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Wednesday, November 10, 2021 • 7:00 pm

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

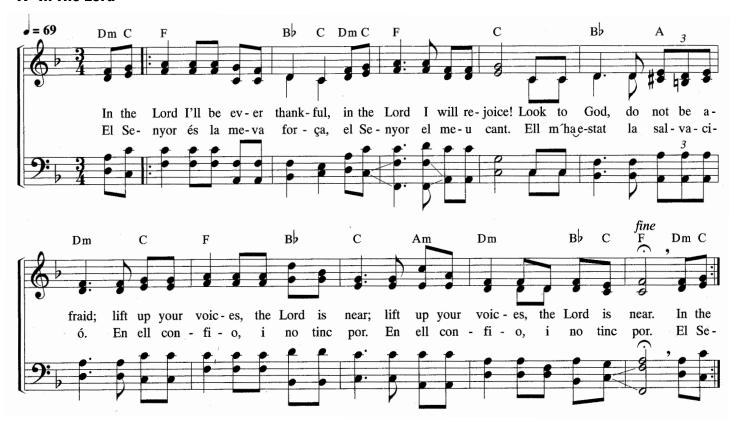
## **Prelude by Gerard Rohlf**

# **Welcome and Opening Centering by Rev. BJ Woodworth**

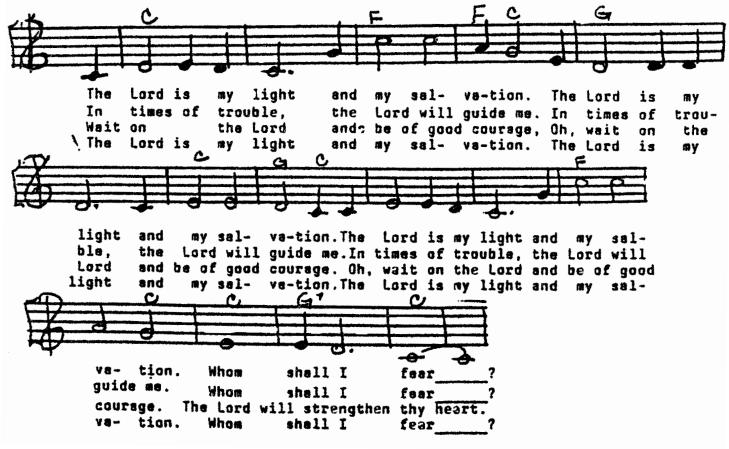
This worship space is created to enhance your prayer. Please feel free, at any time, to come to the front to sit on the rug and be closer to the light, to pray with one of the icons, to light a candle with your prayer, to move with the music, or to sing in whatever language is comfortable to you. We hope that you will become aware of the presence of the living God as you pray in this place and that you might take that awareness out with you into the world.



## 47 In The Lord



# **G66 The Lord Is My Light**



Refrain:

Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life. Whom shall I fear?

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# **Psalm 74** (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

## Sung Response: 2 Alleluia 7



O Beloved of my heart, what does it mean That I feel separated from you? How is it that I fear your anger And condemnation? I have known your Presence In days gone by, when you counseled me As a guide and a friend.

#### ALLELUIA

I remember your Holy Temple, Within my heart, in your mercy, Direct me once again Before fear destroys me And leads me too far astray?

### **ALLELUIA**

Doubt and anxiety have crept
Into the Inner Tabernacle,
Erecting walls as a defense,
My mind dwells on hurts of the past
And foresees a dim future,
All the beauty and joy of companioning with you
Is lost in the anger that consumes me;
I become a prisoner in my own being.
I say to myself, "I will subdue these fears,"
Even knowing that only your refining fire
Will rout them out.

### **ALLELUIA**

When I call upon you, O Beloved, Pride and arrogance flee, And your strength upholds me. You revive my spirit, and I live in peace; For you are with the poor in spirit forever.

### **ALLELUIA**

I shall always remember your covenant, As the shadows within rise up to the Light. Love will stand by as these fears are released; In the Silence where we meet, I shall praise your name!

### **ALLELUIA**

Come, O Beloved, counsel me with love; In your mercy, direct me once again Before fear destroys me And leads me too far astray! O Companioning Presence, Make your home in my heart.

#### **ALLELUIA**



## The Word/Meditation: Matthew 5:1-2, 10-11

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."



# Words from Isaac of Ninevah (613-700)

Be persecuted, rather than be a persecutor.

Be crucified, rather than be a crucifier.

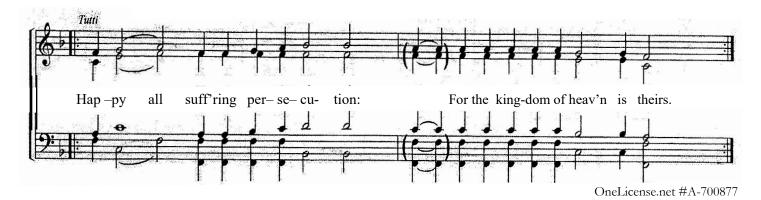
Be treated unjustly, rather than treat anyone unjustly.

Be oppressed, rather than be an oppressor.

Be gentle rather than zealous.

Lay hold of goodness, rather than justice.

### \* Les Béatitudes



# **Prayers of Intercession** (adapted from Romans 12:9-21)

## Sung Response: G91 Lead Me, Lord



God, may your true parental love be genuine in us. May we hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good and love one another with mutual affection; outdoing one another in showing honor. May we not lag in zeal but be ardent in spirit and serve You always, even when we are reviled and insulted by others.

### LEAD ME, LORD

Jesus, may we rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer for those who are misunderstood, and treated with contempt due to their commitment to your ways of love, mercy, kindness, justice, and righteousness. Give us your courage and strength to bless those who persecute us; and not curse them.

## LEAD ME, LORD

Spirit, enliven in the church a countercultural vision to live in harmony with one another; not be haughty but associate with the lowly and not claim to be wiser than we are. May we have the fortitude to not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. And as far as it depends on us, live peaceably with all.

### LEAD ME, LORD

Triune God, help us to never avenge ourselves, but instead... if our enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; so as to overcome evil with good.

### LEAD ME, LORD

# **Silent and Spoken Prayers**

Please feel free to add your spoken petitions.

A note about praying for others out loud: Some people are comfortable with having their prayer concerns lifted up in public worship. Others are not. Before you share aloud any prayer concerns, please be sure that you are not breaking confidentialities.

Whether or not you say the person's name out loud, God hears and receives the intentions of your heart.

# **NB53 The Lord's Prayer**



# **Prayer over the Anointing Oil** (in unison)

We have an anointing station this evening for those seeking individual prayer to share joys or concerns. Any desiring prayer, and/or anointing with oil, are invited to come forward, waiting in the center aisle if the station is full. To assist in hearing prayer concerns, anointing happens to the left in the columbarium.

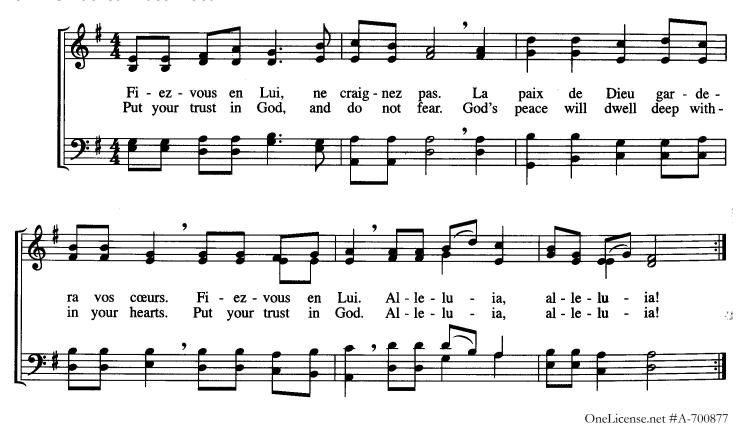
Bless this oil, O Lord, pressed from the fruit of the earth. Let it be a holy ointment for the wounds and worries of those who receive it. May it be a sign to all of us of your constant desire to touch our lives and bring us to health and wholeness. Bless us, O Lord, as we come before you and seek to experience through the touch of others, your everlasting love. Amen.



# NB5 By Night, We Hasten



### **CLM18 Put Your Trust In God**



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# Hoping in Season and out of Season by Brother Alois of Taizé

Humanity is able to move forward because of the multitudes of women and men who give themselves without counting the cost, even in times of upheaval and uncertainty.

People have become more aware of structures of injustice, sometimes inherited from the past. And unfortunately, power has not always been exercised to serve the good of all. In the face of such abuses, frustration and anger are comprehensible. Who will be daring enough to be creators of justice and peace beyond the divisions that are splitting our societies apart?

Yes, in the midst of the difficult realities of the present, we can glimpse reasons to hope, and even at times to hope against all hope. For this, we need to come together with others who have made different choices—with Christians from other denominations, with believers of other religions, and with people who are agnostic or atheist and who are also committed to solidarity and sharing.

Joy is renewed when we live as brothers and sisters, when we remain alongside the most deprived: the homeless, men and women who are elderly, ill or lonely, children in difficulty, people living with disabilities, migrants.... Life's circumstances can make us all vulnerable. And the pandemic is exposing the weak spots of our humanity.





Lied zu Psalm 61 aus dem Punjab und Sri Lanka. Satz: Hartmut Bietz. 1: D. T. Niles, 2: Dieter Trautwein. © E.A.C.C. Hymnal 1972. © 2: Strube, München

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Schutz, du bist Hil - fe und Halt. Mit-ten in der Angst schrei



- (2. In Thy tent give me a dwelling place, / And beneath Thy wings may I find sheltering grace, / let fall on me the sunshine of Thy face: / Saranam, Saranam, Saranam. / Jesus Saviour, Lord . . .
  - 3. O that I my vows to Thee may pay, / And that by Thy faithfulness to me each day: / May live, and on Thy love my burdens lay: / Saranam, Saranam, Saranam, / Jesus Saviour, Lord . . .
  - 4. Yesterday, today, for e'er the same, / Lo, the heritage of all who bear His name / To ransom them from sin the Saviour came; / Saranam, Saranam, Saranam, / Jesus . . .
- **2** 2. Laß dein Zelt mir Haus und Wohnung sein, / wo die Gnade deiner Flügel mich bedeckt, / wo mich dein Antlitz gleich der Sonne weckt: / Du bist Schutz, du bist Hilfe und Halt. / Jesus, Retter, . . .
  - 3. Hilf, Gelübde, die ich gab, zu tun / und zu sehn, was deine Treue täglich schenkt, / wie Liebe auch an meine Lasten denkt: Du bist Schutz, du bist Hilfe und Halt. / Jesus, . . .
  - 4. Gestern, heute und zu aller Zeit / soll, wer seinen Namen trägt, auch Erbe sein, / daß Jesus kam von Sünden zu befrei'n: / Du bist Schutz, du bist Hilfe und Halt. / Jesus, Retter, . . .
  - 1 = englisch, 2 = deutsch

# The Closing Blessing (in unison)

May the Lord bless and keep us from all harm, and may God lead us to eternal life; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

# ADVENTUS RETREAT

Joining a Hope That Has Come

# 6pm Friday, December 3 to 7pm Saturday, December 4

**Cost: \$25** 

"Advent is a season of wondering and waiting; a season where much of the movement is a looking deep within for the call and our response. Advent shows up on the church calendar post-Autumn equinox when there is less daylight and more nighttime and ends just after the winter Solstice when night begins to get shorter, and daylight once again starts its return.

Spiritually speaking, the season of Advent is much like a womb-time, at least for people in our area of the world who are snugly wrapped in the long hours darkness. As Christians, we wait together anticipating Jesus' birth while simultaneously looking toward the future reign of Christ. Advent ends on the eve Christmas; it ends with the birth of Jesus—the Light of the World who broke through the darkness with a new way of seeing." (adapted from www.theworkofothepoeple.com)

**DETAILS:** We will have opening and closing Zoom time in community with each other and optional times in between to join together for the prayer liturgies and mediations included in the retreat experience.

Everything you need will be prepared for you in advance and be able to be picked up on Sunday, November 28 for you to prepare a space internally and externally to be on retreat.

While this retreat is virtual, if you are interested in physically getting away to participate, we have up to 10 single rooms available at Camp Crestfield for \$75/night and \$14/meal (if you would want meals provided). Please contact Rev. BJ Woodworth for details.

RSVP to Norma (Norma@coh.net) by Sunday, November 21.

Contact Rev. BJ Woodworth (BJW@coh.net) with questions.



# **© SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS №**

# Contemplative Prayer (on Zoom)

Mondays from 7:30-8am

Join us for a time to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies to help us start our day in communion with God and one another.

Facilitated by Rev. BJ Woodworth

www.Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

Or dial: 646 876 9923 US • Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: 6787603

# Mindfulness Meditation (on Zoom)

Thursdays from 8-8:30am

Be guided in mindfulness meditation practices and offer supports for practicing meditation in everyday life. Those new to meditation and those with meditation experience are welcome.

Facilitated by Susan Spangler and Ted Cmarada

www.Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

Or dial: 646 876 9923 US • Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: 6787603

# Enneagram Lunchtime Discussion Group (on Zoom)

3rd Tuesdays of the month from 12:20-1:30 pm

Contact Rev. BJ Woodworth with questions (BJW@coh.net)

Each month we explore and reflect upon different aspects of the Enneagram like, our Enneagram's approach to time, spiritual practices, our bodies etc. These topics are chosen by those within the group from month to month, often through an article or podcast to reflect upon.

www.Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127

Passcode: 9types

Or dial: 646 876 9923 US • Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127 • Passcode: 566904

# **GELPC EVENTS** 80

### **Learn How to Help a Refugee Family — Nov 10**

ELPC is adopting a refugee family and we need your help! Volunteer opportunities include donations, mentorship, friendship and more. Please contact Eric Jester to find out more (eric@new-burgh.com). Our next planning meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov 10 at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

### Telling the Truth with Dr. George Yancy - Nov 14

Following the 11 am Sanctuary service on Sunday, Nov 14, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee is honored to have Dr. George Yancy discuss the courage and vulnerability in painful listening, the dangers of truth telling, and the importance of trust and love in teaching truth. Participants may view the presentation in the Social Hall or via Zoom at 12:30 pm.

Prior to our discussion, please read a letter by Dr. Yancy, titled *Dear White America*, which was originally published in The New York Times on Dec 24, 2015. Copies are available on the info tables around the church, and is also on the church's website at www.ELPC.church.

Dr. Yancy is professor of philosophy at Emory University and is a distinguished scholar at Dartmouth College. He is a revered author and speaker on racism in America and the impact of white backlash in conversations about race.

## **Giving Tree — Nov 14, 21 and 28**

ELPC members have always been extremely generous in supporting this important ministry, and we look forward to providing gifts to children in our community once more. This year, you will have three Sundays to take a tag (Nov 14, 21, 28), or to participate online using SignUp Genius. Gifts will be due at the church no later than Sunday, Dec 5.

### Guest Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee - Nov 21

On Sunday, Nov 21, we will welcome Dr. Asa Lee, the new president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as a guest preacher at our 11 am worship service. The Rev. Dr. Lee is an ordained Baptist minister with degrees in music, theology, and educational leadership. His wife, the Rev. Chenda Lee, is an elder in the Methodist church and they have four daughters. It is a joy to welcome Dr. Lee to Pittsburgh and ELPC!

### Spiritual Gathering — Nov 21 (new date)

All LGBTQIA+ folks and allies are welcome to attend our LGBTQ Ministry's next Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, Nov 21 at 12:30 pm. For more details, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

### **Youth Ice Skating - Nov 21**

Youth in grades 6–12 will gather for ice skating at The Rink at PPG Place on Sunday, Nov 21. Please bring \$10 (scholarships are available). Fully vaccinated students can ride in the church van. We'll meet downtown, but the time will be determined. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

### **ELPC Cooks International Virtual Coffee Hour - Nov 21**

The Board of Deacons will be presenting a video, titled *ELPC Cooks International*, at a virtual coffee hour following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Nov 21 from Noon-1 pm. The video features five recipes prepared by ELPC members. There will also be an updated *International Recipe Book* with ethnic/cultural recipes for you to enjoy at home. Join us in the Social Hall or on Zoom (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID: 854 5639 0917; Passcode: 772883).

### **Advent Party - Nov 28**

Youth in grades 6–12 are hosting an Advent Party for our church family on Sunday, Nov 28 from 12:30-1:30 pm. We need your help leading crafts, setting up, selecting the best music, and helping others feel welcome. Contact Sara Hackett if you can help (SaraH@coh.net).

### Hanging of the Greens — Dec 5

Help decorate ELPC for the Christmas season on Sunday, Dec 5 following the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. *Any amount of time you can help would be appreciated!* 

### **Advent Devotions**

The Faith Formation Board is collecting stories around the theme of *Waiting* written by those in our ELPC community to be part of an Advent devotional. Please reach out to Pastor Heather (HeatherS@coh.net), Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net) or Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) if you have a story to share about a time it was hard to wait and those who helped you through it, a time you waited and felt closer to God, or saw God show up in surprising ways, or a time you waited and asked God a lot of questions along the way. We look forward to sharing our stories while we wait this Advent.

### **November Morning Yoga & Gratitude Meditation**

The ELPC Spiritual Life committee is excited to offer November Morning Yoga & Gratitude Meditation on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-9 am on Zoom. Start your day on your mat, stretching and moving your body for 40-45 minutes of gentle Hatha yoga, followed by a spiritual reading on gratitude and 15 minutes of meditation. Led by Katrina Woodworth. Recommended donation per class is \$5-\$15 (Venmo or PayPal). Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvduGvrTwuG9KhPoto5FVDvoygFKLQmmkK.











Please visit our website for more information about the ministries of East Liberty Presbyterian Church.



# INFORMATION ABOUT TAIZÉ

**ABOUT TAIZÉ:** Taizé is an international ecumenical prayer community in Taizé, France which was founded in 1940 by a young seminary student, Roger Schultz, as a place of hospitality and reconciliation during World War II. Today, thousands of young people come each week to Taizé to pray with the brothers and discern God's purpose for their lives. Taizé Prayer Pilgrimages and Intercontinental Meetings around the globe bring together thousands more in an effort to become the prayerful, reconciled presence of Christ wherever they live.

Taizé prayers at East Liberty Presbyterian Church were begun in the Spring of 1992 in preparation for an intercontinental meeting in Dayton. The experience proved to be so meaningful that we have continued to pray every Wednesday evening since then, inviting people of all backgrounds to join with us.

Taizé is located in eastern France, southeast of Paris, north of Lyons, due west of Geneva, Switzerland, between the towns of Chalon-sur-Saône and Macon. Here are the ways to get Taizé information:

Address: Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France

To contact Taizé: community@taize.fr
To visit Taizé: meetings@taize.fr
List of useful info: info@taize.fr
Web site: www.taize.fr

**Telephone:** 011-33 385 50 30 02 Fax: 011-33 385 50 30 16

**YOU ARE WELCOME AT EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:** Our congregation seeks to promote peace, justice and human dignity; to reflect a spirit of openness, sharing and learning in our ministry and mission; to build a richly diverse faith community that witnesses to our oneness in Christ across all boundaries of race, social class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity. (From our Strategic Plan.)

ELPC Web site: www.ELPC.church
E-mail: BJW@coh.net

You are welcome at any of our programs and worship services. It is possible to have more than one church home. Perhaps you would be interested in becoming a member or friend of this Church. If so, please speak to The Rev. BJ Woodworth, Minister of Taizé Prayer (BJW@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x141).

# Praying in Color with

# MANDALAS

Grab some colored pencils in the back

One of the most ancient forms of prayer is the mandala and it's used across many different religions. The word mandala means "container of sacred essence" in Sanskrit. It originated as a spiritual practice in the 6th century BC out of the Hindu and Buddhist religions, but is now used by many others, including Christians. Mandala coloring can be a calming and focusing prayerful activity – beyond thoughts, feelings and words – amidst our Taizé prayer.

