



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE DECEMBER 24, 2021 — 5:00 PM

### TIME OF PREPARATION

What do I want for Christmas?

I want to kneel in Bethlehem,

the air thick with alleluias, the angels singing that God is born among us...

What do I want for Christmas?

To see in that stable

the whole world kneeling in thanks for a promise kept: New life.

For in this nativity we find ours.

— *"What do I Want for Christmas?" by Ann Weems*

### PRELUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729"

Johann Sebastian Bach

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam

Cody Conley, *violin*

### 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

Brian, Jennifer, Travis, Eden and Lila Castle

Leader: Tonight we hear the good news!

People: God has come to us.

Leader: God did not show up as a king, but a baby born in Bethlehem,

People: Who was wrapped in bands of cloth and lain in a manger.

Leader: Tonight we hear the good news! And we remember that God is surprising, God is faithful to  
**God's promises,**

People: And above all that God is a God of love.

Leader: Let us worship God!

### \* HYMN #133 (*music printed in bulletin*)

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

### OPENING PRAYER

Felicia Ragsdale

Leader: Tonight we rejoice in God's promise kept: In Jesus, God forgives our sins, heals our wounds, welcomes us all. God's love for us is so strong that God entered this world as one of us to show us once and for all that God is with us, always. Let us pray together.

People: We thank you, Gracious God, for your gift to us this night. Fill our hearts with the good  
**news of Jesus' birth, that we might love others as you have loved us. This we pray in the**  
name of your love with us: Jesus, Emmanuel. Amen.

\* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

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## Dec 24 • Christmas Eve Service

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\* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

### HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Rev. Dr. Bush  
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### SPECIAL MUSIC

“A Song of Peace”

Teresa Jennings  
Michael Warren, *soloist*

### GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

The Rev. Schoenewolf

### HOMILY

“The Little Things”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

### OFFERING INVITATION

Stephen and Travis Simpson-Hunt

Leader 1: Together, we have heard the good news of Jesus' birth.

Leader 2: Together, we have received God's precious gift to all of us.

Leader 1: We respond in faith and offer our gifts too, as an act of worship, thanks and praise.

Leader 2: With joyful hearts let us now receive this evening's offering. Let us pray:

All: Gracious God, we are amazed by your love for us. As you entered this world in Christ, we pray that we may respond to this precious gift with the courage of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the praise of the angels, the wonder of the shepherds and the generosity of the magi. May our joy and our generosity mark our celebration not only today, but every day. In the name of the Christ-child we pray. Amen.

### OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Behold That Star”

H.T. Burleigh  
Denise Sheffey-Powell, *soloist*

## — THE LORD'S SUPPER —

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (한국어) in the Glory to God hymnal.*

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy and The Rev. Schoenewolf

### SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

*The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles to partake of the elements. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.*

### COMMUNION CAROLS (music printed in bulletin)

HYMN #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

HYMN #145

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

HYMN #114

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

\* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sara Hackett

Loving God, as you feed our bodies and our spirits by this Communion Meal, we celebrate your many gifts to us: life, love, peace and hope. Thank you for the amazing gift you gave to us in Bethlehem – **that little town whose name means “House of Bread”** – that the baby who was born in a manger all those years ago is our Savior, our source of new life, love, peace and hope. May we share this good news, today and always. Amen.

\* LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE & SHARING OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

John 1:1-5

The Rev. Schoenewolf

\* HYMN #122 (music printed below)

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

STILLE NACHT

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;  
 stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt. Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818. Public domain.

STILLE NACHT  
 Irregular

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Marcel Dupré  
 Dr. Moore, organ

*As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church). This notice is to inform you that by being in attendance, you give permission for incidences where you appear within the video. Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors. Please turn off all electronic devices before the service begins.*

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Participants: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
Diana, Christopher and Makaylah Bloss  
Brian, Jennifer, Travis, Eden and  
Lila Castle  
Sara Hackett  
Kimberly and Felicia Ragsdale and  
Journey Jarvis  
Travis, Stephen, Parker and  
Michael Simpson-Hunt  
Matt Stuftt  
Nandor Szucs  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist and  
Music Director*  
Cody Conley, *Violin*  
Michael Warren, *Soloist*  
Cantors: David Jennings-Smith  
Robin Schmeider  
Denise Sheffey-Powell  
Beadles: Doug Booth and Lenore Williams  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

10 pm.....Candlelight Service. Prelude music begins at 9:30 pm. The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

*There will be no Journey service on Sunday, Dec 26.*

11 am .....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.  
*Dec 26* — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Taizé Sung Prayer

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France. Rev. BJ Woodworth leads this service in the Chapel.

Wednesdays, 7 pm

*No service on Wednesday, Dec 29*

Prayer Room (*in Highland Ave hallway*)

Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness.

Available everyday

♦ SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERING

Yoga Retreat

Join Yamuna Morgenstern and Katrina Woodworth for a yoga retreat at ELPC on Saturday, Jan 29 from 9 am—5 pm. 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). Register by Jan 23 to Norma (412.441.3800 x111).



## WELCOME VISITORS!

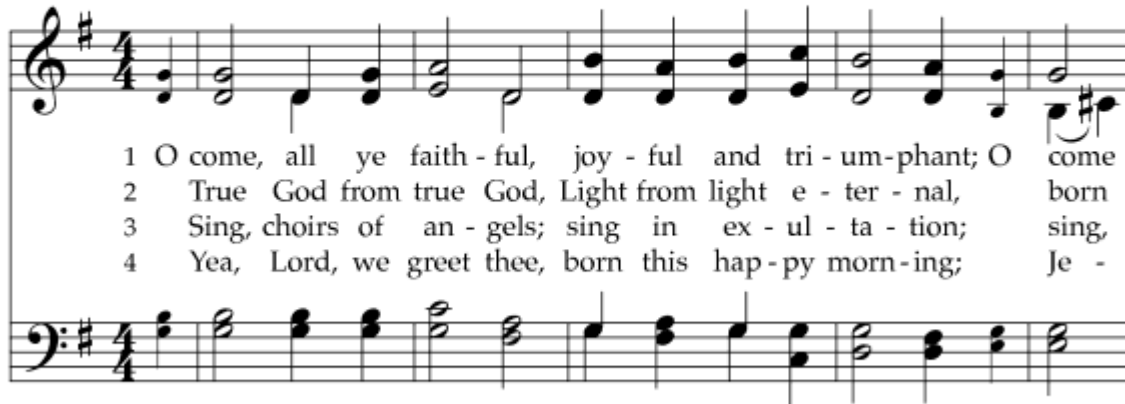
We are grateful to have you join us for worship and ask you to register your name in our red Friendship Books.

*To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to also:*

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the *Reaching Out*, either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk near the Highland Avenue doors.

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

# O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come  
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -



ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,  
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -  
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all  
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

*Refrain*



born the King of an - gels!  
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed!  
 glo - ry in the high - est! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let  
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

# O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

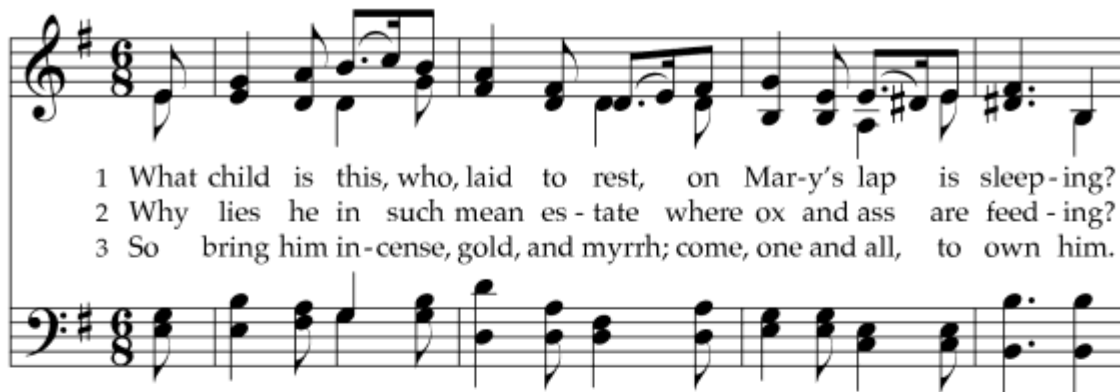
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.  
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

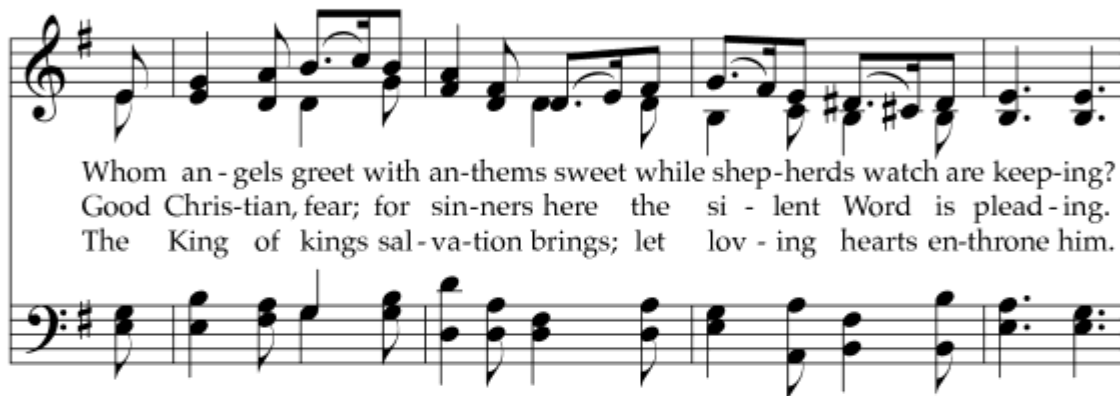
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

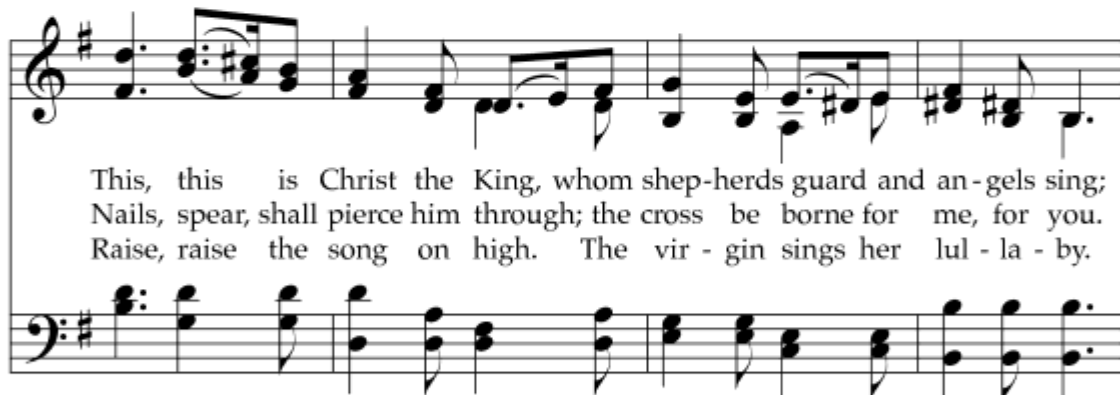
# WHAT CHILD IS THIS



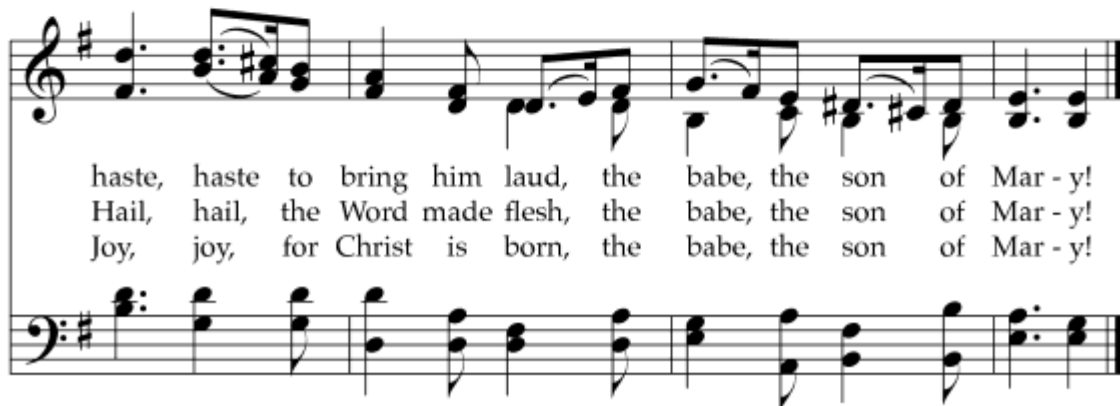
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal-va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.



# AWAY IN A MANGER

Capo 5: (C) F (Am) Dm (C) F (Dm) Gm

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(F) B $\flat$  (G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (F) B $\flat$  (G) C

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(C) F (Dm) Gm

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(G) C (C) F (Dm) Gm (G) C (C) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

TEXT: Stanzas 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885;  
 stanza 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892  
 MUSIC: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895

CRADLE SONG  
 11.11.11.11  
 (alternate tune: MUELLER, 115)