





May 4, 2022 ● 7 pm

116 South Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206 **412.441.3800**

Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

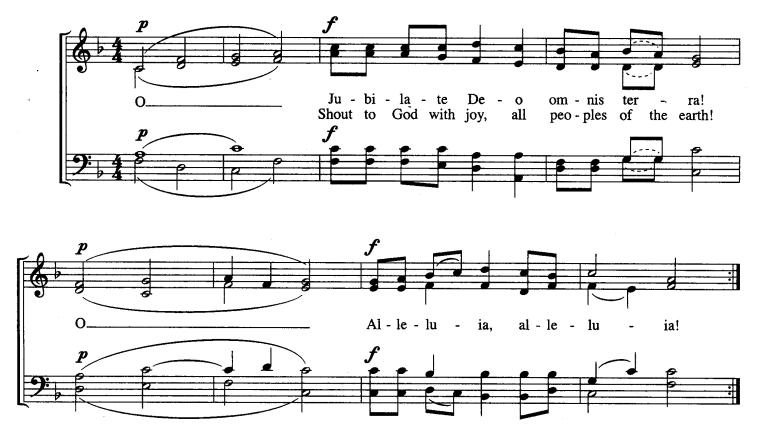
Welcome and Opening Centering by The Rev. BJ Woodworth

This worship space is created to enhance your prayer. As you enter, grab a prayer stone or palm cross to hold. Feel free to come forward to the craft table to doodle or color a mandala, come sit on prayer cushion and be closer to the front, pray with one of the icons, light a candle, or move with the music. There are prayer stations up on the altar that you are welcome to explore.

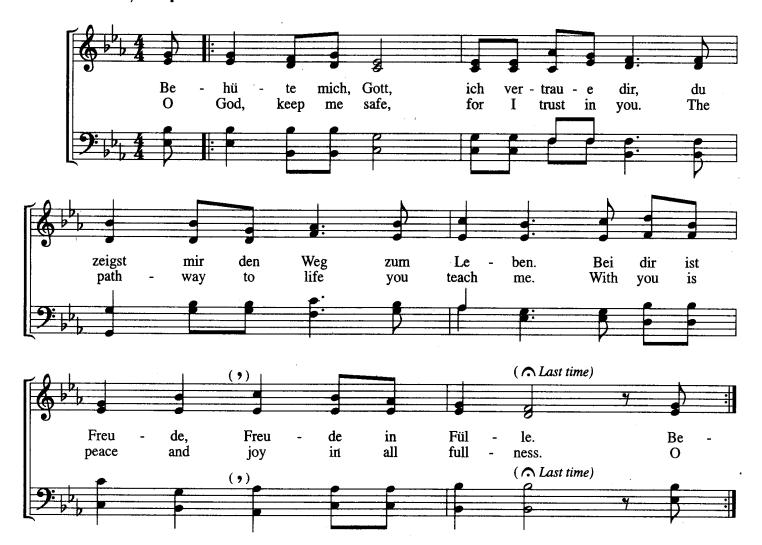
If the songs are new to you, let their simple repeated refrains be sung over you and join in as you are able.

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.

CLM24 Shout To God With Joy



CLM7 O God, Keep Me Safe



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Psalm 23 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: NB37 Alleluia 1



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O my Beloved, you are my shepherd, I shall not want; You bring me to green pastures for rest And lead me beside still waters renewing my spirit, You restore my soul. You lead me in the path of goodness To follow Love's way.

ALLELUIA

Even though I walk through the valley Of the shadow and of death, I am not afraid; For you are ever with me; Your rod and your staff they guide me, They give me strength and comfort.

ALLELUIA

You prepare a table before me In the presence of all my fears; You bless me with oil, My cup overflows.

ALLELUIA

Surely goodness and mercy will follow me All the days of my life; And I shall dwell in the heart Of the Beloved forever. Amen.

ALLELUIA



The Word/Meditation: John 10: 11, 27-30, 16 (The Inclusive Bible translation)

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep.

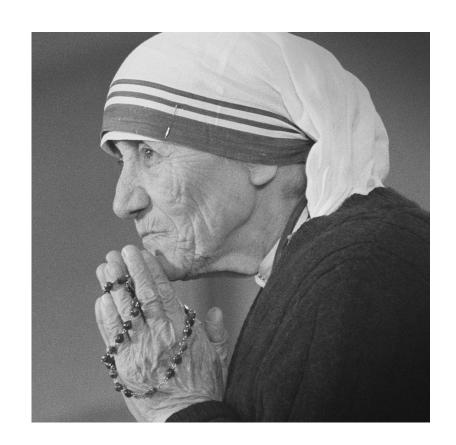
My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never be lost. No one will ever snatch them from my hand. Abba God, who gave them to me, is greater than anyone, and no one can steal them from Abba God. For Abba and I are One.

I have other sheep that don't belong to this fold — I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice. And then there will be one flock, one shepherd.

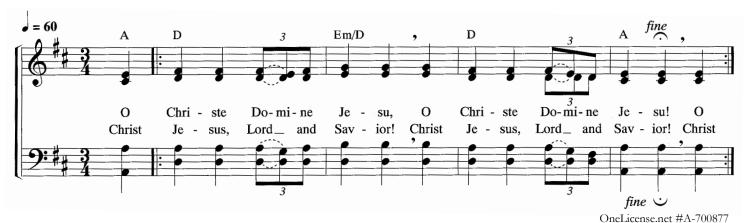
Words by Mother Teresa

God speaks in the silence of the heart.

Listening is the beginning of prayer.

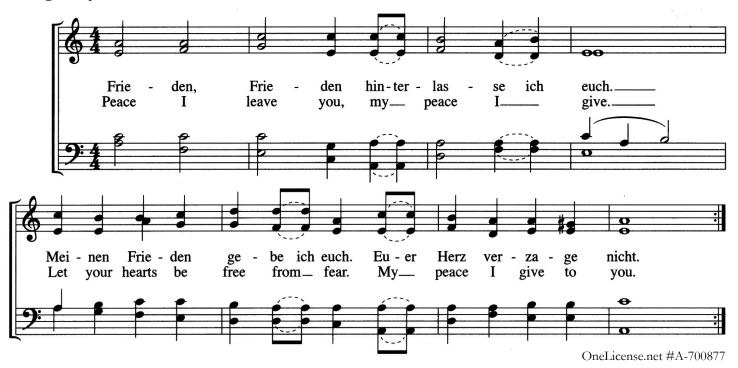


32 Christ Jesus



Prayers of Confession & Intercession ("We Don't Want a Shepherd" by Walter Brueggemann)

Sung Response: CLM19 Peace I Leave You



God, we confess that we have not wanted you to be our shepherd.

We have not wanted you to lead us and guide us. We have not listened for your voice. We have not heard your voice. We have not followed your voice. Instead, we have followed the voices of strangers and thieves. Voices that have promised us the safety, refreshment, and comfort that only you can bring. Voices that have lied to us about you, ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

PEACE I LEAVE YOU

God, we confess that we have not wanted you to be our shepherd.

We do not trust you to be our shepherd. We are afraid you will lead us to places we do not want to go. Places that are hard to get to, places that are challenging, places that are frightening. And your rod and your staff do not comfort us, they scare us and threaten us. So, we run away from you and get stuck and lost in the darkness and the wilderness.

PEACE I LEAVE YOU

Jesus, our shepherd...

Unstop our deaf ears. Attune us to your voice. Give us discerning ears. May we be available to listen for and hear your voice. May we become deaf to the voices of strangers and thieves. May we become obedient sheep, who listen for your call, recognize your voice, and trust and follow your lead.

PEACE I LEAVE YOU

Jesus, thank you for being the good shepherd who laid down your life for us, your sheep. Come and lead us once again. Lead us to green pastures, still waters, and the right paths. Come and refresh our souls so that goodness and mercy will actually follow us all the days of our lives.

PEACE I LEAVE YOU

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



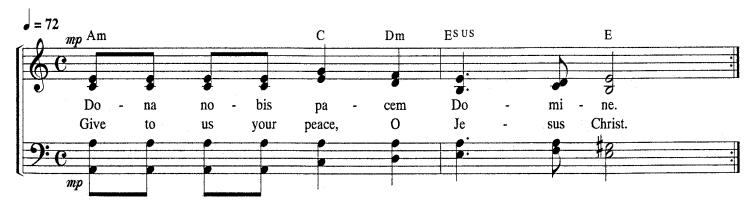
Prayer over the Anointing Oil (in unison)

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.

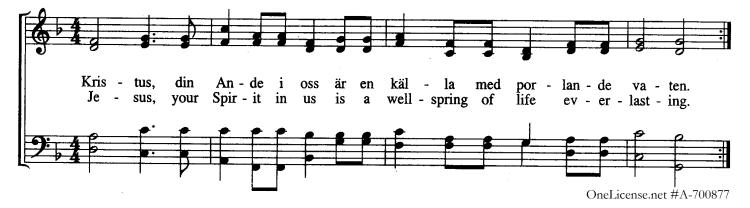


31 Give To Us Your Peace



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CLM25 Jesus, Your Spirit



* What a Friend We Have In Jesus



Eastertide Blessing (in unison)

God of Life and Light, awaken us to your presence among us in the ordinary activity of our lives. Jesus, the Christ, walk with us, forgive us, and make us your wounded healers. Spirit, produce your fruit in us that we may become the beloved community of God.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

Contemplative Prayer

In the Season of Eastertide we will be mediating and dwelling in the stories of resurrection and new life. The group will take a break starting May 30 through Labor day, and resume on Monday, Sept 12. Join Rev. BJ Woodworth on Zoom for this on Monday mornings.

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

Cathedral Yoga

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

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

JourneyDance

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

Third Friday of every month (May 13) • 6:30-7:45 pm

Enneagram Study Group

Join facilitator Lynn Holden on the third Mondays now through June and Sept through Dec, from 12:15-1:30 pm on Zoom (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127, Passcode: 9types) for an Enneagram Study Group. Required book is *The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Path to Spiritual Growth* by Christopher L. Heuertz. (Please note: During May, the group will meet on May 9 and May 23, instead of May 16, due to scheduling conflicts.)

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; BJW@coh.net

Decolonizing our Spiritual Practices — June 4

Join us on Saturday, June 4 from 9 am–3pm at ELPC or on Zoom for a day of teaching, conversation, and spiritual practice, as we seek to continue in our journey to be a Matthew 25 church and decolonize our spiritual practices.

We will be led by Leeann Shaw Younger. Under her leadership, we will look at the world and the story of Jesus through the eyes of those impacted by the work of colonial missionaries here in the U.S. and around the world. We will deepen our relationship with the Divine by considering how we might begin to unlearn the spiritual practices we've inherited that ignore and even denigrate the way indigenous cultures see the world and the Divine. We will consider what we can learn about the story of Jesus through the eyes of those finding a story of liberation and healing for both our human and other-than-human relatives.

RSVP to Norma by Sunday, May 29.

(Norma@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x111) The suggested donation is \$10 (lunch included).

About Our Facilitator

Leeann Shaw Younger is the lead pastor of Cityview Church in Pittsburgh's East Deutschtown/Spring Garden neighborhood. She co-founded the Evangelical Covenant Church congregation in 2010 with her husband, Wayne. Leeann has a breadth of vocational experiences in her background as a nonprofit

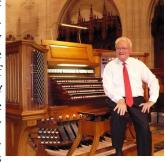


executive leader, campus minster, and pastor, but most recently has enjoyed her role as a Democratic committee woman. She is in the process of completing a Master of Theological Studies, with a focus on decolonizing church practice from the Pacific School of Religion.

ELPC EVENTS

The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany's Celebration — May 8

ELPC's former Music Director, The Rev. Dr. J. Richard Szeremany, cordially invites you to join the festive celebration of his 73 years of *Ministry of Word and Sacrament* and *Ministry of Music* to the glory of God on Sunday, May 8 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. Come be inspired by organists



J. Richard Szeremany, Michael P. Frank, Dr. Edward Alan Moore and Jon Tyillian, and pianist The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush. This will be an interesting, historical narrative of Richard's life.

Organ Concert — May 15

ELPC and *The Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh* are cosponsoring an organ concert presented by Jan Kraybill on Sunday, May 15 at 3 pm. Dr. Kraybill is Principal Organist for the Dome and Spire Organ Foundation, an affiliate of the international headquarters of Community of Christ, in Independence, Missouri, and Organ Conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City. ELPC members should contact Dr. Ed Moore for complimentary tickets to this concert (EdM@coh.net). The concert will also be live-streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Volunteer Flower Planting Day - May 21

Would you like to help ELPC live into its commitment to care for God's green earth? Please plan to join the Gardening Crew on Saturday, May 21 for their annual volunteer flower planting day. Each spring a group of dedicated members and friends refresh the Highland Ave entrance with beautiful flowering plants, so it is vibrant and welcoming, and the Courtyard, so it is a lovely setting for summer weddings and worship. Green thumbs are not required—just bring your generous spirit and a pair of work gloves to the Highland driveway around 9 am. If you're interested in helping, or would like to learn about other upcoming garden workdays, please contact Don Breitbarth (donbreitbarth@gmail.com).

Brass and Organ Concert — May 29

The Brass Roots and conductor/arranger Jim Nova return to team up with Dr. Edward Alan Moore in a concert of music adapted from the movies and video games. The concert begins at 3 pm in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 29. There is no admission charge. A freewill offering will be accepted. The concert will also be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.

The Chapel Marketplace is Re-Opening! - June 6

We've been waiting for this day!

Keep it on your calendar and in your prayers!

The Chapel Marketplace is a clothing ministry of ELPC where people from the community can come and shop (no cost) for clothing. To re-open, we need your help — especially sorting clothes and staffing the Chapel Marketplace, and donations of new or gently used clothes (spring-summer seasonal – please, no men's suits or ties right now). You can leave your donations in the bins near the main desk on Highland Ave. If interested, please contact Frank Bauerle (frbauerle@yahoo.com). Someone will contact you about how and when you can help.

Part-Time Gardener Wanted

The Property Committee is looking for someone to help maintain the flower beds around the church on a regular basis, especially the Rain Garden that extends along Penn Ave and Whitfield St. This paid position would require approximately 3 hours per week from May to the end of October. This person would also work closely with the Gardening Crew to help organize and lead volunteer workdays throughout the summer. Contact Don Breitbarth (donbreitbarth@gmail.com) or Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).

→ The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush ←

Last Sunday at ELPC is May 15



Following the Sanctuary service on Sunday, May 15 in the Social Hall, ELPC family and friends will have an opportunity to say *thank* you and send our prayers and best wishes to our departing Senior Pastor Randy Bush and his wife,

There will be a box at the event to collect cards sharing reflections and good wishes for the Bush family. Cards can also be mailed to ELPC c/o Wil Forrest.

→ Share your Picture Memories of the Bush Family ←

Do you have pictures that include Pastor Randy, Beth, Ian, and/or Charlotte over their 16 years with us at ELPC that you are willing to share? Please send any pictures to Norma in the church office by Noon on Friday, May 13 so they might be included as we celebrate the Bush family and their time in Pittsburgh! Her email is on the church's website: www.ELPC.church, or call 412.441.3800 x111.

