



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2022 • 7:00 pm

116 South Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206

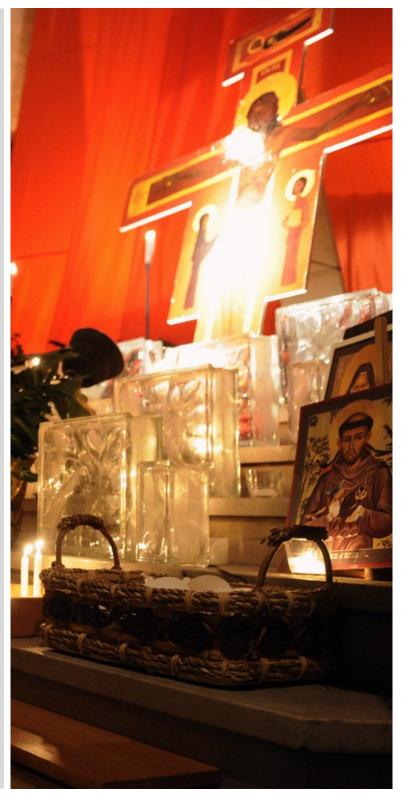
412.441.3800

Welcome to Taizé

We hope this time and space of prayerful song and quiet meditation will give you rest in body, mind and spirit. We invite you to pray and meditate in a variety of ways as you are so inclined.

- Hold a prayer stone, palm cross or prayer beads.
- Allow the simple repeated refrains to be sung over you and join in as you are able.
- Come forward to the table to doodle or color a mandala.
- Sit on a prayer cushion or chair at the front to be closer to the icons and artwork.
- Light a candle in prayer for another.
- Visit one of the prayer stations up on the altar.

May you awaken to the restful and restorative presence of the Spirit, and may you carry that awareness with you out into the world.



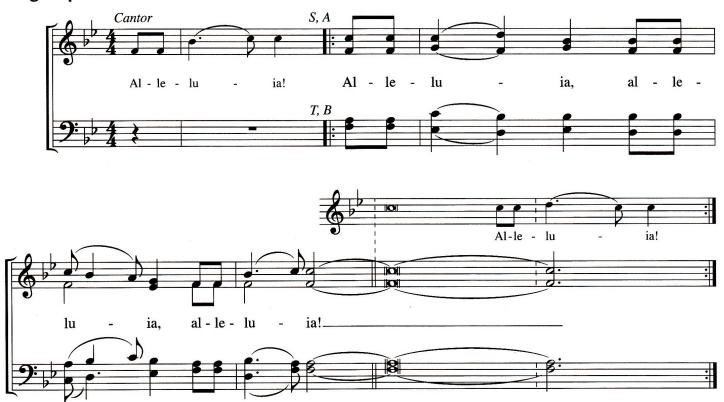
Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

CLM35 The Kingdom Of God



Psalm 45:1-9 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: CLM2 Alleluia 20



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I address my verses to the Heart of all hearts; My tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe. My heart overflows with gratitude and peace.

ALLELUIA

You are the lodestar for humankind; Grace springs forth from your Love; You, who are closer than our breath, Speak to us from the silence. Those who listen and heed Are blessed beyond belief!

ALLELUIA

Put on the voice of authority, O Beloved, Speak to us in your glory and grandeur! With mercy and strength go forth For the cause of Truth to teach Love's way; With resolute authority awaken Your people toward wholeness!

ALLELUIA

Your ways are narrow,
And few there are who choose to follow;
Many stumble and fall all along the way.
Your Divine Presence
Endures forever and ever.
Your sovereign edict is ordained with justice;
Your love is unconditional, without reserve.

ALLELUIA

Therefore, O Creator, O Heart of Love, Anoint us with the oil of gladness To share with all; Your raiment is as fragrant blossoms, Fruit of the earth, Healing herbs from nature's bounty.

ALLELUIA

From every direction stringed instruments Will gladden our hearts;
Our friends will be mature and kind,
Filled with integrity,
Standing beside us in times of need.

ALLELUIA

The Word and Meditation: Luke 1:43-55 (The Message Bible translation)

Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly,

You're so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed! And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me? The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears, the babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy. Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!



And Mary said,

I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened— I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. He knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now.

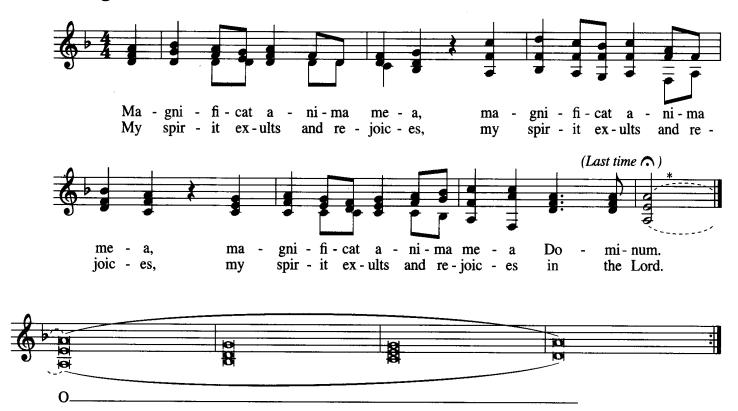
Quiet Meditation and Reflection (lasting approximately 5-7 minutes)

Words from Saints and Ancestors

Virgin Mother, daughter of your Son, More humble and exalted than any creature, Fixed goal of the eternal plan, You are the one who so ennobled human nature That He, who made it first, did not disdain To make Himself of its own making. Your womb relit the flame of love....

— Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) Italian writer, poet, philosopher, taken from his "Divine Comedy"

CLM29 Magnificat 3

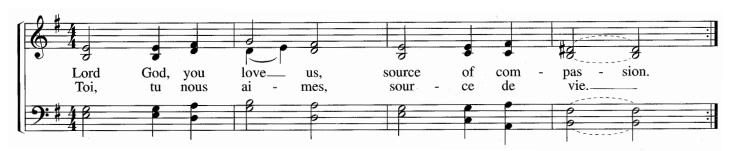


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Prayer of Response to Mary's Magnificat (by Monica Scheifele)

Sung Response: NB14 Lord God, You Love Us



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My soul seeks to magnify the Lord as my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for the Almighty has done good things and though change feels slow and is sometimes hard to find, I know that it comes. I know that it happens.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

With Mary I wait for what has been promised. I wait for tables to be turned and power to shift, for a scattering of the proud and a tumbling of the mighty. I wait for new life and a new world.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

For those treated as social outcasts just for being who they are, or because of events outside their control,
I pray for God's loving presence to be as real to them as it was to Mary when she proclaimed the Lord has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

To the Mighty One who has done great things I pray for an open heart and unblocked ears, that I may hear the voices of the poor and oppressed and act to share their struggle for justice.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

For those who have experienced violence, or been forced to flee their homes, I pray for God's mercy, which Mary promised is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

LORD GOD, YOU LOVE US

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)

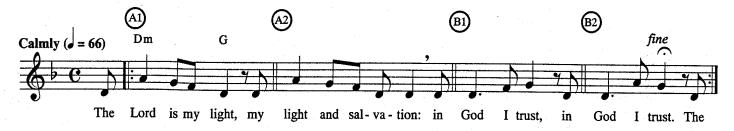
We have an anointing station this evening for those seeking individual prayer to share joys or concerns. Any desiring prayer, and/or anointing with oil, are invited to come forward, waiting in the center aisle if the station is full. To assist in hearing prayer concerns, anointing happens to the left 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.

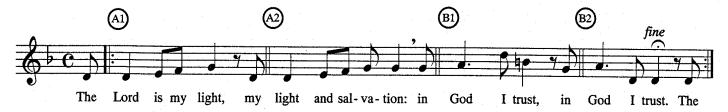




36 The Lord Is My Light



Theme II



G107 The Will Of Your Love

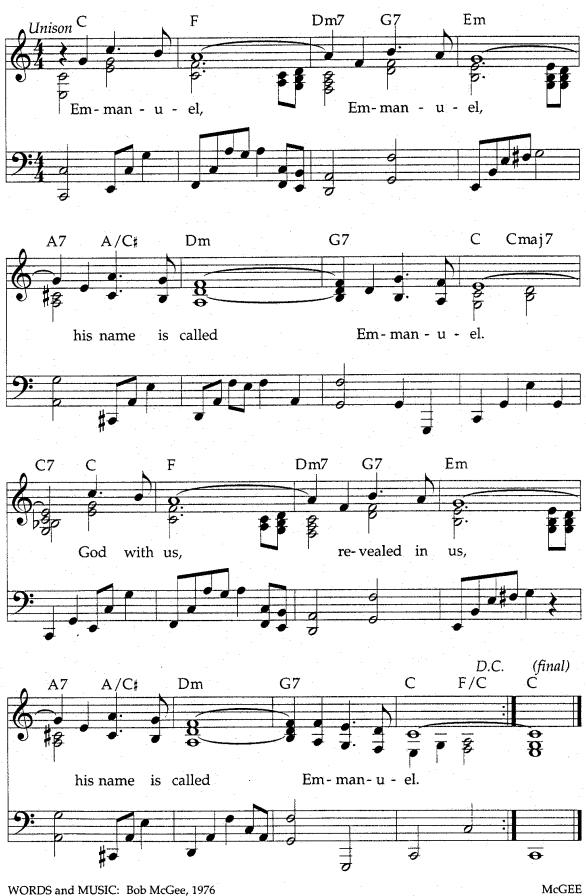


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G90 Emmanuel, Emmanuel



Irr.

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Unison Advent Blessing

May each of us, like Mary, say yes to God's invitations, make room in the sacred womb of our souls, and be the midwives of God in the world.

Leader: Thanks be to God. Amen.

People: Amen.

SPIRITUAL LIFE EVENTS

Contemplative Prayer on Mondays

On Mondays from 7:30–8 am, you're invited to a weekly time of quiet contemplation and reflection. The Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead us through a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art, and our bodies. Join us online at www.tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer. Enter meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 and passcorde: bestill. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net) for more info.

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).

Jan 20, Feb 17, March 17, April 21, May 12 (2nd Friday) 7-8:30 pm (note new time for 2023)

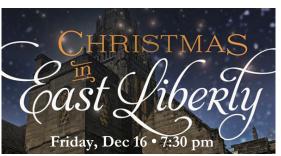
Save the Date: Sabbath Day Workshop — Jan 14

Join us on Saturday, Jan 14 from 9 am-3 pm for a day of rest, reflection, and conversation about how to faithfully practice *Sabbath* in our fast paced, production oriented, consumer culture. Our day together will embody a *Sabbath* day of rest. We will collaboratively experiment with a variety of *Sabbath* practices and reflect upon them. There will be time for solitude, being in our body, instruction from Pastor BJ, and personal reflecting with the aim of developing a plan for practicing *Sabbath* in your own life. Whether you are retired, parenting young kids, a single young adult or in height of your career, our time together will aim to help you design a *Sabbath* practice for your season of life. Suggested donation: \$10; lunch included.

Meditation Hour – Begins Jan 17

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Prayer Room each Tuesday, starting Jan 17, from 6-7 pm for an hour devoted to meditation. The session will include an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. John is a retired psychologist and a long time student and practitioner of insight meditation. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome!

ELPC EVENTS



This highly anticipated free concert and East Liberty tradition will feature holiday favorites performed by The Brass Roots, ELPC Chancel Choir, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and conductor Daniel Nesta Curtis.

Join us in the Sanctuary or virtually on YouTube or Facebook.

Ten Thousand Villages Shopping — Dec 17 and 18

Help support the Deacons' holiday outreach ministries by shopping at Ten Thousand Villages on Saturday, Dec 17 and Sunday, Dec 18. You can come to ELPC to shop, or go online to purchase items. Contact Board of Deacons Moderator Dave Cowan (DavidACowan@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x230).

Christmas Pageant: Back to Go Forward - Dec 18

Kids of all ages will guide us in a re-telling of the special story that transcends time and space so that we might see that the Babe born in a Bethlehem manger is also Godwith-us. Once more, our script has been written by the Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt. Join us in the Sanctuary at 10 am next Sunday. There will be a *Hot Chocolate Reception* after the Pageant in the McKelvy Room. **Bring a breakfast bread to share** (sliced and ready to serve).

