today after worship

We're excited to announce that Café Justo will resume sales on the second Sunday of each month. Coffee is \$10 per bag for Robusta, Arabica, 50/50 Arabica/Robusta blend, Decaf Arabica. All varieties are typically available in ground and whole bean. Stop by the coffee cart in the Narthex following today's 10 am worship service. If you are unable to pick up your coffee in person, please contact Ryan Booher (rabooherco@gmail.com) to make alternate arrangements.

Taizé Services in Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 7 pm

Our weekly Taizé prayer service will gather in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays at 7 pm. In-person attendance is welcome, and no pre-registration is necessary.



Garden Stewards Needed

Day and time at your convenience!

We are seeking volunteer *Garden Stewards* to weed independently in the ELPC gardens. Once you sign up online at signupgenius.com/go/9040849ACAD29A0FE3-garden, Megan will contact you. You can come as little or as often as you'd like. Even 30 minutes helps! Contact Megan with any questions (MeganL@coh.net).

High School Mission Retreat

Tuesday–Friday, Aug 10–13

Youth who have completed grade 8 or higher are invited to join us for our High School Mission Retreat at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock. We'll enjoy a combination of service projects around the camp, worship and Bible study, and a lot of group fun after being apart for so long. We will be using Crestfield's space but planning our own schedule, meals, and worship. Register at ELPC.church or contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

In Pursuit of Silence | Film Viewing and Conversation

Saturday, Aug 14 from 7–9 pm

In Pursuit of Silence is a documentary that meditatively explores our relationship with silence, sound, and the impact of noise on our lives. Beginning with an ode to John Cage's groundbreaking composition, *4'33"*, the film takes us on an immersive cinematic journey around the globe—from a traditional tea ceremony in Kyoto, to the streets of the loudest city on the planet, Mumbai, during the wild festival season—and inspires us to experience silence and celebrate the wonders of our world. RSVP to Norma by Friday, Aug 13 (412.441.3800 x111).

LGBTQ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering

Sunday, Aug 15 at 11:30 am

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Aug 15 at 11:30 am as we share food and fellowship at the church. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Contact Wil Forrest for more info and/or to attend (Wil@coh.net).

Visit our website for more info at www.ELPC.church

Soul Food Summer Classes Conclude

Sunday, Aug 22 at 8:45 am

Join us as we conclude our discussion of *In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit* by Yolanda Pierce. We will discuss chapter 12 on Sunday, Aug 22 on Zoom at 8:45 am. For info, contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu (hajdu625@comcast.net).

Summer Kids' Ministry

Sunday, Aug 22 at 2:30 pm

Join for our final summer event. We will explore the theme of Sanctuary as a gift we give to our neighbors. Register online at ELPC.church.

Teen Volunteers Needed

It's not too late to volunteer for the Summer Kids Ministry event on Sunday, Aug 22. After the event, teen volunteers will go swimming at Highland Park until 6 pm. Sign up online or by emailing Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Ministry

Friday, Aug 20: Picklesburgh Party, 6:30–8:30 pm

Picklesburgh—voted America's #1 Best Specialty Food Festival in America—is back! We will meet at a specified location downtown and then walk over to the festivities. We will walk through the festival, eat some pickles, and then enjoy a picnic, live music, and each other's company! Feel free to get dressed up, but let's all wear green for fun (and great photo ops). Taking the bus or carpooling is encouraged. Please sign up with Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net).

Saturday, Aug 28: Coal Tubin' in Johnstown, 9 am–7 pm

As summer winds down, let's venture out of Pittsburgh for some relaxing fun. YAMs will enjoy floating down The Stonycreek in inner tubes. We will leave around 9 am, float, eat dinner at a local favorite, and then return to Pittsburgh around 7 pm. The cost is \$15/person (\$20 if you'd like an upgraded inner tube). Scholarships are available. Please bring money for dinner.

Stress Release Study

Caregiving 4 Care is conducting a study to find a solution to caregiver stress and isolation, thus enabling caregivers to better care for their own and their loved one's physical and emotional health.

To learn more, please visit www.caregiving4care.com/join-our-study to register or call 412.254.4172.



THE FINAL IN A SEVEN YEAR SERIES MAY 15-17, 2020

CENTER FOR ACTION AND CONTEMPLATIONS CONSPIRE CONFERENCE

September 24-26, 2021

A VIRTUAL SIMULCAST EVENT AT ELPC

Me / Us / the World Living Inside God's Great Story

Over the weekend of September 24–26, the Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join us in person at ELPC, for a virtual simulcast of the Center for Action and Contemplation's CONSPIRE Conference, *Me/Us/the World: Living Inside God's Great Story*.

In this time of great unknowing, how do we expand our sense of self to include love, healing, and forgiveness—not just for ourselves and those like us, but for the entire world? Join spiritual seekers across the world for an interactive, global gathering to experience God's love, grace, and compassion. Presenters include James Finley, Barbara Holmes, Jacqui Lewis, Brian McLaren, Richard Rohr, and Mirabai Starr.

- Participate in contemplative sats led by Fr. Richard Rohr each morning.
- Connect with other participants around the globe and at ELPC.
- Deepen your experience with presentations, workshops, and book talks.

Learn about opportunities to nourish your path of transformation and live into new ways of thinking and being.

Please join us in-person for free at ELPC! Pastor BJ will stream the conference in the McKelvy Room. You are welcome to join us for any or all of the conference. Please indicate the day(s) you will attend. Lunch will be provided each day.

Our schedule is as follows:

- Friday, September 24 | 10 am–6 pm
- Saturday, September 25 | 10 am–6 pm
- Sunday, September 26 | 12:30 pm–6 pm

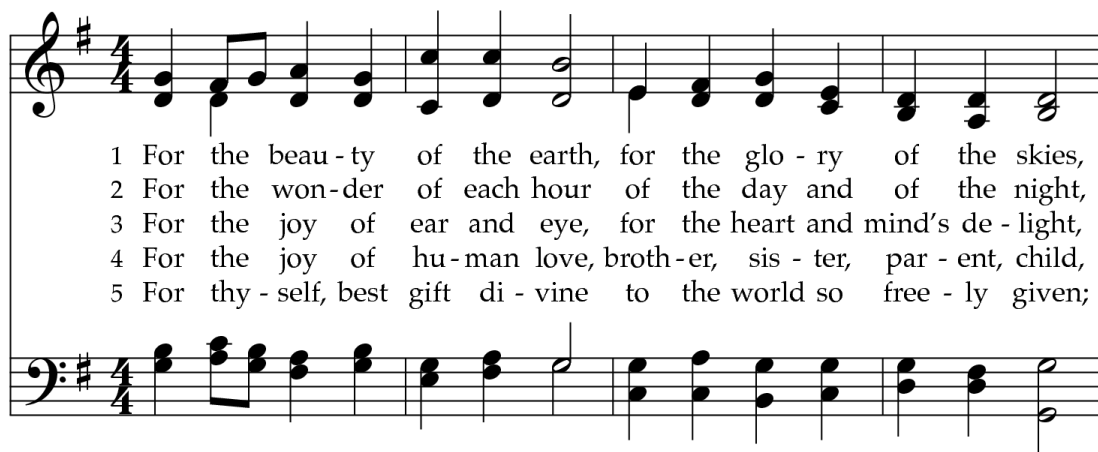
Please fill out the registration form by Sunday, September 19 at www.ELPC.church.

Learn more at cac.org/conspire-2021.

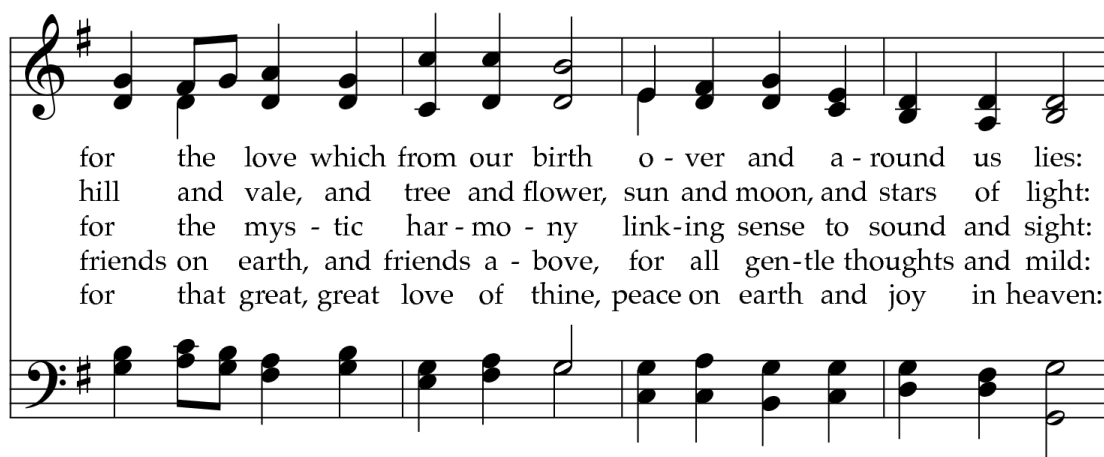
Visit our website for more info at www.ELPC.church

#14—FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH

(vs. 1, 2, 4)



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

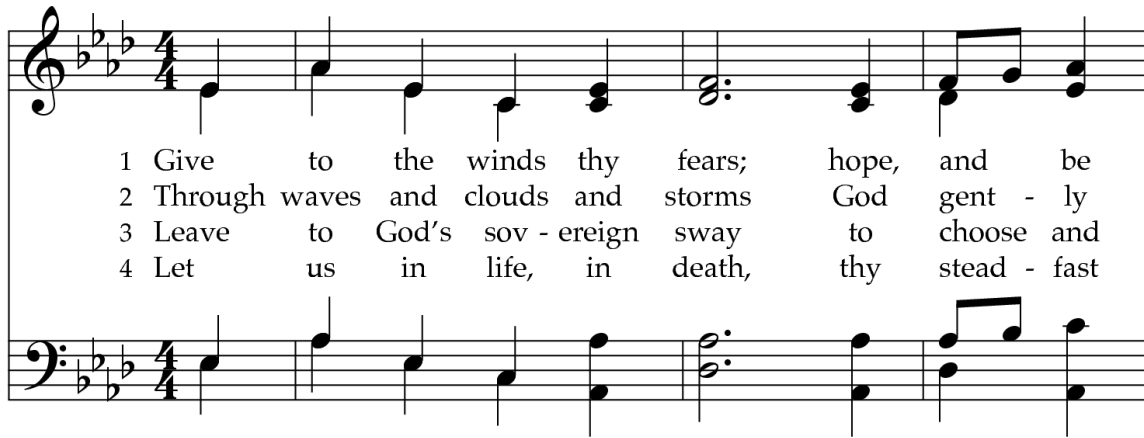
#544—BLESS THE LORD
(sing 3x)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

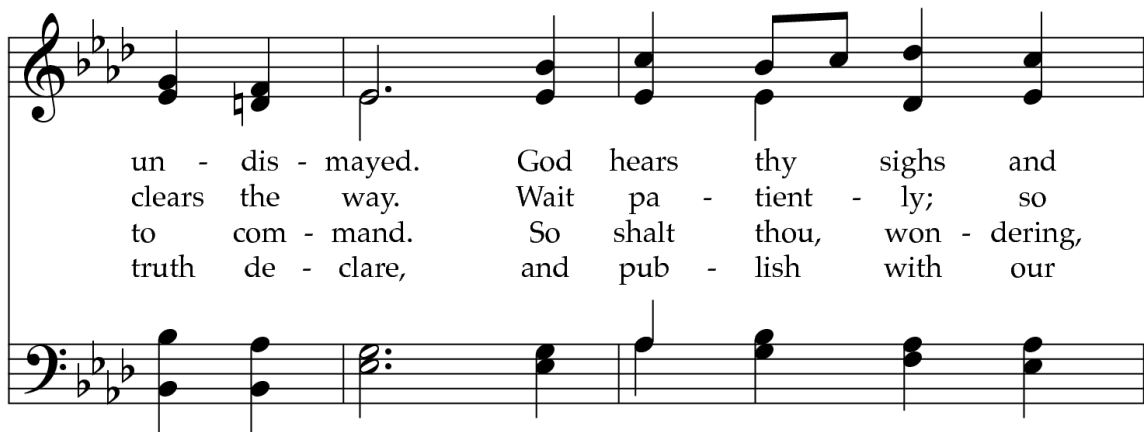
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

This refrain based on Psalm 103:1 is meant for repeated singing. To "bless God's holy name" (which could not be spoken by observant Jews) is a reminder to be grateful even for what we cannot comprehend, trusting that God's providence will show us "the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).

#815—GIVE TO THE WINDS THY FEARS



1 Give to the winds thy fears; hope, and be
 2 Through waves and clouds and storms God gent - ly
 3 Leave to God's sov - ereign sway to choose and
 4 Let us in life, in death, thy stead - fast



un - dis - mayed. God hears thy sighs and
 clears the way. Wait pa - tient - ly; so
 to com - mand. So shalt thou, won - dering,
 truth de - clare, and pub - lish with our



counts thy tears; God shall lift up thy head.
 shall this night soon end in joy - ous day.
 own God's way, how wise, how strong God's hand!
 fi - nal breath thy love and guard - ian care.

This text uses selected stanzas from sixteen four-line English stanzas based on the original German text, which was twice as long. The German hymn was constructed as an acrostic on Martin Luther's translation of Psalm 37:5, and much of the spirit of that psalm is retained here.

#792—THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD

(vs. 1, 2)

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

Fine

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

to Refrain

then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

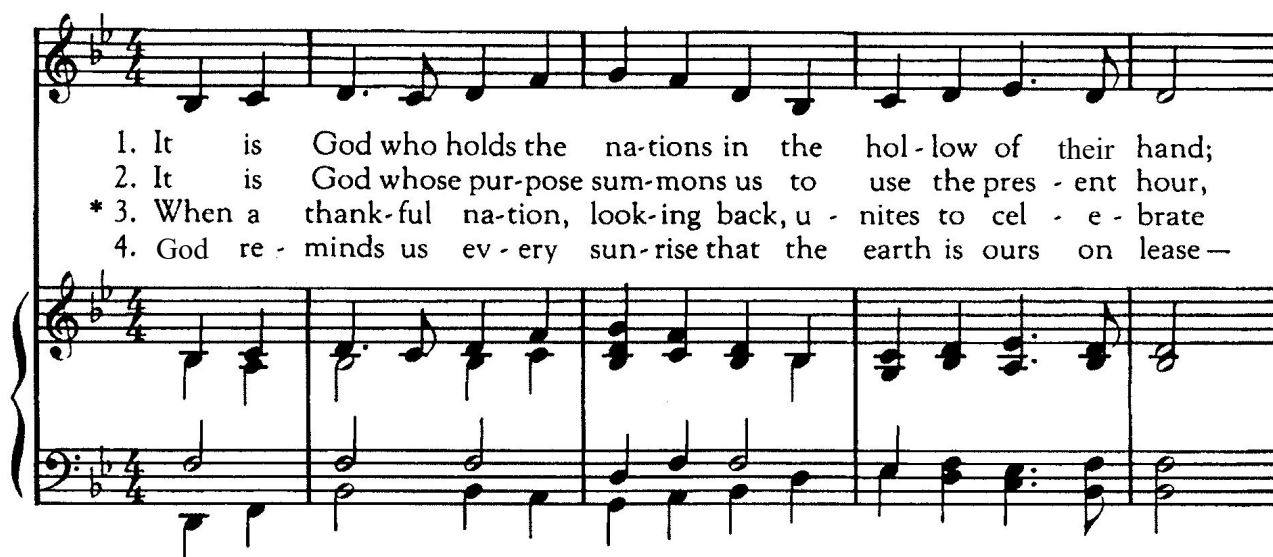
IT IS GOD WHO HOLDS THE NATIONS

(vs. 1, 2, 4)

Fred Pratt Green, 1976

VISION, 15 15 15.7

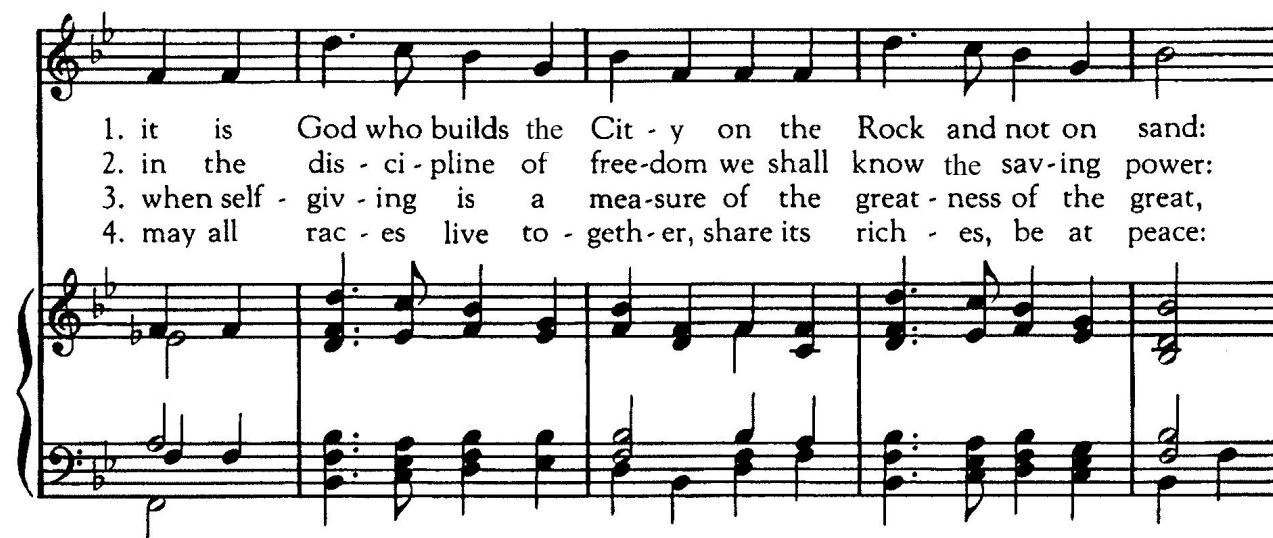
H. Walford Davies, 1915; arranged by John Wilson, 1977



1. It is God who holds the nations in the hol-low of their hand;
2. It is God whose pur-pose sum-mons us to use the pres-ent hour,
* 3. When a thank-ful na-tion, look-ing back, u-nites to cel-e-brate
4. God re-minds us ev-ery sun-rise that the earth is ours on lease—



1. it is God whose light is shin-ing in the dark-ness of the land;
2. who re-calls us to our sens-es when a na-tion's life turns sour;
3. those who win our ad-mi-ra-tion by their ser-vice to the state,
4. for the sake of life to-mor-row may our love for it in-crease;



1. it is God who builds the Cit-y on the Rock and not on sand:
2. in the dis-ci-pline of free-dom we shall know the sav-ing power:
3. when self-giv-ing is a mea-sure of the great-ness of the great,
4. may all rac-es live to-geth-er, share its rich-es, be at peace:

(God be praised!)

Congregation

1. may the liv - ing God be praised! _____
 2. may the liv - ing God be praised! _____
 3. may the liv - ing God be praised! _____
 4. may the liv - ing God be praised! _____

Choir ad lib

1. may the liv - ing God be praised! God be praised! _____
 2. may the liv - ing God be praised! God be praised! _____
 3. may the liv - ing God be praised! God be praised! _____
 4. may the liv - ing God be praised! God be praised! _____

Organ

st. 4

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CCLI #689547

#372—O FOR A WORLD

(vs. 1, 2, 5)

1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

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AZMON

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information about the
ministries of East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

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