

Sunday September 5, 2021

10 AM
SUMMER
WORSHIP



www.ELPC.church



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of helievers, 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)

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

**GATHERING MUSIC** 

HYMN #441

HYMN #260 (vs. 1, 3) HYMN #90 (sing 3x) "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"
"Wait for the Lord"
"Hear the Good News of Salvation"

HYFRYDOL WAIT FOR THE LORD NETTLETON

Welcome & Church News

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Bush The peace of Christ be with you.

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

And also with you.

People: Y también contigo.

David Jennings-Smith

Leader: Here at the feast of God's holy word and holy meal, may all eyes and ears be opened!

**People:** May we be fed and nourished in the ways of peace, kindness, and hope. Leader: Here on the day of the Lord's sabbath, may all hearts and spirits be renewed!

People: May we bring our true selves before God, trusting in God's grace to re-mold us into

disciples who walk peaceably this day and always.

Leader: Here we are! Let us worship God together!

\* HYMN #307

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;

Crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,

For the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!

From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,

For the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;

Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,

Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.

Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,

Serving thee whom we adore.

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

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON** Esther 8:9, 11-12, 17; 9:16-17, 30-32

The Rev. Dr. Bush

The king's secretaries were summoned at that time, in the third month, which is the month of Sivan, on the twenty-third day; and an edict was written, according to all that Mordecai commanded, to the Jews and to the satraps and the governors and the officials of the provinces from India to Ethiopia, one hundred twenty -seven provinces, to every province in its own script and to every people in its own language, and also to the Jews in their script and their language.

11 By these letters the king allowed the Jews who were in every city to assemble and defend their lives, to destroy, to kill, and to annihilate any armed force of any people or province that might attack them, with their children and women, and to plunder their goods 12 on a single day throughout all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month of Adar.

17 In every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict came, there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a festival and a holiday. Furthermore, many of the peoples of the country professed to be Jews, because the fear of the Jews had fallen upon them.

16 Now the other Jews who were in the king's provinces also gathered to defend their lives, and gained relief from their enemies, and killed seventy-five thousand of those who hated them; but they laid no hands on the plunder. 17 This was on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day they rested and made that a day of feasting and gladness.

30 Letters were sent wishing peace and security to all the Jews, to the one hundred twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom of Ahasuerus, 31 and giving orders that these days of Purim should be observed at their appointed seasons, as the Jew Mordecai and Queen Esther enjoined on the Jews, just as they had laid down for themselves and for their descendants regulations concerning their fasts and their lamentations. 32 The command of Queen Esther fixed these practices of Purim, and it was recorded in writing.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

#### TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sara Hackett

\* HYMN #373 "O Day of Peace" JERUSALEM

O day of peace that dimly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams, Guide us to justice, truth, and love, delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from envy find release,

Till by God's grace our warring world shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce devour the small;

As beasts and cattle calmly graze, a little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love, all creatures find their true accord;

The hope of peace shall be fulfilled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON** Ephesians 2:13-14

The Rev. Dr. Bush

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

**SERMON** 

"The Paradox of Purim—Esther part 4"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

#### TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

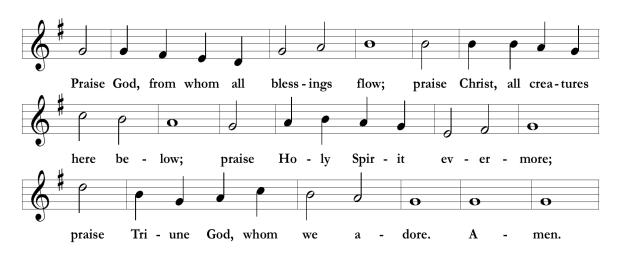
#### **OFFERING INVITATION**

Kathryn Ophardt

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 "Bread of Life" Lee Barrow

\* Doxology Old Hundredth



#### — THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Kathryn Ophardt

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

\* HYMN DURING COMMUNION #379

WE SHALL OVERCOME

"We Shall Overcome"

We shall overcome; we shall overcome; we shall overcome someday.

Refrain: O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand someday. (Refrain)

We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace; we shall live in peace someday. (Refrain)

We are not afraid; we are not afraid; we are not afraid today. (Refrain)

God will see us through; God will see us through; God will see us through today. (Refrain)

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

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Loving God, you have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one in Christ. Help us to step away from the ways of war and bring your salvation, peace, and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\* CLOSING HYMN #340

"This Is My Song"

FINLANDIA

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.

This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms: thy kingdom come; on earth thy will be done. Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations: myself I give thee; let thy will be done.

\* BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

OB

# PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP TODAY

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Sara Hackett

David Jennings-Smith Kathryn Ophardt

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.

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

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS



In the month of September, the following people celebrate special birthdays:

9/3 - **BEN HOEHN** 

9/4 - VANESSA VELTRE

9/5 - **JENNIFER WILLSON** 

9/7 - LAURA RISTAU

9/10 - **Marion Beaver** 

9/12 - MOLLY SWAGLER

9/16 - **MARK DEWITT** 

9/16 - **Greg Olverson** 

9/17 - **ED Brethauer** 

9/18 - BOB FORLOINES

9/18 - Kimberly Brown-Riley

9/19 - LINDA JONES

9/19 - **YODIT BETR**U

9/21 - BARB KRIMMEL



#### **Connections Group Gathering**

Saturday, Sept 11

Have you been a member of a Connections Group in the past? Would you like to reunite with some old friends? We are planning an outdoor gathering at the Botanical Gardens on Saturday, Sept 11 at 11 am. Bring a bagged lunch—we can meet in the picnic area, then enjoy a walk through the Gardens.

If you have not participated in Connection Groups in the past you are also welcome to join us. Connections Groups are small groups that previously met up monthly for coffee, lunch or dinner at a restaurant or at someone's home. Since this is difficult to do at this time, we thought it might be nice to get together so we can all remain *Connected*.

The cost is \$12, \$2 if you have an EBT card. Please email connectelpc@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

#### Café Justo Sales Resume

Second Sunday of each month—Sept 12

We're excited to announce that Café Justo will resume sales on the second Sunday of each month after worship. Coffee is \$10 per bag. Contact Ryan Booher for info (rabooherco@gmail.com).

#### 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 preschool 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.



#### Presbyterian Women **Bible Study**

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 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**

- Today after worship to 12:15 pm at Highland entrance
- Email PW.ELPC@gmail.com to schedule a pick-up

#### Serve Those In Need

Sept 12, 23 and 26

We need volunteers to help us prepare and serve meals to residents at East End Cooperative Ministry. We're looking for ELPC members to help us prepare and serve:

Dinner—Thursday, Sept 23 | 5:30 pm Breakfast—Sundays, Sept 12 and 26 | 6:30 am Contact Becky Gloninger to help (412.913.6070; rag15@verizon.net).

#### Stonewall Jackson Window Updates

Following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, September 12, the Peace, Property, and Facing Systemic Racism Committees invite you to a conversation on the future of the stained-glass window depicting General Stonewall Jackson, located in our Sanctuary's East Transept. The window has been the subject of prayerful research by a Session-appointed task force, which is ready to share its findings with the congregation.

Our conversation will include a brief overview of how Confederate monuments and symbols have been used since the Civil War to help create a revisionist history that glorifies Confederates as cultural heroes, rather than the violent defenders of white supremacist ideology. More importantly, the task force will be seeking your input on how ELPC can meaningfully respond—with justice and faithfulness—to the display of this problematic symbol in our church.

Join us via Zoom at tiny.cc/stonewall-jackson. Or you may call 301.715.8592, and enter meeting ID 883 0027 9230 and passcode 444397 when prompted.

# Justice Committee to Host Clothing Drive for ACI

Sundays, Sept 12 and 26

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we are committed to supporting our siblings in Allegheny County Jail in a variety of ways, and we have been generous in response by collecting books, magazines, and toiletry items. Now, we are seeking to provide dignity and clothing to those who are returning to our community. And you can help by donating sweatshirts and sweatpants for men and women in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL (no solid red or orange, please).

You may purchase items and drop them off following Sanctuary worship on Sundays, Sept 12 and 26 at the South Highland Ave entrance, or at the drop box near the security desk during the week.

You also may make a monetary donation, designated Justice Committee-ACJ Sweats, and the Justice Committee will purchase items.

Email Judy Mancini (mancinijs@gmail.com) for info.

#### **Explore Our Church Life**

Sunday, Sept 19

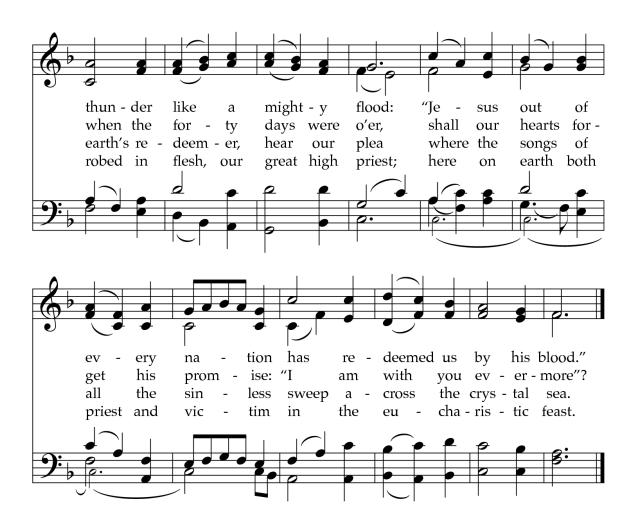
ELPC's annual Church Life Sampler will be held following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Sept 19, outdoors on Whitfield Street (weather permitting). Stop by to learn more about the various ministries that are a part of our church life together!

Every committee and ministry area at ELPC will be on hand to highlight fall programming and share how you can get involved! And a special treat will be provided by the Children and Family Ministry Team for you to enjoy on your way home.

### #260—ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS (vs. 1, 3)



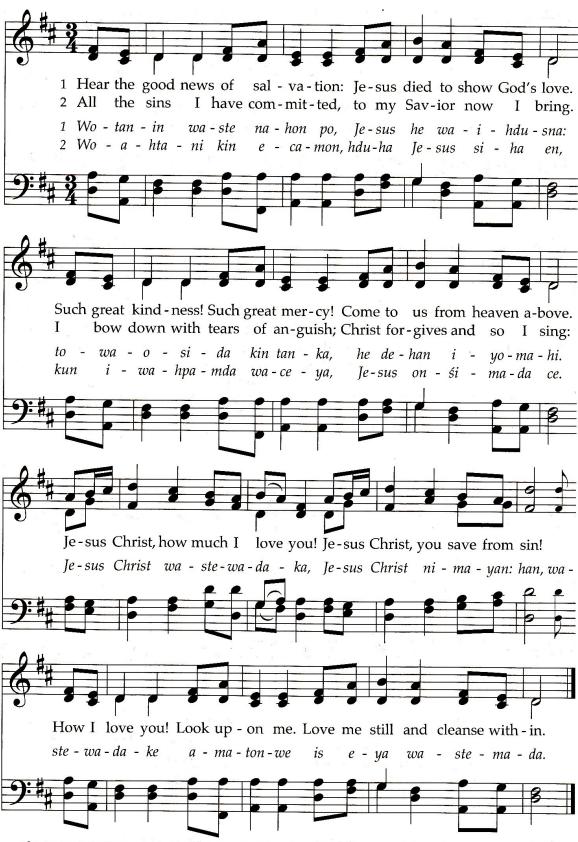
The author regarded this text as a communion hymn, a theme that seems eclipsed by the attention to Christ's exaltation, but a helpful reminder that such hymns are not always quiet and meek. This text is sung to various tunes, but this rousing Welsh one is a favorite choice.



# #90—Wait for the Lord (sing 3x)



#### #441—HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION



This text, originally appearing in four stanzas, was written by the first Native American Dakota to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry and was published in the Dakota hymnal he edited. Both the Dakota and English versions have been associated with this shape note tune.

#### #307—GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY



This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world. The Welsh tune name honors the Rhondda Valley in Glamorganshire.

#### #373—O DAY OF PEACE



grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace. peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on peace was created to offer non-nationalistic words for a popular British tune. The first stanza depicts *pax*, a mode of peace focused on ending conflict, and the second (based on Isaiah 11:6–9) describes *shalom*, the condition of living in harmony and mutual good will.



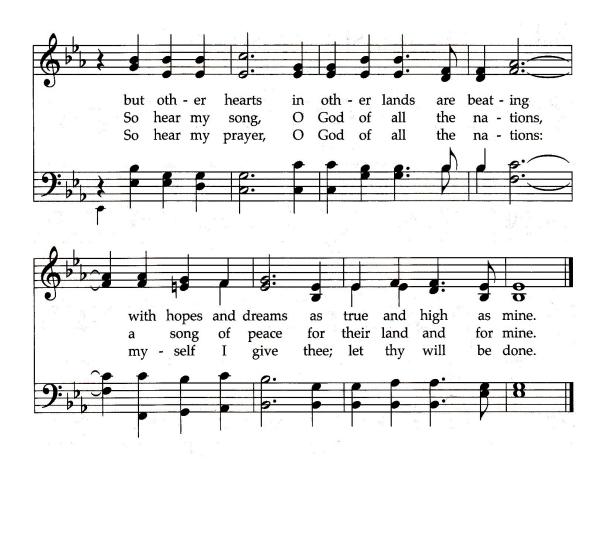
Though now associated primarily with the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20th century, this spiritual most likely dates from the days of the slave trade; and similarities with the tune SICILIAN MARINERS (see no. 546) suggest that it might have been a worksong aboard slave ships.

## #340—This Is My Song



The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.







## 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.