



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

116 South Highland Ave Pittsburgh, PA 15206

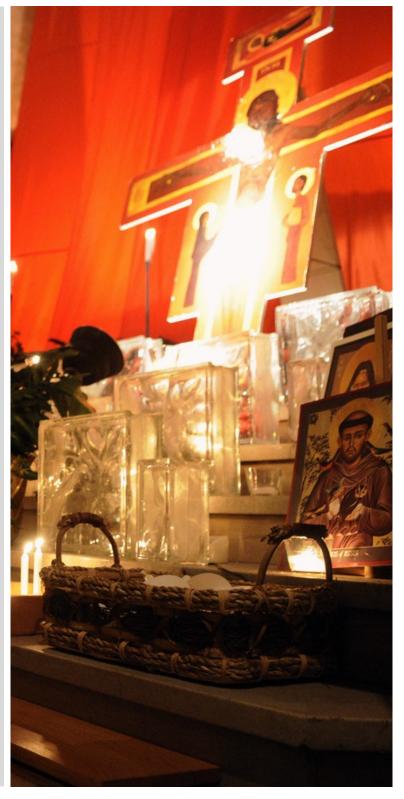
412.441.3800

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.

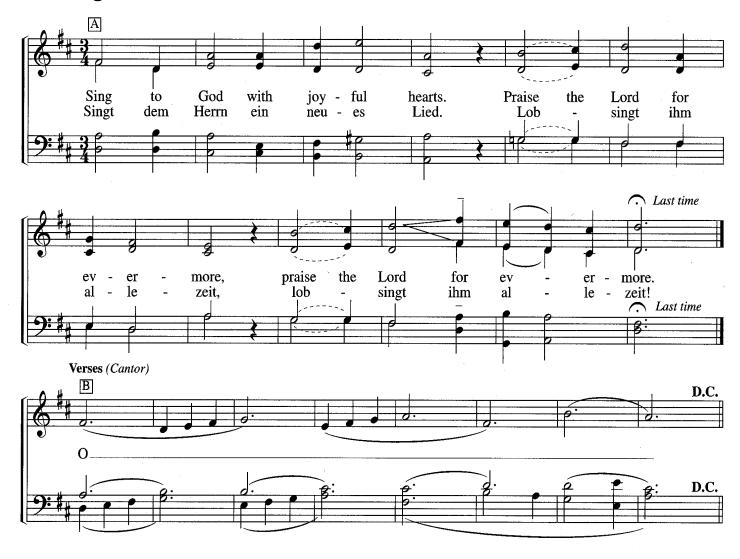
- Hold a prayer stone, palm cross or prayer beads.
- Allow the simple repeated refrains to be sung over you and join in as you are able.
- Come forward to the table to doodle or color a mandala.
- Sit on a prayer cushion or chair at the front to be closer to the icons and artwork.
- Light a candle in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



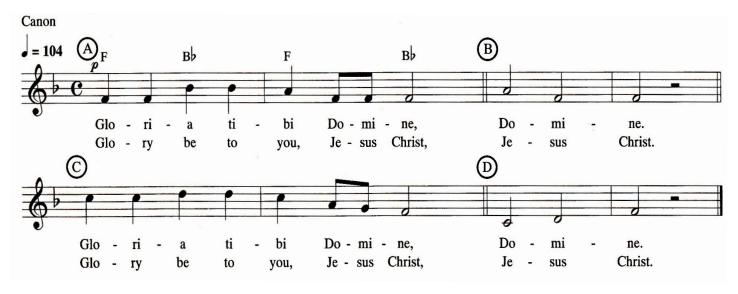
Prelude by Gerard Rohlf

NB21 Sing To God



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33 Glory Be To You



Psalm 40:1-11 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill)

Sung Response: 1 Alleluia 4



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Blessed are those who make Love their home, Who do not turn to the proud, To those who follow false idols!

O Beloved, how wondrous are your gifts to us; Your thoughts are beyond our imagination. What joy to live in Oneness with you! Were we to proclaim and tell of Your beauty and blessed grace, Who could measure it?

ALLELUIA

Sacrifice and offering are not Your desire for us; For, you have opened our heart's ear. Burnt offerings are not required. My heart affirms my surrender; In the Book of Life it is written: "I abandon myself into your hands, For I love you and wish only To create with you, O my beloved; For you are the Life of my life forever."

ALLELUIA

I tell the glad news of Love's way
To all who will listen.
Yes, I raise my voice,
With praise and acclamation.
I tell of Love's saving grace within my heart.
I speak of Love's faithfulness
And healing power.

ALLELUIA

I aspire to reveal your steadfast love and truth Through the witness of my life. Do not, O Beloved, Withhold your mercy from me.

ALLELUIA



The Word and Meditation: Matthew 2 (selected verses)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him... The magi set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod.

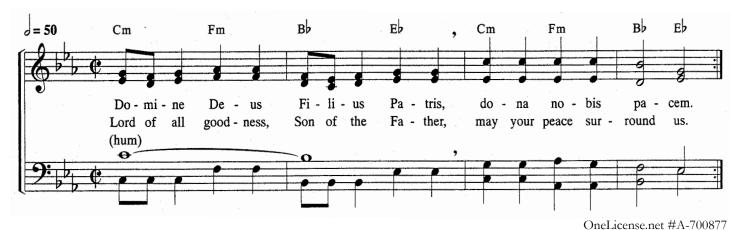
Quiet Meditation and Reflection (lasting approximately 5-7 minutes)

Words from Saints and Ancestors

We think of him as safe beneath the steeple, or cozy in a crib beside the font, but he is with a million displaced people on the long road of weariness and want. For even as we sing our final carol, his family is up and on that road, fleeing the wrath of someone else's quarrel, glancing behind and shouldering their load. Whilst Herod rages still from his dark tower, Christ clings to Mary, fingers tightly curled, the lambs are slaughtered by the men of power, and death squads spread their curse across the world. But every Herod dies, and comes alone to stand before the Lamb upon the throne.

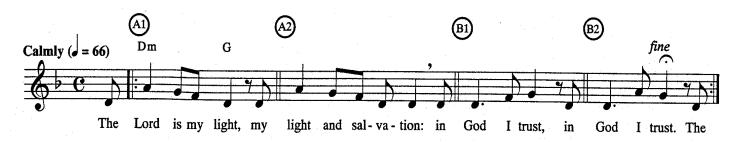
— Ayodeji Malcolm Guite (1957) English poet, singer-songwriter, and Anglican priest

30 Lord of All Goodness



Prayers of Intercession (adapted from Fr. Dan Hartnett S.J.)

Sung Response: 36 The Lord is My Light



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God of love and compassion: may we always recognize your spirit, in the refugee family, seeking safety from violence; and in the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

God of love and compassion: may we always recognize your spirit in the asylum-seekers, seeking justice for their families; and in the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

Give us hearts that break open whenever our siblings turn to us and ears that hear their voices in times of need.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

Give us eyes to recognize a moment for grace instead of a threat and voices that fail to remain silent, but decide instead to advocate prophetically.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

Give us hands that reach out in welcome, but also in work, for a world of justice until all homelands are safe and secure.

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT



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.

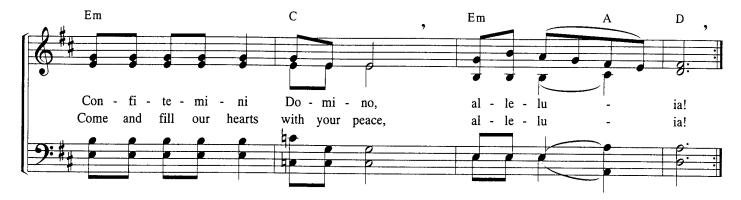
Bless this oil, O Lord, pressed from the fruit of the earth. Let it be a holy ointment for the wounds and worries of those who receive it. May it be a sign to all of us of your constant desire to touch our lives and bring us to health and wholeness. Amen.





28 Come And Fill





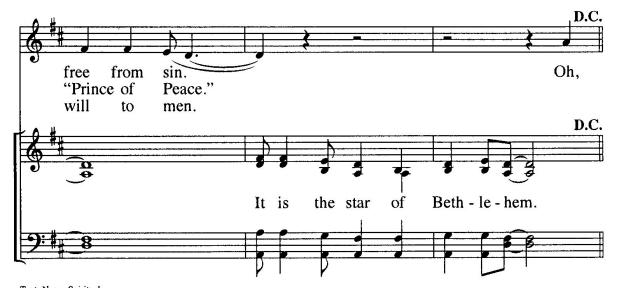
* Jesus, The Light Of The World



Text: George D. Elderkin; verses by Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Tune: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, 7 7 7 7 with refrain; George D. Elderkin; arr. by Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, b.1953, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

* Behold The Star!





Text: Negro Spiritual Tune: BEHOLD THE STAR, LM with refrain; Negro Spiritual, arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b.1969, © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

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Pilgrim's Blessing (in unison)

In this season of Epiphany...
be faithful to the next step;
rely on more than the map;
heed the signposts of intuition and dream;
follow the star that only you will recognize;
keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path;
press on beyond distractions,
beyond fatigue,

beyond what would tempt you from the way...
that will take you to the place
where at last you will kneel to offer the gift
most needed — the gift that only you can give —
before turning to go home by another way.

(adapted from 'For Those Who Have Far to Travel" by Jan Richardson)

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 to help us start our day and week in communion with God and one another.

Join us online at www.tiny.cc/contemplative-prayer. Enter meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 and passcorde: bestill when prompted. 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 (second Friday) 7:00-8:30 pm (note new time for 2023)

Study the Enneagram — Jan 16 (3rd Monday of the Month)

Join us on the third Monday of each month from 12:15—1:30 pm, at www.tiny.cc/enneagram. Enter Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127; and Passcode: 9types. Participants will need a copy of *The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Path to Spiritual Growth* by Christopher L. Heuertz. Our group will be led by Lynn Holden, a licensed professional counselor, trained spiritual director, and certified Enneagram practitioner. *Note the group will meet on Jan 16, Feb 20 and March 20.*

Meditation Hour – Begins Jan 17

Meditation is the practice of "looking deeply." In silence and withdrawal from the world of everyday concerns, we turn our attention inward and calm our bodies and minds. In this emptiness we may see



the world as if for the first time. We may see others as they are and we may find that the Kingdom of Heaven is truly within us; that we are living in God and God in us.

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Prayer Room each Tuesday, beginning 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!

Tuesdays, 6-7 pm

ELPC EVENTS

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – Jan 15

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering on Sunday, Jan 15 at 12:30 pm. For more info or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

How to Reduce Energy Bills and Take Advantage of New Incentives — Jan 22

Energy prices have gone up sharply within the last half year, and are impacting many households this winter. At the same time, legislators and the Biden Administration are to release \$369 billion for "Energy Security and Climate Change," part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), offering rebates, tax incentives, and other programs to help households conserve energy and to electrify. What is in the programs and how can you take advantage of them?

Join the Environmental Team of Justice Committee following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Jan 22 in the Social Hall or on Zoom to learn about the actions households can take right away or plan to take in the later part of 2023, when the remaining regulations are finalized. A light lunch will be offered. Contact Nancy Heastings with any questions (n.heastings@comcast.net).

The History and Persistence of Racism Within the Christian Church — Jan 29

The Facing Systemic Racism Committee invites the congregation to join us on Sunday, Jan 29 (via zoom or in person) for the second part of our series, *The History and Persistence of Racism within the Christian Church*, led by University of Pittsburgh professor and lecturer, Dr. Brock Bahler. Comments following the first presentation included:

- I've been Christian all my life. Why didn't I know this history?
- What else don't I know about my faith in general as well as the Presbyterian denomination?
- How is ELPC implicated in that history? What now? Dr. Bahler will speak to the intentional codification of

racism within the church and how the church continues to perpetuate — and benefits from — white supremacy. His lecture will be followed by a small group discussion of the content, as well as consideration of next steps for ELPC.

The presentation will be held during the Church School hour, immediately following Journey worship in the Social Hall.

CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURE

The church building will be closed on Monday, Jan16 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.