



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

116 South Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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.

43 Holy Is The Name Of God



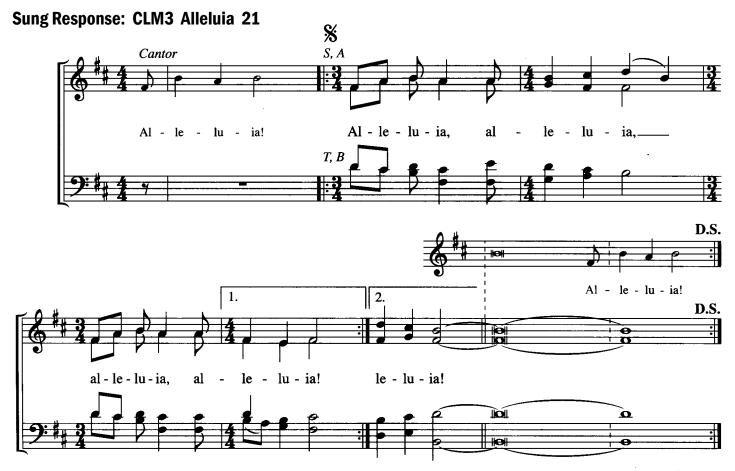
NB13 Let Us Sing To The Lord



OneLicense.net #A-700877



Psalm 42 (selected verses; from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)



OneLicense.net #A-700877

As a hart longs for flowing streams, So longs my soul for you, O Beloved. My soul thirsts for the Beloved, For the Living Water.

When may I come and behold your face? Tears have been my only nourishment Day and night.

While friends ask continually, "Why do you seem so lost and forlorn?"

ALLELUIA

All this I remembered,
As I poured out my soul:
How I knew your Presence within me
As I went out among the throng,
Proceeding to the House of Prayer;
With loud voice we gave you praise
And acclamation, a multitude
Proclaiming gratitude and joy.

ALLELUIA

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
And why are you disquieted within me?
My hope is in the Beloved,
My strength and my joy,
O my soul, open the door to Love!

ALLELUIA

My soul is cast down within me,
Yet I remember you,
From my mother's womb to maturity,
Through all the days of my life.
Deep calls to deep
At the thunder of your waterfalls;
All your waves and your billows
Have washed over me.
By day you lead me in steadfast love;
At night your song is within me,
Prayer from the Heart of my heart.

ALLELUIA

I say to the Beloved, the Blessed One, "Why have you forgotten me? Why go I mourning Because of the oppression of fear?" As with a deadly wound in my body, I feel the pain of war and injustice; While the powerful seem to destroy, The innocent seem of no account.

ALLELUIA

O my soul, let not the quagmire of war Keep me from radiating your peace, Your love and light to the world. My hope is in you, O Spirit of Truth; Be my strength and my guide. O my soul, let us celebrate The Oneness of all Creation!

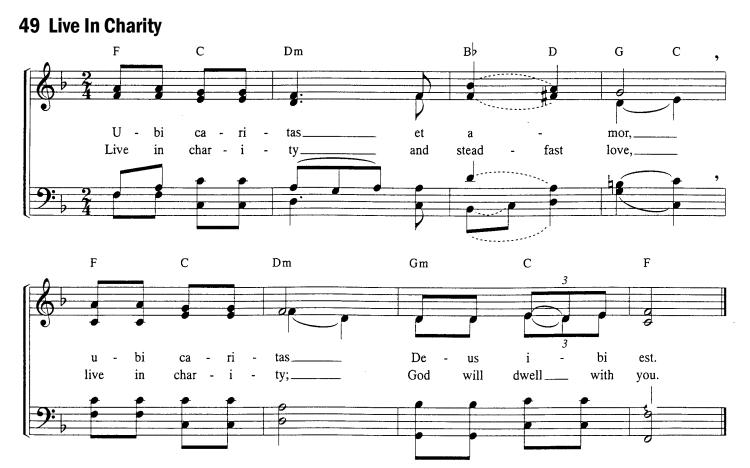
ALLELUIA

The Word and Meditation: Matthew 13:44-46

The kin-dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kin-dom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Words from Henri Nouwen

Trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.



OneLicense.net #A-700877

Prayers of Intercession

Sung Response: NB42 Kyrie 7



OneLicense.net #A-700877



God, stir up in us a desire to seek you and your kin-dom with fervor, energy, enthusiasm, and joy. May we be willing to risk and abandon all to seek you and find you buried and hidden in our lives and the world.

KYRIE

We pray for the world you created, and the people who share it with us: for countries caught up in war or violent conflict, and those whose homes and lives are threatened by natural disaster and for all the other areas in our world where there is need and despair.

KYRIE

We pray for our country and for its people: for our governmental leaders; federal, state, and local; for our judicial system, for all employers and employees, that they may seek justice and find meaning and purpose in their work.

KYRIE

We pray for our local community, the people of this city, particularly for those who are unemployed, in prison, hungry, or are alone and afraid; for all our neighbors, both known and unknown to us.

KYRIE

We pray for this congregation, our siblings in Christ, for those who are ill, those who are anxious about the future, those struggling with their faith, those who minister among us; for all your people in this place.

KYRIE

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

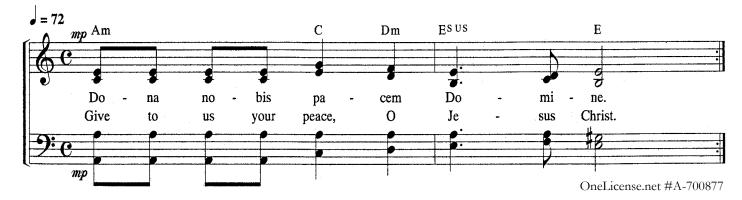


Prayer over the Anointing Oil (in unison)

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



CLM20 | Am Sure | Shall See



* Holy Ground



 $\ \ \,$ Copyright 1983 and this arr. $\ \ \,$ 1986 by Meadowgreen Music Co. All Rights Reserved. International Copyright Secured. Used by Permission. CCLI #689547

Blessing (in unison)

May your kin-dom come; may your will be done on earth as in heaven. Help us to notice its nearness within us and around us.

Free us to graciously sow it, seek it, and celebrate it, knowing your kin-dom always lies beyond us.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

Wednesday Morning Yoga and Contemplation Series

Join Katrina Woodworth for a Hatha yoga class on Wednesdays at 8 am on Zoom in May and June to explore our relationship with creation through the 4 elements of water, wind, earth and fire. Register in advance at www.tiny.cc/n1truz. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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).

July 15, Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec 9 (second Friday) 6:30-7:45 pm

June Solstice Forest Bathing - June 25

Join us at Frick Park on Saturday, June 25 from 6-9 pm for a time of Solstice Forest Bathing and mark the beginning of summer, increased daylight, and warmth! If you are unfamiliar with forest bathing, it is simply mindfulness in nature as we bathe in the health-boosting benefits of the forest. Guided by Sandi Miller, we'll enjoy a three-hour walk and experience a series of invitations to slow down, open our senses, and cultivate an embodied relationship between ourselves and the natural world. Throughout the walk, we'll have opportunities to share our experiences. We'll conclude with a cup of tea made from the forest. There's no right or wrong way to practice forest bathing, so come as you are; it's all welcome in the forest. (We will be walking less than one mile, but there are some hills involved.) Register with Norma (412.441.3800 x111) by Wednesday, June 22. The event is limited to 12 people.

Film Discussion: Day of the Stranger - July 24

Join us on Sunday, July 24 after the 10 am worship service for a short film (30 minutes, 2021) about Trappist monk Thomas Merton, one of the most influential spiritual writers of the twentieth century. Through rare audio recordings, this film explores the final years of Merton's life from 1965-1968, when he lived as a hermit in the Kentucky woods. Interweaving meditative images of his hermitage nestled deep in the woods of Kentucky and rare audio recordings he made as a hermit; the film pieces together a first-person narrative of one of the twentieth century's most brilliant minds. For more info, visit www.dayofastranger.com/home.

ELPC EVENTS

Summer Worship Schedule Through Labor Day

We have begun our summer worship schedule, with one service at 10 am. We will continue to worship in the Sanctuary throughout June, but will move to the Courtyard beginning July 3 (weather permitting). Journey Worship will resume on Rally Day Sunday, Sept 11.

The Chapel Marketplace Re-Opened

The Chapel Marketplace is a clothing ministry of ELPC where people from the community can come and shop (no cost) for clothing. We need your help, especially help sorting clothes and staffing the Chapel Marketplace. We also need 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 at Highland Ave. If interested, please contact Frank Bauerle (frbauerle@yahoo.com). Someone will contact you about how and when you can help.

Child Care Worker Needed

ELPC is looking to hire a Child Care worker to provide care for infants and toddlers on Sunday mornings in our nursery. The ideal candidate for this position will create a welcoming, engaging, safe, and age-appropriate environment for infants and toddlers. If you know someone who might be interested, please visit www.elpc.church/careers for more info.

Church Tower Tour — June 26

All are invited to join a tour of the majestic ELPC tower after the 10 am worship service on Sunday, June 26. Please wear comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes for this tour. Gather in the Highland Lobby to join guide Steve Evrard.

YAM Meet and Greet - June 26

Next Sunday after worship, meet the young adults of our church at the Young Adult Ministry's *Meet and Greet* in the Garth Overlook and Fellowship Rooms. RSVP to Derail Holcomb, Young Adult Ministry Coordinator (DerailH@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x133).

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – July 10

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, July 10 at 11:30 am. Both allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are encouraged to attend. Contact Wil Forrest for more info and/or to attend (412.441.3800 x118; Wil@coh.net).



The Kin-dom of God

When I first encountered a prayer using "kindom" instead of "kingdom," I remember thinking that it was a sort of liberal watering down of the robust vision of Christ the King in glory, diminishing the power of his lordship. The noted theologian



Ada María Isasi-Díaz recalls originally hearing "kin-dom" from a friend who was a nun as an alternative to the language of "kingdom," a word fraught with colonial oppression and imperial violence. "Jesus," she wrote, "used 'kingdom of God' to evoke ... an alternative 'order of things" over and against the political context of the Roman Empire and its Caesar, the actual kingdom and king at the time.

"Kingdom" is, however, a corrupted metaphor, one misused by the church throughout history to make itself into the image of an earthly kingdom. Indeed, Christians have often failed to recognize that "kingdom" was an inadequate and incomplete way of speaking of God's governance, not a call to set up their own empire. Isasi-Díaz argues that "kin-dom," an image of *la familia*, the liberating family of God working together for love and justice, is a metaphor closer to what Jesus intended.

If that sounds more like contemporary political correctness than biblical theology, it is worth noting that Isasi-Díaz's "kin-dom" metaphor echoes an older understanding, one found in medieval theology in the work of the mystic Julian of Norwich. Julian wrote of "our kinde Lord," a poetic title, certainly, summoning images of a gentle Jesus. But it was not that. Rather, it was a radical one, for the word "kinde" in medieval English did not mean "nice" or "pleasant." Instead, in the words of theologian Janet Soskice:

In Middle English the words "kind" and "kin" were the same—to say that Christ is "our kinde Lord" is not to say that Christ is tender and gentle, although that may be implied, but to say that he is kin—our kind. This fact, and not emotional disposition, is the rock which is our salvation.

To say "our kinde Lord" was to say "our kin Lord." Jesus the Lord is our kin. The kind Lord is kin to me, you, all of us—making us one. This is a subversive deconstruction of the image of kingdom and kings, replacing forever the pretensions and politics of earthly kingdoms with Jesus's calling forth a kin-dom. King, kind, kin.

This excerpt is from Diana Butler Bass's newest book <u>Freeing Jesus</u> and was featured in her newsletter *The Cottage*. Published on www.redletterchristians.org, on 12/15/21.

