



ASH WEDNESDAY

TAIZÉ:

*Prayerful Song &
Quiet Meditation*

February 14, 2024 • 7:00 pm



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church

116 South Highland Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.441.3800

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is not a day based on any event in the scriptures; it originated only in the 9th century. But the custom of a mark on the forehead and ashes as a sign of repentance and mourning have many scripture references.

In the Bible, a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. Having the forehead marked with the sign of a cross symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, who died on a Cross. It is in imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when s/he is delivered from slavery to sin and made a slave of righteousness and Christ. (*Rom. 6:3-18*)

Ashes are a biblical symbol of mourning and repentance. In Bible times the custom was to fast, wear sackcloth, sit in dust and ashes, and put dust and ashes on one's head. While we no longer wear sackcloth or sit in dust and ashes, the customs of fasting and putting ashes on one's forehead as a sign of mourning and repentance have survived to this day.

Whatever you will do this Lent: receive the sign of ashes, assume a spiritual discipline like prayer or meditation or fasting, God is not the one who benefits. These practices are for us, they are tools to make us more mindful and call us back every day to follow our Savior, Jesus Christ, more closely, more faithfully.

Ideally, we do our spiritual disciplines daily, but the observation of the Lenten season speaks to our human need; as a reminder to pause when we are always on the run, as a call to reflect when we are always busy "doing," as a need to repent when we have lost our way. "...Ash Wednesday, with its sober reminders of our mortality, is the door to a season when [we] are called to walk... into a Lenten wilderness where God is encountered and we confess our desperate need for God's reconciling love and our utter dependence upon God's redeeming grace." (*Evaline Clark, "Journal for Preachers, Lent 2004"*) The fact that we enter that wilderness from the resurrection side of the cross gives us added confidence to make the walk and, with the words of Psalm 51, to boldly ask God to "Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us."

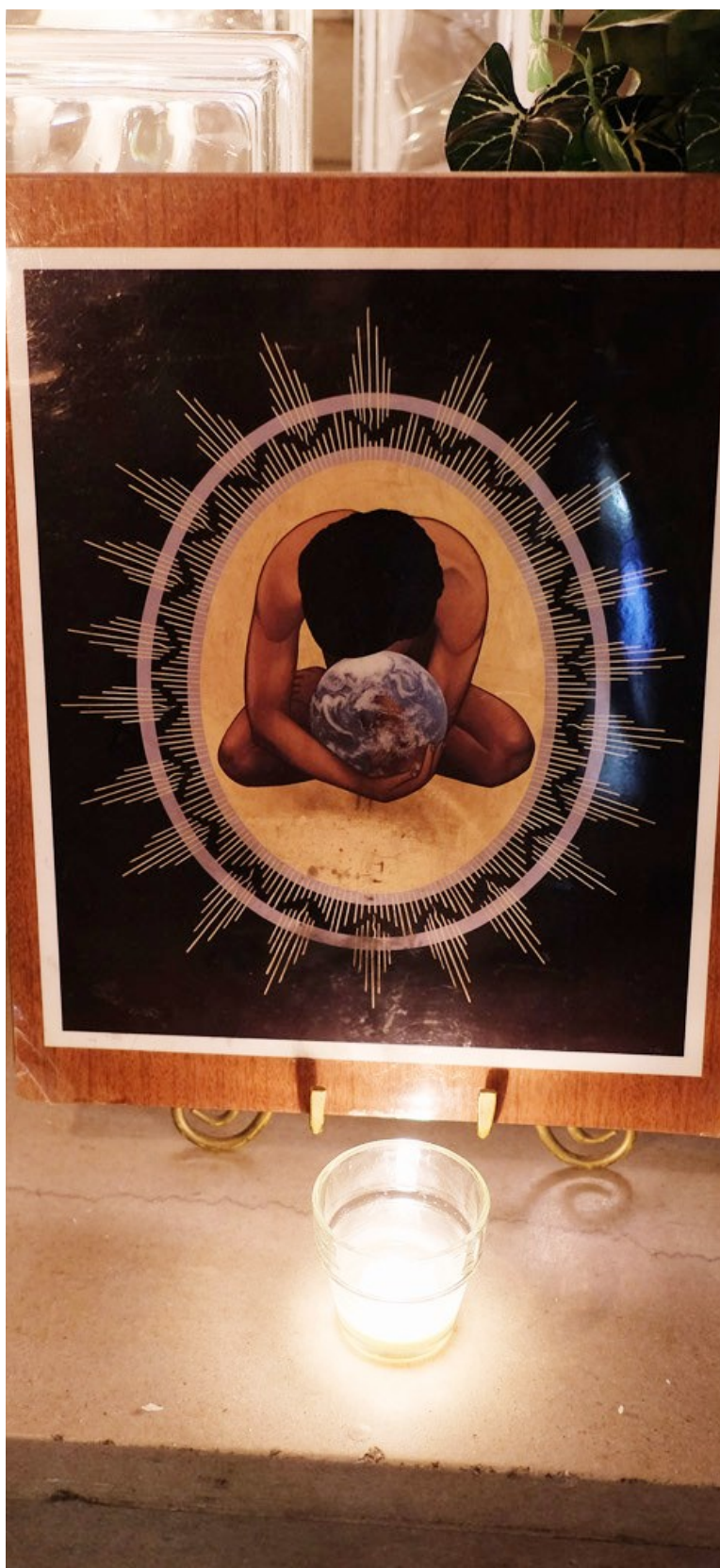
We begin that Lenten wilderness season tonight as we sing our prayers and silently consider what burdens we need to set aside or what disciplines we need to take on.

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.
- Come up onto the altar to sit and contemplate at a prayer station.
- Bring forward and lay on the altar steps, any symbol of your gratitude, prayers or intentions.

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 Taizé Musicians

Welcome and Opening Centering by The Rev. BJ Woodworth

CLM17 Consoling Spirit Of God

Es - prit con - so - la - teur, a - mour de tout a -
Con - sol - ing Spir - it of God, O love in all our

mour. love. Es - prit con - so - la - teur, a - mour de tout a - mour.
Con - sol - ing Spir - it of God, O love in all our love.

(Last time)

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25 When The Night Becomes Dark

Em Am⁶ E Am E

When the night be - comes dark, your love, O Lord,

Am E C⁶ Dm C F⁶ E Am

is a fire; your love, O Lord, is a fire.

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Psalm 51:1-17 (from "Psalms for Praying" by Nancy C. Merrill)

Sung Response: CLM38 All My Heart Lies Open To You (refrain only)

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are in two parts, with the second part marked as a repeat of the first. The first part of the lyrics is: 'Vieš - pa - tie, tu vis - ka ži - nai. Tu ži - All my heart lies o - pen to you, and you'. The second part is: 'nai, kad ta - ve my love - liu. know, Lord, that I love you.' The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The copyright notice 'OneLicense.net #A-700877' is at the bottom right.

Vieš - pa - tie, tu vis - ka ži - nai. Tu ži -
All my heart lies o - pen to you, and you

nai, kad ta - ve my love - liu.
know, Lord, that I love you.

(♩ Last time)

(♩ Last time)

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Have mercy on me, O Gracious One,
According to your steadfast love;
According to your abundant kindness,
Forgive me where my thoughts
And deeds have hurt others.

Lead me in the paths of justice,
Guide my steps on paths of peace!

ALL MY HEART ...

Teach me, that I may know my weaknesses,
The shortcomings that bind me,
The unloving ways that separate me,
That keep me from recognizing
Your Life in me.

ALL MY HEART ...

For I keep company with fear,
And dwell in the house of ignorance.
Yet, I was brought forth in love,
And love is my birthright.

ALL MY HEART ...

You have placed your truth in the inner being;
Therefore, teach me the wisdom of the heart.
Forgive all that binds me in fear,
That I might radiate love;
Cleanse me that your light might shine in me.

ALL MY HEART ...

Fill me with gladness;
Help me to transform weakness into strength.
Look not on my past mistakes,
But on the aspirations of my heart.

ALL MY HEART ...

Create in me a clean heart, O Gracious One,
And put a new and right spirit within me.
Enfold me in the arms of Love,
And fill me with your Holy Spirit.
Restore in me the joy of your saving grace,
And encourage me with a new spirit.

ALL MY HEART ...

O Gracious One, open my lips
And my mouth shall sing forth your praise.
For you do not want sacrifice;
You delight in our friendship with you.
A sacrifice most appropriate is a humble spirit;
A repentant and contrite heart;
O Merciful One, receive our gratitude and love.

ALL MY HEART ...

Let the nations turn from war,
And encourage one another as good neighbors.
O Blessed and Compassionate Friend,
Melt our hearts of stone, break through the fears
That lead us into darkness
And guide our steps toward the way of peace.

ALL MY HEART ...

Visual Meditation (*“Earthen Vessels” by Phuc Luu, produced by The Work of the People*)

*During the season of Lent our meditations will be visual, spoken and written.
Notice where your own being is drawn in words or images.*

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

Breath Prayer

Inhale — Beloved dust...

Exhale — Made with breath...

Breath Prayer is an ancient practice that connects short phrases with our breathing, help ground us in this moment, focuses us and refreshes us body, mind, and soul.

On your inhale say or be mindful of the first phrase.

On your exhale say or be mindful of the second phrase.

You may also carry this with you throughout your week, and let this embodied practice hold you, knowing that many across space and time are breathing and praying with us.

“Earthen Vessels” by Phuc Luu

*Bodies made of dirt
Earth and soil
Remembering who we are
Not gods
But the image of God
Not divine
But the likeness of the divine
Made with breath
The wind in our lungs
Dependent on intimate touch
From our creator
To be brought together
From the ground up
Connected to all the life around us
Not separate
But tied,
woven,
A branch
A leaf*

*The ashes on the forehead mark the mind
To remind us of the person who we are
As temporary persons
Who leave our imprint
By way of our love for one another
Not by way of the power
Nor control
But the gentle hands of a sculptor
Shaping us in cooperation, In co-creation
Creation shaped by the created
Created shaping the creator
The artist seeing themselves in the earthenware
By way of growing tenderness,
A shoot that emerges forth from the grown
That climbs upward to the sun
That will return one day to the earth it has come
As a seed
As life eternal
As life renewed*

CLM9 God Is Forgiveness

First system of the musical score. The treble staff is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Bóg jest mi - łość - cią miej - cie od - wa - gę żyć dla mi - łość - ci.
God is for - give - ness. Dare to for - give and God will be with you.

Second system of the musical score. The treble staff continues the melody with a half note D5, a quarter note E5, and a half note F#5. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Bóg — jest mi - łość - cią. Nie lę - kaj - cie się.
God — is for - give - ness. Love, and do not fear.

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Prayers of Intercession

Sung Response: * To You I Pray, O Lord *(please see facing page for music)*

We pray for the church, that in this Lenten season of fasting and repentance the people of God, with sincere hearts, may amend their lives and follow in the way of Jesus.

TO YOU, I PRAY, O LORD

We pray for peace among the nations and integrity within governments especially our own United States government as we enter this election year.

TO YOU, I PRAY, O LORD

We pray for the city of Pittsburgh and all who live here, that neighborhoods may be places of hospitality and care.

TO YOU, I PRAY, O LORD

We pray for the poor and the oppressed, that they may find deliverance from their distress, and for all who seek to alleviate human suffering in this world.

TO YOU, I PRAY, O LORD

We pray for any who suffer illness of mind or body and for those who care for them, that they may be healed up disease and know the joy of abundant life.

TO YOU, I PRAY, O LORD



To You I Pray, O Lord

Brendan Dowd
Harm. by Helena O'Kane
Acc. by Ciaran McLoughlin

♩=120

Refrain

Capo 2: (D)

(G)

(C)

E

A

D

Melody

Harmony

To you I pray, O Lord;

To you I pray, O Lord; I

(Am)
Bm

(Am/G)
Bm/A

(D)
E

(G)
A

lift up my hands. My bod - y pines for

Last time to Coda ♪

(C)
D

(C/B)
D/C#

(Am7)
Bm7

(D)
E

(G)
A

To Verses

you like a dry and wea - ry land.

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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 confidentiality.

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

The musical score for 'The Lord's Prayer' is presented in five systems, each with a treble and bass staff joined by a brace. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of the prayer. The second system covers the second line. The third system covers the third line. The fourth system covers the fourth line, which includes a repeat sign and a fermata over the final measure. The fifth system covers the fifth line, which also includes a repeat sign and a fermata over the final measure. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread; for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us; lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the King - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.'

Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - lowed be thy name; thy king - dom come;

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heav - en. Give us this day our dai - ly bread;

for - give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us;

lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the King - dom,

and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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.



CLM7 O God, Keep Me Safe

Be - hü - te mich, Gott, ich ver - trau - e dir, du
O God, keep me safe, for I trust in you. The

zeigt mir den Weg zum Le - ben. Bei dir ist
path - way to life you teach me. With you is

Freu - de, and Freu - de in all Fül - le. Be -
peace and joy in all full - ness. O

(,) (Last time)

(,) (Last time)

9 Bless The Lord

♩ = 76

Dm G Dm B \flat C F A

p

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Dm G Dm B \flat C Dm

p

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Bless The Lord'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. Chord symbols (Dm, G, B-flat, C, F, A) are placed above the treble staff. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 76. The first system ends with a fermata over the final note. The second system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across measures.

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* Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. — Hebrews 4:15

Traditional
Erna Moorman, 2nd stanza

LONESOME VALLEY
Traditional Spiritual

1 Je - sus walked this lone-some val - ley, He had to
2 As we walk our lone-some val - ley, We do not

1 walk it by Him - self; O no-bod-y else could walk it
2 walk it by our - selves; For God sent His Son to walk it

1 for Him, He had to walk it by Him - self.
2 with us, We do not walk it by our - selves.

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Prayer Over The Ashes

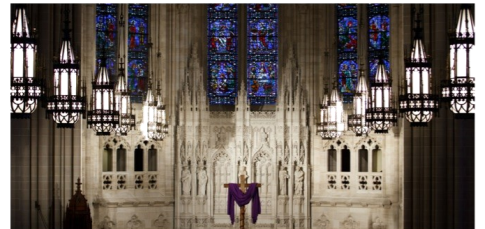
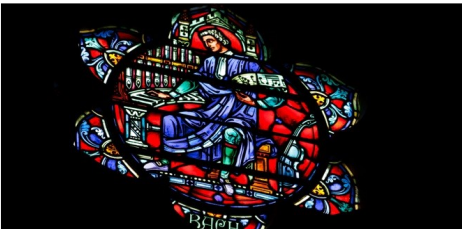
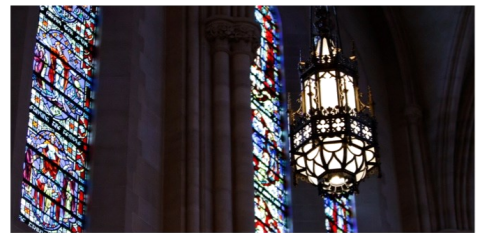
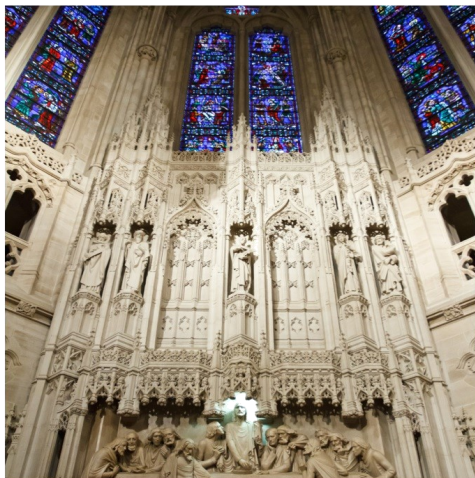
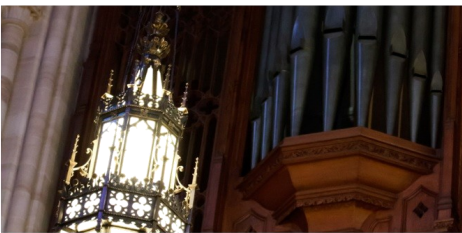
Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence,
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift
are we given abundant life,
through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

At this time, you are invited to come forward in silence for the imposition of ashes.



We will depart in silence tonight.



*Please visit our website for more
information about the ministries of
East Liberty Presbyterian Church.*

www.ELPC.CHURCH

SPIRITUAL LIFE & CHURCH EVENTS

Contemplative Prayer

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture. We will meditate on the Psalms, using the translation *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill.

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: bestill

Meditation Hour

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Chapel each Tuesday 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.

Tuesdays, 6-7 pm

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

Soup & Sustenance – Begins Feb 15

Beginning Feb 15, join us from 5:30–6:45 pm any Thursdays (through March 28) in the McKelvy Room for soup, bread and fellowship. Soup and bread are provided; if you want to volunteer to bring a soup one week, contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).



Food Drive

Please bring canned goods to worship throughout the season of Lent for the EECM Food Pantry so that we might share God's love by feeding our siblings in need.

Sunday Social Hour – Feb 18

Join us after 11 am worship on Sunday, Feb 18 for a *Social Hour* hosted by the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee. Hear about recent climate news and share your thoughts about environmental issues—along with your priorities for ELPC. Your contribution is important to help the Environmental Team focus its efforts. Enjoy good food, warm drinks, and lively conversation.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Gathering – Feb 18

You are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Feb 18 to share conversation and lunch. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Cathedral Concert: Singing Our History – Feb 25

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series will continue on Sunday, Feb 25 at 3 pm with *Singing Our History*—a special performance commemorating Black History Month with Robert Ray's timeless *Gospel Mass* and Women's History Month with choral and solo works by women composers and arrangers. The concert is free and open to the public.

LABYRINTH available in LENT

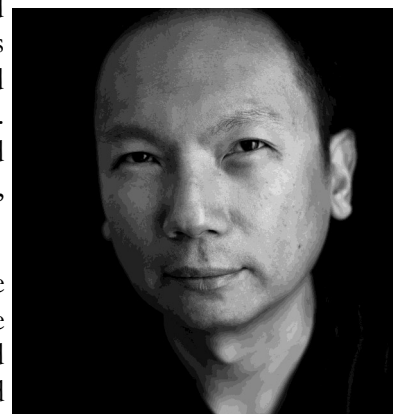
You are invited to come and walk the labyrinth on the stage in the Social Hall, beginning Feb 15 to March 26.



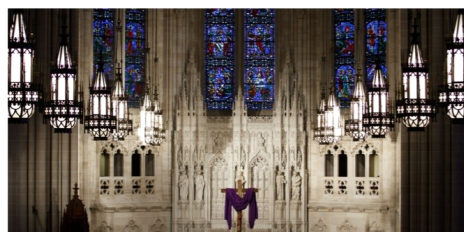
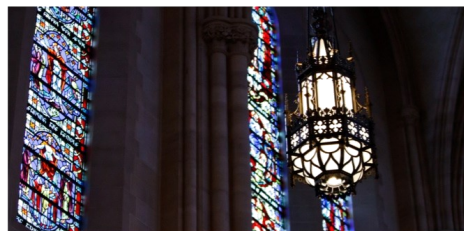
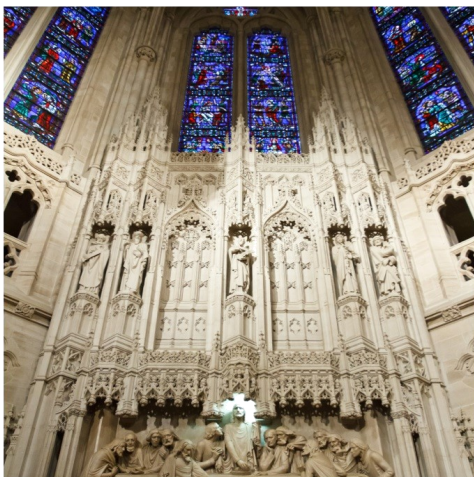
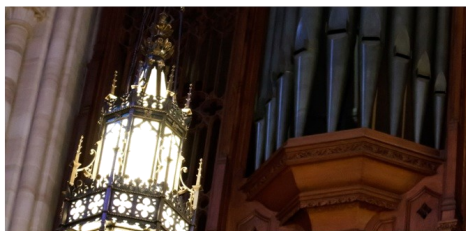
- ♦ Tuesdays, 10 am–2 pm
- ♦ Thursdays, 10 am–7 pm
- ♦ Sundays, 10 am–2 pm

Born in Vietnam and raised in Houston, Texas, Phuc Luu seeks the integration and writes about the intersection of art, philosophy, and theology. His work has appeared in the *Amerasia Journal* (UCLA), *The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*, the *Truett Journal of Church and Mission*, and NPR's *This I Believe*. He has been interviewed by the *Houston Chronicle* on the subject of art and religion and has published on a variety of topics such as Medieval philosophy, pastoral care, theology and culture, philosophy of religion, and art and culture.

Phuc Luu holds advance degrees in theology and philosophy. He has served on the Nobel Peace Prize Committee for the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) for seven years as a task group member. He has taught philosophy and theology at Sam Houston State University and Houston Baptist University and working on a forthcoming book, *Jesus of the East*.



The Visual Liturgy was produced by, The Work of the People, www.workofthepeople.com.



Please visit our website for more information about the ministries of East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

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INFORMATION ABOUT TAIZÉ

ABOUT TAIZÉ: Taizé is an international ecumenical prayer community in Taizé, France which was founded in 1940 by a young seminary student, Roger Schultz, as a place of hospitality and reconciliation during World War II. Today, thousands of young people come each week to Taizé to pray with the brothers and discern God's purpose for their lives. Taizé Prayer Pilgrimages and Intercontinental Meetings around the globe bring together thousands more in an effort to become the prayerful, reconciled presence of Christ wherever they live.

Taizé prayers at East Liberty Presbyterian Church were begun in the Spring of 1992 in preparation for an intercontinental meeting in Dayton. The experience proved to be so meaningful that we have continued to pray every Wednesday evening since then, inviting people of all backgrounds to join with us.

Taizé is located in eastern France, southeast of Paris, north of Lyons, due west of Geneva, Switzerland, between the towns of Chalon-sur-Saône and Macon. Here are the ways to get Taizé information:

Address:	Taizé Community, 71250 TAIZE, France
To contact Taizé:	community@taize.fr
To visit Taizé:	meetings@taize.fr
List of useful info:	info@taize.fr
Web site:	www.taize.fr
Telephone:	011-33 385 50 30 02 Fax: 011-33 385 50 30 16

YOU ARE WELCOME AT EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: Our congregation seeks to promote peace, justice and human dignity; to reflect a spirit of openness, sharing and learning in our ministry and mission; to build a richly diverse faith community that witnesses to our oneness in Christ across all boundaries of race, social class, ability, culture, age, gender and sexual identity. *(From our Strategic Plan.)*

ELPC Web site: www.ELPC.church
E-mail: BJW@coh.net

You are welcome at any of our programs and worship services. It is possible to have more than one church home. Perhaps you would be interested in becoming a member or friend of this Church. If so, please speak to The Rev. BJ Woodworth, Minister of Taizé Prayer (BJW@coh.net or 412.441.3800 x141).