



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God – the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God's unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ's radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

## GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

Service of Light and Darkness

APRIL 7, 2023 — 7 PM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

**PRELUDE** 

"Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727"

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organist Johann Sebastian Bach based on Glory to God hymnal #221

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Today God makes common cause with our human suffering.

People: We read the scriptures, sing the hymns, feel the feelings of the day Christ died.

Leader: Suffering is not rational. It has no answer.

People: But in the cross God meets us in our suffering.

Leader: From this day forward, we know that there is nowhere we can go where God is not with us.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY (in unison)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

We stand near the cross, O God – disturbed, distraught, discouraged. Yet we gather here as disciples, those whom Jesus loves. In the face of such suffering, show us the face of our Savior. In the shadow of such evil, show us the light of your grace. On this day of great solemnity, let us stand as witnesses to your great love for all the world, revealed in the outstretched arms of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\* OPENING HYMN #221 (printed in bulletin)

PASSION CHORALE

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

#### \* CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Leader:

The promise of our faith is that if we call on the name of the Lord, our God will remember our sin no more. Therefore, let us go to the foot of the cross and confess our sins and transgressions to our Savior and Lord.

#### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Christ, at all times we act as if we do not know you, at times we are guilty of shouting, "Away with him!" When we think of those times, we weep and ask for your forgiveness. Forgive us for standing with the crowd demanding your crucifixion. Forgive us for denying that you are Lord and Savior. Forgive us for failing to love you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

<sup>\*</sup> Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

#### April 7 • Good Friday Tenebrae

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: Take heart, for we have a high priest, Jesus Chris, the son of God, who understands our human

experience and sympathizes with our weakness. Christ deals gently with the those who are unaware or who have gone astray and he is the source of our eternal salvation. Friends, believe

the good news of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Praise God.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

\* HYMN #228 (printed in bulletin)

"Were You There"

WERE YOU THERE

#### **♦ SERVICE OF TENEBRAE ♦**

#### FATHER, FORGIVE THEM: FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Luke 23:34

Adrianna Cleveland

Candle is extinguished
Time of Silent Reflection

#### TRULY, I TELL YOU, TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.

Luke 23:43

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Candle is extinguished
Time of Silent Reflection

#### WOMAN, HERE IS YOUR SON. HERE IS YOUR MOTHER.

John 19:26-27

Denise Sheffey-Powell

Candle is extinguished
Time of Silent Reflection

\* HYMN #204 (sing 3x; printed in bulletin)

"Stay with Me"

STAY WITH ME

#### MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

Mark 15:34

Adrianna Cleveland

Candle is extinguished
Time of Silent Reflection

#### I AM THIRSTY.

John 19:28

David Jennings-Smith

Candle is extinguished
Time of Silent Reflection

#### IT IS FINISHED.

John 19:30

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

**HOMILY** "It Is Finished"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Candle is extinguished
Time of Silent Reflection

\* HYMN #215 (printed in bulletin)

"What Wondrous Love is This"

WONDROUS LOVE

#### FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.

Luke 23:46

Dr. Moore

Candle is extinguished
Time of Silent Reflection

As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. This notice is to inform you that by being in attendance, you give permission for incidences where you appear within the video.

Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors.

Please silence all electronic devices before the service begins.

#### ♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

> Dr. Edward Alan Moore Adrianna Cleveland David Jennings-Smith Denise Sheffey-Powell

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist/

Music Director

Adrianna Cleveland, *Cantor* Denise Sheffey-Powell, *Cantor* David Jennings-Smith, *Cantor* 

Logan Williams, Cantor

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

#### ♦ HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Below is a listing of the remaining Holy Week and Easter Sunday services we are offering at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. We invite you to join us on our journey.

#### HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8

7:00 pm...... Easter Vigil Service. The Great Vigil includes reaffirmation of baptism vows, communion and announcement of Christ's resurrection. The Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead this service.

#### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9

8:45 am ......Journey Worship. The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will preach at this communion service in the Social Hall.

11 am......Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists. Special music begins at 10:45 am. The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will preach and lead communion.

#### ♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

#### Taizé: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France. Rev. BJ Woodworth leads this service in the Chapel.

Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room (in Highland Ave hallway)

Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness.

Available everyday

#### ♦ WEEKLY SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERINGS

#### **Contemplative Prayer**

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom (Meeting ID 959 8065 3992) to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies.

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

#### **Meditation Hour** (through May)

Join John Benedict, retired psychologist and practitioner of insight meditation, in the Prayer Room for an hour devoted to meditation, which includes an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. All are welcome!

Tuesdays, 6-7 pm

#### Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary. Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm *(before Taizé)* 

## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are grateful to have you join us for worship this evening and ask you to register your name in our red Friendship Books.

To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to also:

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the *Reaching Out*, either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk near the Highland Avenue doors.

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.

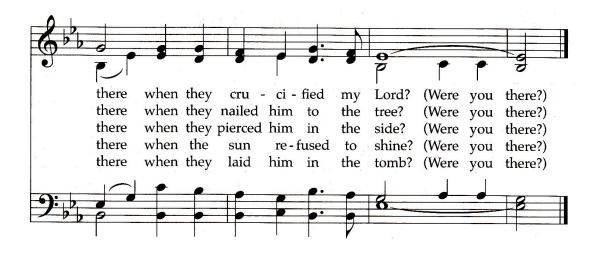
### #221 — O SACRED HEAD, NOW WOUNDED



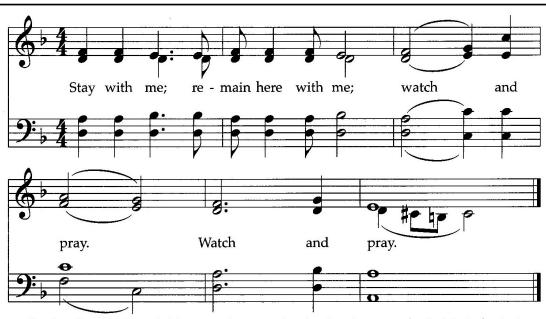
This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.



Few hymns from any culture have captured the pathos of Jesus' crucifixion as movingly as this African American spiritual. Its emotional climax (and highest pitch) comes in the great "O!" at the center of each stanza, a moment that moves beyond anything words can convey.



## #204 — STAY WITH ME (please sing 3x)



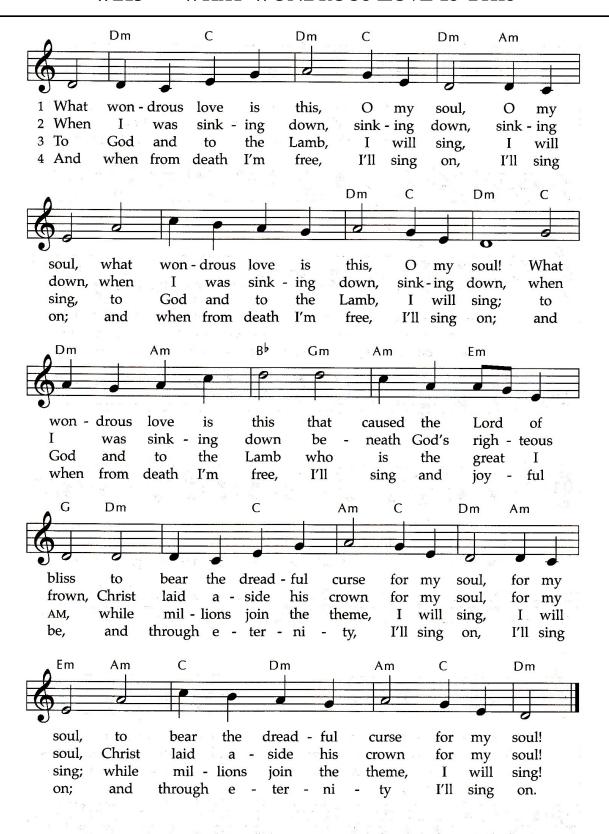
This chant from Taizé intended for repeated singing is based on Jesus' request to the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:38/Mark 14:34), a simple request they did not fulfill. When singing these words we need to hear in them an ongoing call to be alert and faithful.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982

STAY WITH ME Irregular

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1982

## #215 — WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS



With its ballad-like repetitions before and after each stanza's central narrative lines, this meditative text needs performance in order to be effective. Its haunting melody proves the means of convincing us that the only adequate response to "wondrous love" is to "sing on."