



# 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)

#### THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 22, 2021 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

**GATHERING MUSIC** 

HYMN #54 (vs. 1, 3) HYMN #840 (vs. 1, 4) HYMN #838 (vs. 1, 4) "Make a Joyful Noise to God!"
"When Peace Like a River"
"Standing on the Promises"

DIX VILLE DU HAVRE PROMISES

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. **And also with you.** 

People: Y también contigo.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Polly McQueen

Leader: God, you are our strength and you have brought us together in this holy place of worship.

People: Through Christ, the word made flesh, and scripture, the sacred words of our mothers

and fathers, we discover what we are called to proclaim in this hurting and broken world.

Leader: Draw near to us now that we may find our way back to you and ever walk in the paths of

righteousness, justice and love.

People: Together, let us worship God!

\* HYMN #275

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

EIN' FESTE BURG

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.

Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.

His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,

On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,

Were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.

Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,

And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.

His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.

One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.

The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.

The body they may kill; God's truth abideth still.

His kingdom is forever.

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

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

**CALL TO CONFESSION** The Rev. Dr. Bush

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

God of our redemption, we confess that we have not been faithful servants. We have not served you with sincere hearts nor trusted in your salvation. We have allowed plans of destruction to unfold around us – affecting people, communities, the very soil, water, and air we need for life – and have remained silent in perilous times like these. Forgive us our sin, O God. Lead us to heartfelt repentance that we may honor you with our lips and serve you with our lives; through our Savior, Jesus Christ, hear now our silent prayers of confession.

#### TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

and

hope

En Jesucristo tenemos perdón! People:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Praise God!

Lord

¡Alabado sea Dios!

"It Is Good to Trust"



Music by Jacques Berthier. © 1991 Ateliers et Presses de Taizé GIA Publications. OneLicense.net #A-700877

God.

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Esther 3:5-7; 4:8-14; 5:12-14; 7:1-6

in

The Rev. Dr. Bush

When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down or do obeisance to him, Haman was infuriated. 6 But he thought it beneath him to lay hands on Mordecai alone. So, having been told who Mordecai's people were, Haman plotted to destroy all the Jews, the people of Mordecai, throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus. 7 In the first month, which is the month of Nisan, in the twelfth year of King Ahasuerus, they cast Pur which means "the lot"—before Haman for the day and for the month, and the lot fell on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

8 Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and entreat him for her people. 9 Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. 10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, 11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." 12 When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, 13 Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other lews. 14 For if you keep silence at such a

time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this."

12 Haman added, "Even Queen Esther let no one but myself come with the king to the banquet that she prepared. Tomorrow also I am invited by her, together with the king. 13 Yet all this does me no good so long as I see the Jew Mordecai sitting at the king's gate." 14 Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, "Let a gallows fifty cubits high be made, and in the morning tell the king to have Mordecai hanged on it; then go with the king to the banquet in good spirits." This advice pleased Haman, and he had the gallows made.

1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. 2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." 3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. 4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king." 5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?" 6 Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

#### TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

\* HYMN "Perhaps You Have Been Chosen" AURELIA

"Perhaps you have been chosen for such a time as this!"

So Mordecai told Esther to serve as she'd been blessed.

Their people were in danger and needed someone brave —

A queen who knew her calling to risk and act and save.

She stood up for her people and dared approach the king

Although he might have killed her for doing such a thing.

Inviting him to dinner — a feast to satisfy —

She asked of him a favor: "Don't let my people die!"

The king gave what she wanted and let her people live,

And all because Queen Esther used what she had to give.

She faced her fear with courage, she changed the things she could,

She chose to make a difference — to use her life for good.

O God, we look around us and see a world in need.

There's violence and injustice, there's prejudice and greed.

Remind us of our calling to bravely use our gifts.

Perhaps we have been chosen for such a time as this.

#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Proverbs 31:10, 25-26, 29

The Rev. Dr. Bush

A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

**SERMON** "A Tale of Three Banquets – Esther part 3"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

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

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

#### **OFFERING INVITATION**

The Rev. 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.

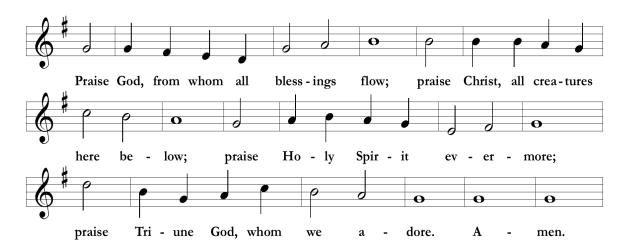
**ANTHEM** 

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

Jean Janzen

#### \* DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH



#### \* 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 SeñorLet us give thanks to the Lord

nuestro Dios. our God.

People: Es justo dar gracias y It is right to give God

alabanzas a Dios. thanks and praise.

Leader: Living God, we give you thanks for Christ, the redeemer of all nations, and for your Spirit, that

enlivens all we are and all we give. Endow these offerings with your power that they may express your steadfast love and give strength to any who are in need this day. In Christ's name

we pray. Amen.

\* CLOSING HYMN #837

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

SHOWALTER

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;

O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates where to please rise in body or spirit.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



#### Are You Interested in Being an

## **USHER?**

#### **Become ELPC's welcoming face!**

Would you like to participate in our Sunday worship services by being an usher? Duties would include welcoming and signing in attendees, distributing bulletins, and collecting the offering.

Another opportunity, if you are willing to take on greater responsibility, is becoming an usher captain! The captain recruits ushers for each service and assigns their tasks.

If you're interested, please contact Norma in the church office (412.441.3800 x111).

#### Presbyterian Women Bible Study: What My Grandmothers Taught Me

This year, we are studying Jesus' grandmothers, the women named in Matthew 1. Why are these women in this list? What do their stories tell us about the coming Messiah? Join us for our first lesson *Family Trees* to explore these questions. Both sessions will meet on Zoom. For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

#### **Bible Study Dates**

- Tuesday, Sept 7 from 10 am–12 pm
- Monday, Sept 13 from 7–8:30 pm

#### **Book Distribution Dates**

- Sunday, Aug 29 after worship to 12:15 pm at Highland Entrance
- Sunday, Sept 5 after worship to 12:15 pm at Highland Entrance
- Email PW.ELPC@gmail.com to schedule a pick-up time



#### **ELPC's Mask Policy** (effective 08.06.21)

We seek to be a place of radical hospitality for all of God's people. 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.

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

#### **Summer Kids' Ministry**

Today 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. Contact Sara to attend (SaraH@coh.net).

#### 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.

#### **Young Adult Ministry**

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.

#### Welcoming You Back on Rally Day

On Rally Day, Sunday, Sept 12, our church family will gather once more to kick off our fall programming and regular worship schedule. We rejoice that after more than a year of virtual programming, we can resume a more traditional Sunday schedule.

#### Church School Classes

- Kids | Children and tweens from pre-school through grade 5 will gather in person in the Courtyard each week. All participants will be masked. Please register your child online or in person at ELPC.
- Youth | Youth in grades 6–12 will meet in person each week—sometimes inside and sometimes outside. All students and teachers will be masked. Please register your youth online or in person at ELPC.
- Adults | Adult Church School classes will offer a hybrid format, so that you may participate in person or via Zoom. Reach out to your class facilitator, Sara Hackett, or Pastor Heather for details. Adult classes will follow ELPC's masking requirements.

#### Worship Services

Stay informed about our worship services by visiting our website – ELPC.church. Both Sunday services will continue to be livestreamed.

 Journey | For the first time since March 15, 2020, we will be able to gather together in the Social Hall on Sundays at 8:45 am. Our pastors are working to ensure that

- Journey worship remains interactive, even in a hybrid setting, so that our faith family can pray with—and for—one another each week.
- Sanctuary | Our traditional Sanctuary service will resume on Sundays at 11 am. We will welcome The Brass Roots as our special music guests on Rally Day.





# 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*.

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 sits 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.

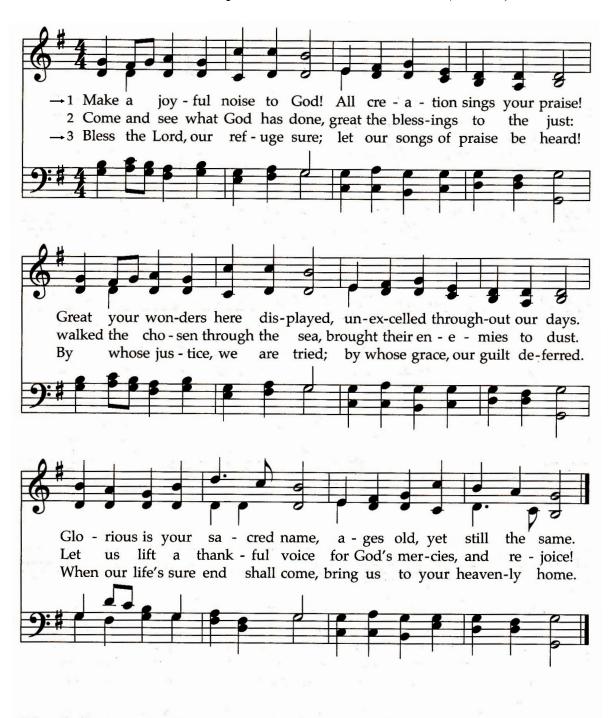
Please join us in-person for free at ELPC! Pastor BJ will stream the conference in the McKelvy Room. You are welcome to join us for any or all of the conference. Please indicate the day(s) you will attend. Lunch will be provided each day.

#### 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

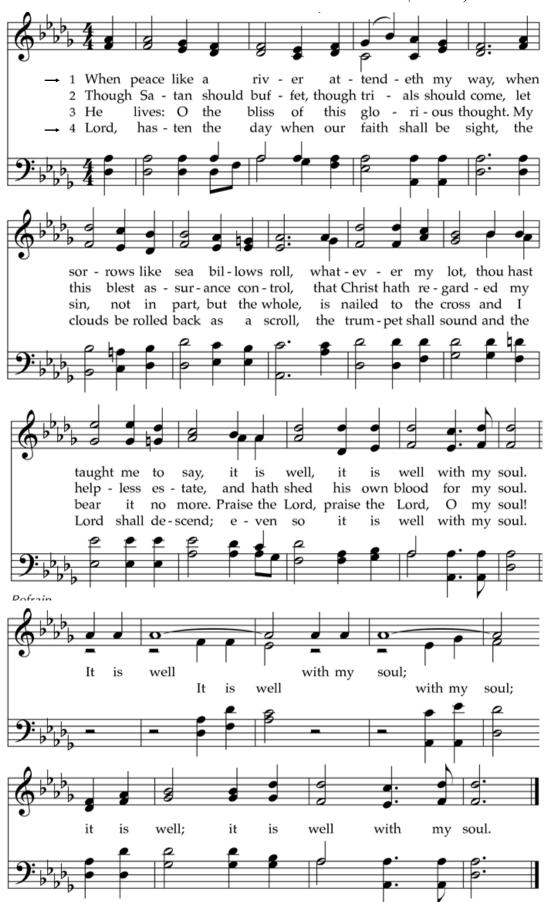
Please fill out the registration form by Sunday, September 19 at www.ELPC.church.

#### #54—MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO GOD! (vs. 1, 3)



This paraphrase of Psalm 66 maintains a corporate tone more suitable for congregational singing than does the original psalm, which moves to a personal narrative in its latter part. The reference to "all creation" is strengthened by the associations of the tune (see no. 14).

#### #840—WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER (vs. 1, 4)



# #838—STANDING ON THE PROMISES (vs. 1, 4)



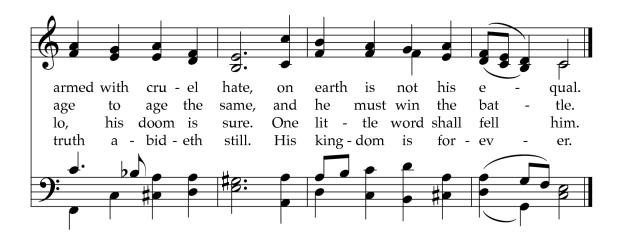
Perhaps because this hymn is so well known, its language sounds vaguely scriptural; but while there are various biblical uses of "stand" and "promise(s)," the two words are never combined. The confidence here is similar to that of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" (see no. 353).



#### #275—A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD



Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.



#### PERHAPS YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN



WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2015

MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864 (1810-1876)

AURELIA 76.76 D

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#### #837—WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE



The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.



# Interested in joining ELPC's Chancel Choir or Handbell Choir?

Regular rehearsals will resume in September.

For info, please contact Organist/Choir Director Dr. Edward Alan Moore (EdM@coh.net).



# PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Polly McQueen

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,

Organist/Music Director

**ELPC Summer Choir** 

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.