



# *Blue Christmas*

Saturday **DECEMBER 18** 2021 • **6:00 PM** in Chapel



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

116 South Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412.441.3800**  
[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

# Prelude: Silent Night

## Welcome and Opening Centering and Silence

### \* All Earth Is Waiting

Unison

D F#m Em A7

1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,  
2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is - ra - el,  
3. Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be made plain;  
4. In low - ly sta - ble the Prom-ised One ap-peared,

D F#m G A

and o - pen fur-rows, the sow-ing of our God. All the  
"A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man - u - el": one whose  
o - pen new high-ways, new high-ways for our God, who is  
yet feel that pres-ence through-out the earth to-day, for Christ

Bm F#m G D

world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true lib - er - ty; it  
name is "God with us," our Sav - ior shall be, through  
now com-ing clos - er, so come all and see, and  
lives in all Chris-tians and is with us now; a -

Bm F#m 1-3 Em A7 4 Em F#7/A D

cries out for jus - tice and search-es for the truth.  
whom hope will blos-som once more with-in our hearts.  
o - pen the door-ways as wide as wide can be.  
gain, on ar - riv - ing Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

WORDS: Alberto Taulè, 1972; tr. Gertrude C. Suppe, 1987, alt.  
MUSIC: Alberto Taulè, 1972; harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988

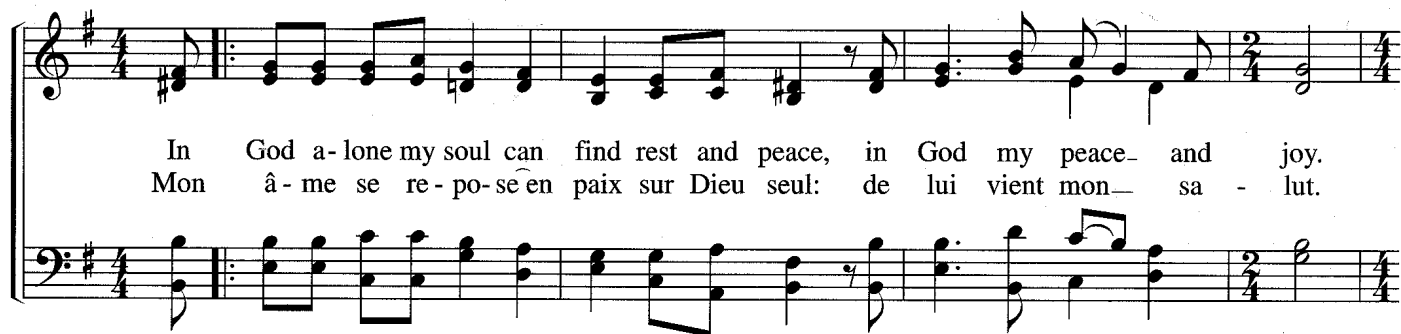
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Chávez

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TAULÈ  
11 11.12 12

♩=70-76

## NB8 In God Alone



In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace— and joy.  
Mon â - me se re - po - se en paix sur Dieu seul: de lui vient mon— sa - lut.



On - ly in God my soul can find its rest,— find its rest— and peace. In  
Oui, sur Dieu seul mon â - me se re - po - se, se re - po - se en paix. Mon

*Last time*

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**Come, Jesus.**

From the depths of our being this prayer rises up: Come, Jesus. Come for all those who are suffering; come for those who have no hope.

Like John the Baptist, we would like to prepare your ways, and to allow your light to radiate through in our lives, that light which has already risen on the world. (Brother Alois of Taizé)

**Psalm 74** (selected verses; from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

**Sung Response: 20 O Lord, Hear My Prayer** (verse 1)

The musical score is for a song in G major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 72 beats per minute. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system has lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O". The second system has lyrics: "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O". The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. Chord symbols are provided above the staff: Em, C6, D, G, C, Am6, B, Em, C6, D, G6, Am, B, and Em (marked 'fine').

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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.

**O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER**

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?

**O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER**

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.

**O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER**

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.

**O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER**

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!

**O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER**

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.

**O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER**



**The Word/Meditation: Psalm 13** *(from “Psalms for Praying” by Nan C. Merrill)*

How long, my Beloved? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I bear this pain in my soul, and live with sorrow all the day?  
How long will fear rule my life?

Notice my heart and answer me, O my Beloved;  
Enlighten me, lest I walk as one dead to life;  
Lest my ego fears say, “We have won the day;”  
Lest they rejoice in their strength.

As I trust in your steadfast Love;  
My heart will rejoice; for in you is freedom.  
I shall sing to the Beloved, who has answered my prayers a thousand fold!  
Come, O Beloved, make your home in my heart.

**Prayer** *(from “A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas” by Kathy Escobar)*

God,  
Help us live in the places that don’t make sense.  
Help us keep hobbling through the hard.  
Help us remember that no matter how confused,  
    broken, tired, or faithless we might feel,  
    you are with us and we are part of your story.



# 36 In The Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM Irregular

Christina Rossetti, c. 1872; alt.

Gustav Theodore Holst, 1906

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,  
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold Him, Nor earth sus - tain;  
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels May have gath - ered there,  
 4. What can I give Him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;  
 Heaven and earth shall flee a - way When He comes to reign;  
 Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim Thronged the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
 In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 But His moth - er on - ly, In her maid - en bliss,  
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.  
 The Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 Wor - shiped the be - lov - ed With a kiss.  
 Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

## **Candle Lighting Liturgy**

### **Candle #1**

#### **For those who have died this year**

We light this first candle to remember the people in our lives who died this past year, whose presence we ache for, whose spirit we are missing, whose absence we grieve.

*Unison response: God, we ache.*

### **Candle #2**

#### **Honoring the pain of losses**

We light this second candle to represent the wide range of losses we and others in our lives are grieving right now, broken relationships, the loss of health, jobs, faith that used to be certain, and dreams that were shattered.

*Unison response: God, we are grieving.*

### **Candle #3**

#### **To honor ourselves, our souls, what we're feeling and experiencing**

We light this third candle for our weary souls; for the burdens we are carrying, for heavy hearts.

*Unison response: God, we long for light.*

### **Candle #4**

#### **A desire for hope and peace**

We light this fourth candle as a symbol of our desire for hope and peace in this season, to remember that amidst the darkness, light and love can seep in.

*Unison response: God, we are open.*



## 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

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name; thy king - dom come;

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread;

for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us;

lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the King - dom,

and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.



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

*You are invited if you so desire to come forward down the center aisle to be anointed with oil and receive a simple blessing this evening. Come forward as you feel led.*

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.



### \* O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

# 37 Within Our Darkest Night

♩ = 63

B Em D

*p*

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the fire that nev - er dies a -  
 Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés al - lu - me le feu qui ne s'é - teint ja -

G C G D G Em C Am

*mf* *p*

way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the  
 mais, ne - s'é - teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri - tés, al - lu - me le

B *mf* Em Am B *p* Em Am B

*pp* *fine*

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way. With - in our dark - est  
 feu qui ne s'é - teint ja - mais, ne s'é - teint ja - mais. Dans nos ob - scu - ri -

*pp* *fine*

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**Light candles in  
silence and leave  
in silence.**

## ❧ SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS ❧

### Contemplative Prayer

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies.

Mondays, 7:30 am to 8 am  
Meeting ID #959 8065 3992  
Passcode: bestill

### Yoga and Centering Prayer Offering in December

The ELPC Spiritual Life Committee is excited to offer Yoga and Centering Prayer throughout December! Sessions will be led by Katrina Woodworth on Zoom. The suggested donation is \$0-\$15. Register online at [www.tiny.cc/yoga-and-prayer](http://www.tiny.cc/yoga-and-prayer).

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8-9 am

### Enneagram Lunchtime Discussion Group

Each month on Zoom we will explore and reflect upon different aspects of the Enneagram, 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.

3rd Tuesdays of the month, 12:20-1:30 pm  
Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127  
Passcode: 9types

### Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

### Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month (with a few exceptions) from

Third Friday of every month (mostly), 6:30-7:45 pm  
(Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 13)

### Yoga Retreat

Treat yourself to the first ever *yoga retreat* at ELPC! Whether you are a regular attendee to Wednesday night Cathedral Yoga or not, consider joining Yamuna Morgenstern and Katrina Woodworth for a *yoga retreat* in the church. We will begin the day with yoga, followed by moments for movement, reflection, meditation, and lunch. We hope also to offer the experience of *kirtan* (sacred call and response chanting in Sanskrit) and perhaps the labyrinth. We will end the day with a luscious restorative yoga class to send you on your way with a divine sense of renewal. Register by Jan 23 to Norma ([Norma@coh.net](mailto:Norma@coh.net)).

Saturday, Jan 29, 9 am-5pm  
Suggested donation \$35-\$60 (*includes lunch*)

**The Rev. BJ Woodworth is Minister of Taizé Prayer here at ELPC. BJ is also Director of Spiritual Life Ministries and is available to provide spiritual direction to anyone who is a part of the ELPC community (attending Taizé makes YOU a part of that community). He can be reached at 412.441.3800 x141 or at [BJW@coh.net](mailto:BJW@coh.net).**



# ELPC EVENTS

## LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering—Dec 19

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Dec 19 at 12:30 pm to share food and fellowship. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome! This month we will meet in person and via Zoom. Contact Wil Forrest for more info and/or to attend (412.441.3800 x118; Wil@coh.net).



## New Yoga and Centering Prayer Offering in December

The ELPC Spiritual Life Committee is excited to offer Yoga and Centering Prayer on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8–9 am throughout December! Sessions will be led by Katrina Woodworth on Zoom. The suggested donation is \$0-\$15. Register online at [www.tiny.cc/yoga-and-prayer](http://www.tiny.cc/yoga-and-prayer).

## Sanctuary/Chapel Tour — Dec 26



Following the 11 am service on Sunday, Dec 26, join a tour with Steve Evrard of ELPC highlighting church history and architectural contrasts of the Chapel and Sanctuary. The Narthex, Trinity Chapel, and Chancel will be included. Please gather at the Highland Lobby after worship.

The ELPC building  
will be closed for Christmas on  
Saturday, Dec 25, and Monday, Dec 27.

## O Antiphons Taizé Service

Wednesday, Dec 22 • 7:00 pm

Join us for a special Taizé prayer service that combines scripture readings, singing of the O Antiphons, and silence to welcome the Christ Child.

An antiphon is a prayer said or sung during worship, especially in connection with the Psalms and Canticles.



## Christmas Eve Services

(in-person and virtual)



**5 PM**  
Family Service

**Pastor Heather**

COMMUNION  
SING-A-LONG

**10 PM**  
Candlelight  
Music at 9:30 pm

**Pastor Randy**

COMMUNION  
SPECIAL MUSIC

*May the Lord be with you this holiday season.*