

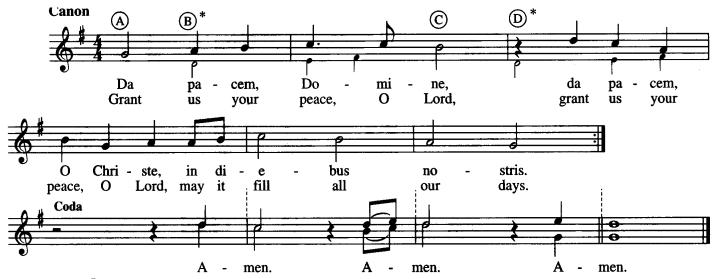


#### **Prelude by Gerard Rohlf**

#### 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.

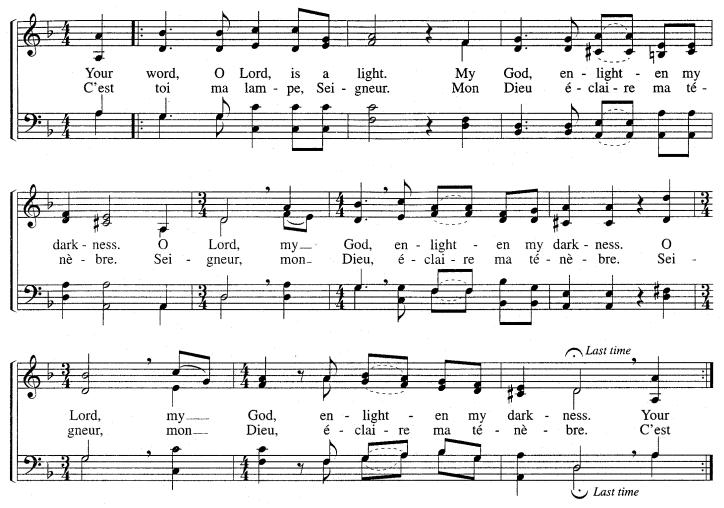
#### **NB33 Grant Us Your Peace**



\*The (B) and (D) entrances in the canon are sung a fourth lower.

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#### NB32 Your Word, O Lord



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#### Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 17



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Ignorance lives deep in the hearts
Of those who know not Love;
There is no reverence for Truth before their eyes.
For they see themselves as powerful
And are too proud to see
How they deceive themselves and others.
They speak not with integrity
And act not with wisdom and love.
At night their thoughts turn to plotting,
Driving them to seek more power;
Fear becomes their constant companion.

#### **ALLELUIA**

Would that they knew that your steadfast love, O Holy One, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to all the world. Your saving justice is like the mountains, Frm and sure, Your judgments are like the mighty deep; Your love supports all of creation; yes, Your Love Consciousness is everlasting.

#### **ALLELUIA**

How precious is your steadfast love,
O Companioning Presence.
We, your children, take refuge
In the shadow of your wings.
We feast on the abundance of Gaia, the Earth;
You invite us to drink from living streams of life.
For in you is the very source of life;
And in your Light do we see light.

#### **ALLELUIA**

May your steadfast love
Endure to those who know you,
Your saving grace to those
Who love truth and justice!
Protect us from the seeds of arrogance;
The weeds of greed drive away.
Open the hearts of those who live in darkness,
O Beloved, that they might rise up
And live in the Light of Oneness.

#### **ALLELUIA**



#### **The Word/Meditation: Acts 9** (selected verses)

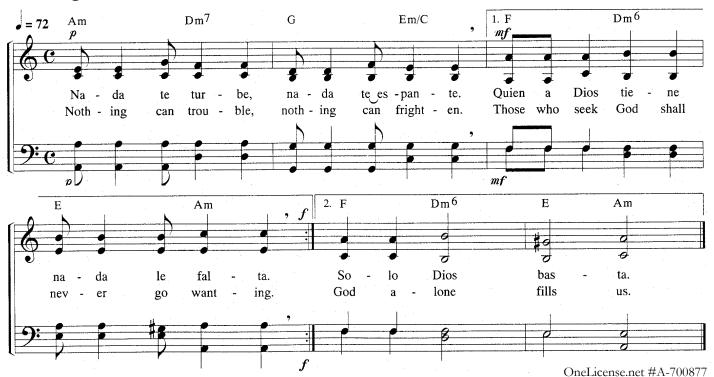
Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord... was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so, they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

The Lord said to Ananias in a vision, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying..." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints..." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen..." So, Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

#### **Words from Thich Nhat Hanh**

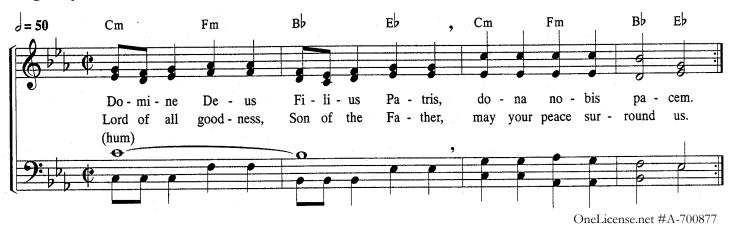
With our eyes in good condition, a paradise of forms and colors is available to us. There are people who have lost their sight, and they live in darkness. And they think, they very profoundly believe, that if anybody could help them get their sight back, this would be like entering paradise, the paradise of forms and colors. And we do have our eyes in good functioning order and we really are in a paradise of forms and colors. But without mindfulness, we forget that. Your eyes are already one of the basic conditions of your happiness, and mindfulness helps you to touch one of those conditions.

#### 29 Nothing Can Trouble



In the season of Epiphany, you may also write your prayers for light and guidance on a star found on the activity table and bring it forward and place it in the basket.

#### **Sung Response: 30 Lord of All Goodness**



God of light and sight, we pray that there may be more love on earth, we ask you to dispose people to be more understanding, and friendlier to one another, and to share more readily with those in need.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

God of light and sight, we pray that there may be greater justice on earth, dispose governments and public officials, to make room in their priorities and budgets for the socially deprived and those systemically marginalized.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

God of light and sight, we pray that there may be more peace on earth, dispose all nations to put an end to words of hatred, threats of revenge and all violence and war.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

God of light and sight, we pray that there may be more joy on earth, dispose all those who follow Christ to show sympathy and affection to one another, to be faithful in our friendships, and concerned about our communities.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS

God of light and sight, we pray that there may be more faith on earth, dispose all your siblings to live as children of light before you, and in the sight of people.

#### LORD OF ALL GOODNESS



#### **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**



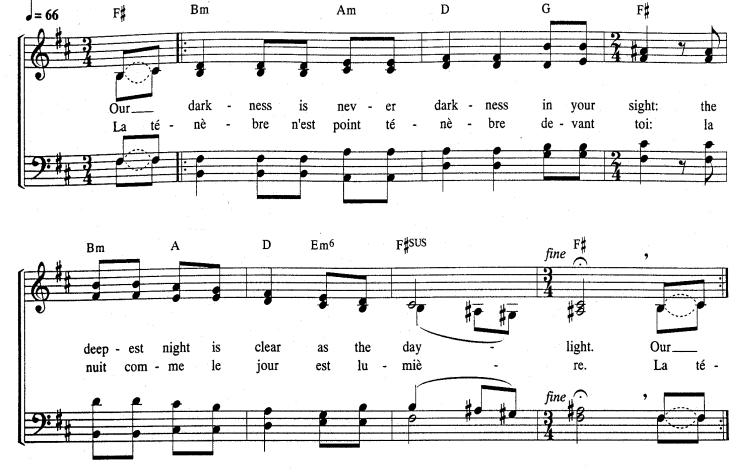
#### **Prayer over the Anointing Oil** (in unison)

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.

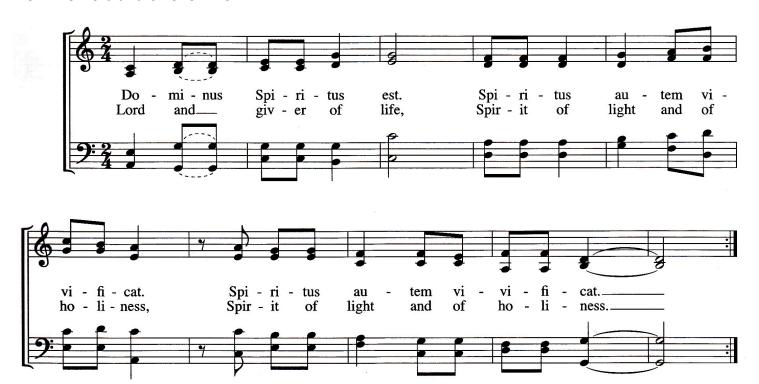
Bless this oil, O Lord, pressed from the fruit of the earth. Let it be a holy ointment for the wounds and worries of those who receive it. May it be a sign to all of us of your constant desire to touch our lives and bring us to health and wholeness. Amen.



#### **NB18 Our Darkness**



#### **CLM15** Lord and Giver of Life



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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

CCLI #689547



- 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 . . .

<sup>2.</sup> 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, . . .

<sup>3.</sup> 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, . . .

<sup>4.</sup> 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,

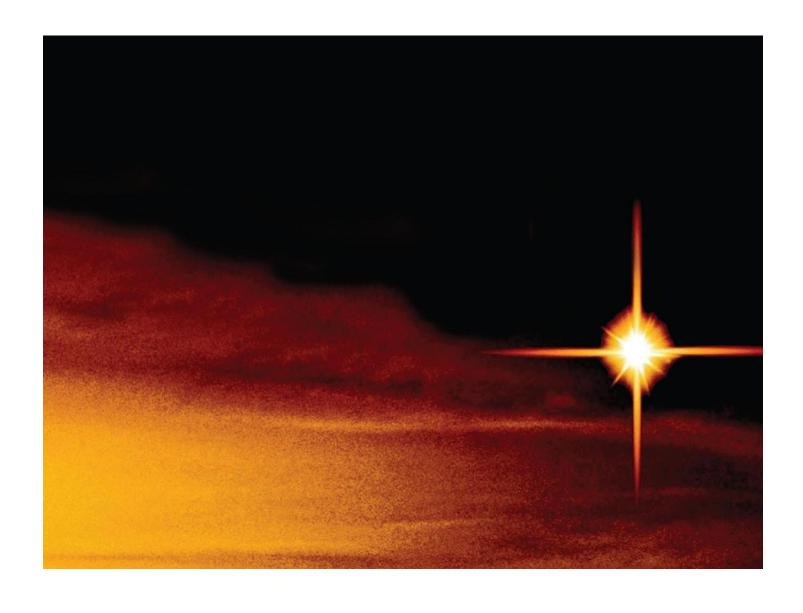
<sup>1 =</sup> englisch, 2 = deutsch

### The Closing Blessing (in unison)

Radiant Morning Star, you are both guidance and mystery.
Visit us with disturbing dreams, and our journeys with strange companions.
Grace us with the hospitality to open our hearts and homes
to visitors filled with unfamiliar wisdom
bearing profound and unusual gifts.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.



ELPC Mask Usage Update All people visiting and working in ELPC will be required to wear a face mask both inside and outside (on the property) regardless of vaccination status, with it being strongly recommended that the mask be an N95, surgical, or comparable mask.

# **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

The ELPC Spiritual Life Committee is excited to offer Yoga and Centering Prayer led by Katrina Woodworth in the Sanctuary. This class include breathing practices along with Hatha Yoga postures and ends with 10–15 minutes of silent Centering Prayer. Donations are accepted. Please register in advance online at www.tiny.cc/yoga-and-prayer.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8-9 am

#### 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 (Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 13)

# 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.

## **ELPC EVENTS**

#### A Letter from the Birmingham Jail: Remembrance and Reflection — Jan 30

During the Church School hour on Sunday, Jan 30, the Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee and the Faith Formation Board invite all adults and students in grade 6 and up to participate in a discussion of the Rev. Dr. King's prophetic letter.

For this first installment of a three-part series, Dr. Bush, who has done substantive research on the letter as part of his dissertation, will serve as the principal presenter.

Join us in person in the Social Hall or via Zoom (www.Zoom.us, Meeting ID 188 135 194, or call 929.205.6099 using the same Meeting ID). Dr Bush's remarks will also be recorded.

#### Presbyterian Women Bible Study — Feb 1 and 7

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study lesson *Bathsheba* on Tuesday, Feb 1 from 10 am-Noon or Monday, Feb 7 from 7-8:30 pm. Both sessions will meet on Zoom. For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

#### Foundation of HOPE | Adult Diversion Presentation — Feb 6

On Sunday, Feb 6 from 12:30-1:30 pm, please join the Justice Committee for a presentation about the *Foundation of HOPE Adult Diversion Program* that redirects adults involved in low-level offenses into a restorative program and away from a criminal record, prosecution, and incarceration. ELPC will be joined by the *Foundation of HOPE Adult Diversion* Director Mica Williams, and a case manager, who will discuss their work and opportunities for involvement by ELPC members. The presentation will be in-person in the Social Hall and also available Zoom. Light snacks will be provided. For more info, contact Stephanie Creasy (screasy16@gmail.com).

#### A New Take on Climate Change — Feb 10

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is reading a new book titled All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson. This diverse collection of essays and a few poems are written by female activists, scientists, artists, architects, policymakers, and thinkers of various ages. We invite you to read the book, and join us to talk about your favorite parts on Thursday, Feb 10 at 7 pm via Zoom. To RSVP, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

# **ELPC EVENTS (continued)**

#### Combined Worship Service with Eastminster Presbyterian Church — Feb 13

On Sunday, Feb 13, the first in a series of annual joint services with Eastminster Presbyterian Church is being planned. The worship service will combine the music leaders and choirs of our two churches, and utilize liturgists from both congregations. As a "pulpit swap," the Rev. Aaron Teter, newly installed co-pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, will present the message.



This joint service is planned to be a hybrid event with both in-person and livestream options for participation.

#### Climate Change and the Green New Deal - Feb 13

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to a panel discussion on *Climate Change and the Green New Deal* at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Feb 13 in the Social Hall and on Zoom (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID 827 3760 9292; Passcode 755590). Together, we will examine the issue of climate change, its implications for racial and economic justice, and how we can combat it by building a mass movement for a *Green New Deal*. Panelists include Claire Cohen, M.D., Patricia DeMarco, Ph.D. and Helen Gerhardt. Light refreshments will be provided.

#### LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Feb 20

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry today at 12:30 pm. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. This month we will meet via Zoom and maybe in person. Contact Wil Forrest to attend (412.441.3800 x118; Wil@coh.net).



#### **Download Our New App**

ELPC recently published a mobile app to serve as a hub for all ELPC-related news, events, and digital offerings. On the app, you can stream live and archived worship services and concerts, watch sermons, listen to our Taizé podcast, download bulletins, browse events, connect with our social media pages, read up-to-date news, and more. The app is available for Android users on Google Play<sup>TM</sup> and will soon be available for iOS users on the App Store®. Search for "East Liberty Presbyterian."

#### Forest Bathing - Feb 26

What is forest bathing? Well, it is not a nature walk or a fitness hike. It is a 60-minute, guided visit into the natural world, where we will slow down, awaken our senses, and nurture our relationship with nature.

Through a series of invitations, beginning on Saturday, Feb 26 (time and location to be determined), you will find your own ways of connecting with nature as you relax into being present with the sights, smells, sounds, textures, and tastes of the woods.

There's no rush and there's no right or wrong way to do it. Simply come as you are and witness the beauty of your own relationship with nature. We also will have opportunities to share our observations with one another. We sit a lot and move slowly, so dress appropriately and consider bringing a blanket.

#### Congregational Meeting — Feb 27

On Sunday, Feb 27 at 12:45 pm, we will convene for our annual *Congregational Meeting*. This is a time to reflect on the past year, receive reports and budget information, and elect officers to serve on our governing councils. It also is a time to consider the ways in which God is at work in our congregation's programmatic, educational, mission-oriented, and worship lives.

Arrangement are being made for a hybrid event. You are invited to attend the meeting in the Social Hall or on Zoom. Contact Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x122) for the Zoom details.

#### **Free COVID Tests**

Free COVID testing kits are now available from the U.S. government. Please visit www.covidtests.gov to order up to four kits.

#### **Volunteers Needed**

EECM needs volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to residents at EECM. Please contact Becky Gloninger to help (412.913.6070; rag15@verizon.net).

#### **Kingsley Center's Family Support Resources**

East Liberty Family Center at the Kingsley Center is available to help with family support and resources with educational workshops, parenting classes, diaper bank, men and women's programming, and other resources. Please contact Joshua McKinley for more info (jmckinley@kingsleyassociation.org).











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).



# Shine Like Stars!

During the Season of Epiphany, we celebrate the appearance of Jesus the Christ in the midst of humanity; we rejoice in the dawning of the Light of Christ in darkness. Like the magi we too look for "stars" that will lead us to the Christ, as we are attentive to the light of God showing forth and manifesting itself in ourselves, others and all the world.

We are inviting you to help us create a piece of art, a star-lit sky, to share the Taizé Community with the larger ELPC church community.

In this season of Epiphany (Jan 5-Feb 23) we are inviting you to decorate stars with your scribblings, doodles, and prayers. There are star mandalas you can do in the bulletin, and stars at the craft table in the front of the Chapel. Leave your stars in the basket at the altar.

