



July 27, 2022 • 7:00 pm

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

## **Prelude by Gerard Rohlf**

## Welcome and Opening Centering by The Rev. BJ Woodworth

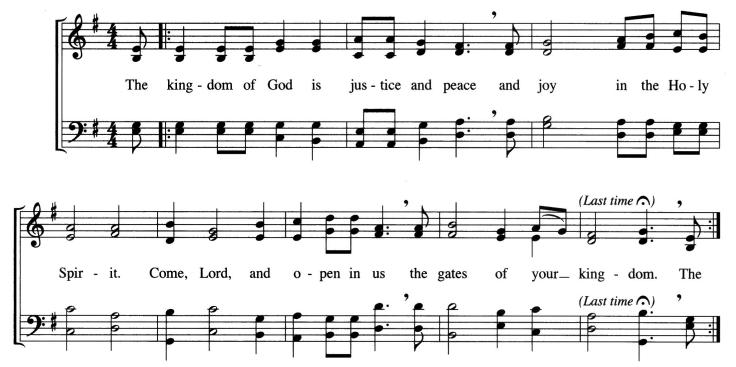
This worship space is created to enhance your prayer. As you enter, grab a prayer stone or palm cross to hold. Feel free to come forward to the craft table to doodle or color a mandala, come sit on prayer cushion and be closer to the front, pray with one of the icons, light a candle, or move with the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

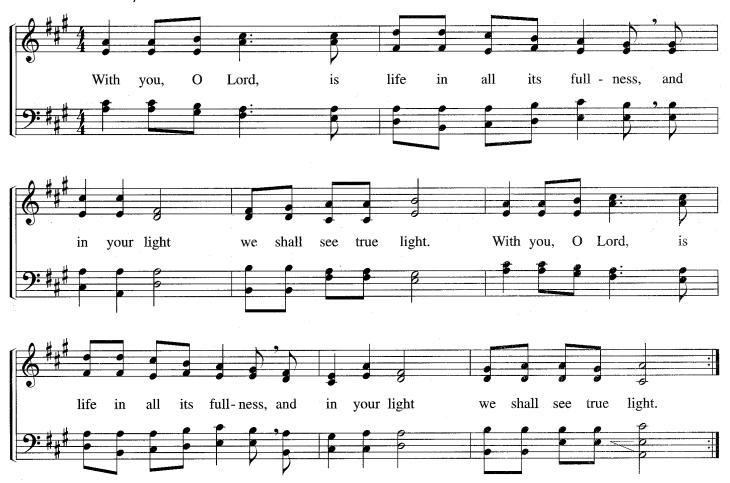
We hope that you will become aware of the presence of the living God as you pray in this place and that you might take that awareness out with you into the world.



## **CLM35 The Kingdom Of God**



## NB31 With You, O Lord





### Sung Response: 1 Alleluia 4

d = 66



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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, Firm 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 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 and Meditation: Matthew 22:1-10, 14** (The Inclusive Bible)

Then Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, "The kin-dom of heaven is like this: there was a ruler who prepared a feast for the wedding of the family's heir; but when the ruler sent out workers to summon the invited guests, they wouldn't come. The ruler sent other workers, telling them to say to the guests, "I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding." But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to her business, and the rest seized the workers, attacked them brutally and killed them. The ruler was furious and dispatched troops who destroyed those murderers and burned their town.

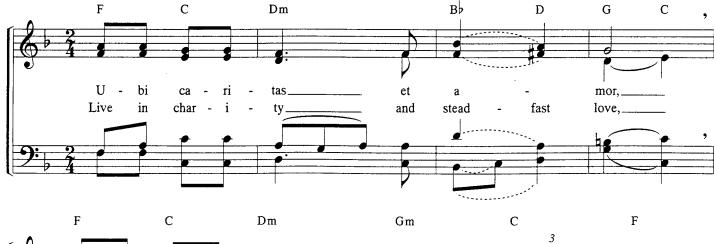
Then the ruler said to the workers, "The wedding feast is ready, but the guests I invited don't deserve the honor. Go out to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find." The workers went out into the streets and collected everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the hall was filled with guests.

Many are called, but few are chosen."

49 Live In Charity

## **Words from Esther DeWaal** (A Life Giving Way: a commentary on the rule of St Benedict)

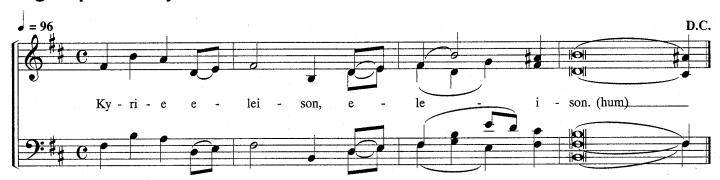
Let all guests who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, 'I came as a guest, and you received Me.' God has prepared me to welcome all, regardless of rank, and yet to treat each according to need, so that there is no uniformity but consideration for weakness or infirmity.





## **Prayers of Intercession**

## Sung Response: 6 Kyrie 13



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Oh Christ, you remind us that the invitation into your kin-dom is broad, wide, and inclusive and you are hidden in the face of the stranger. Help us to welcome the stranger, the hungry, and those without homes in our lives.

### **KYRIE**

We remember before God all those who have been uprooted from their homes and communities – people who are compelled to flee for their lives, to leave their land and culture, and live apart from their families. With them, we mourn their loss of dignity, community, and resources.

#### **KYRIE**

We remember those who are persecuted because of their gender, race, or creed. We pray for the women, the men, the children, and the elderly, who seek safety and solace, who desire to begin new lives.

#### **KYRIE**

We remember before God those countries where people must leave their homes because of war, injustice, and violence. We pray that you protect their courageous travel, shelter them in your mercy, and may they find open arms to welcome them in safety.

#### **KYRIE**

We pray that hostility and indifference may give way to hospitality and justice. Help us to be vigilant stewards of your creation, committed to bold deeds of justice and welcoming the stranger as you have welcomed us.

#### **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.



## **CLM8 I Bless You, Lord, My God**





## **CLM7 O God, Keep Me Safe**



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## \* Bless That Wonderful Name Of Jesus



## 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**

#### **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).

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

#### Taizé Podcast Now Available

If you are unable to come to our Taizé services in person on Wednesdays at 7 pm, stream or download a 15-minute contemplative recording each week. Each podcast includes a brief time of centering, music, a meditation, and a closing prayer. You can find a link to listen to the recordings at www.ELPC.church, in our *This Week in Worship* email news flash each Friday, or in our new app.

# 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

#### **Summer Choir**

If you would like to sing with the summer choir when we worship in the Courtyard, please contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net). Rehearsals will be at 9 am on Sunday mornings to sing for the 10 am service.

#### **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.

## **ELPC EVENTS**

#### **Guest Preacher - July 31**

The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge is the Executive and General Minister for Pittsburgh Presbytery, and will be our guest preacher next Sunday, July 31 at the 10 am Courtyard service. Before his election to this office in 2009, he was a pastor in congregations in North Carolina, Virginia and West



Virginia, and served the national Theology and Worship Office in Louisville, KY. He is married to The Rev. Dr. Tammy Wiens, who serves as Director of Christian Education and Christian Formation for the National Council of Churches. Together they enjoy writing and performing music, rail-to-trail bicycle rides, and long walks on golf courses.

## Church Tower Tour — July 31

On Sunday, July 31 after the 10 am summer worship service, Steve Evrard will guide a tour of the tower. Please wear closed-toe walking shoes. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to attend.

## High School Mission Trip - Aug 6 to 13

Students who have completed grades 8–12 will be traveling to Memphis, TN for our High School Mission Trip from Aug 6-13. We will be serving with Memphis Youth Mission. For info about the trip, trip requirements, and cost, contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

## Join ELPC at Our Connections Groups - Aug 7 and Sept 2

ELPC's *Connections Groups* build small communities within the large ELPC congregation. We invite everyone who has participated in *Connections* in the past, as well as everyone else, to these community-building events:

- On Sunday, August 7 from 5–7 pm, we'll attend the Reservoir of Jazz live outdoor concert in Highland Park. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and some picnic food!
- On Friday, Sept 2 from 6–8 pm, we'll attend Fridays at Frick for some live music. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. You can bring picnic food or buy from the food trucks on site.

RSVP to Elaine Phillips (connectelpc@gmail.com).

# Visit us online at www.ELPC.church

to learn more about the ministries and opportunities at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

