

SUMMER WORSHIP

10 AM
AUGUST 25, 2024



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church



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)

AUGUST 25, 2024 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TIME OF PREPARATION

...to live Eternal Life in the full and final sense is to be with God as Christ is with him, and with each other as Christ is with us.

— Friedrich Beuchner (1926-2022), an American author, Presbyterian minister, preacher, and theologian

GATHERING MUSIC *(music printed in bulletin)*

#367

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

#321

“The Church’s One Foundation”

AURELIA

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jo Ellen Aleshire

Leader: God’s Spirit dwells in us, for we are God’s temple.

People: We belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Leader: Christ is the Living Stone, rejected by humans but chosen by God.

People: We too are living stones being built upon the foundation of Christ.

Leader: As we gather for worship this morning let us gather and dwell in unity of the Spirit and build wisely upon Christ, the precious cornerstone of the Church.

* OPENING HYMN #301 *(music printed in bulletin)*

TWO OAKS

“Let Us Build a House”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jo Ellen Aleshire

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jo Ellen Aleshire

God, we confess that too often we do not see ourselves as co-workers with you and our siblings in Christ. We tend to compare ourselves to others; diminishing what is ours to do and devaluing the work of others and we are robbed of our joy. In our fear and insecurity, we worry and wonder if others see and value us and we miss your grace amidst our weaknesses and the joy of co-laboring with others. Forgive us for our jealousy, envy, pride, arrogance and judgement that often occupies our hearts and minds. Restore in us a spirit of unity, forbearance and respect, entrusting ourselves and one another to your guidance and care.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Jo Ellen Aleshire

Leader: God is a God who forgives our stubbornness, heals our diseases, saves us from the snares of fear and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. Friends, receive the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we belong to God, and we are free and forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia and Amen!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #701 (*sing 2x; music printed in bulletin*)

SANCTUARY

“Lord, Prepare Me”

SCRIPTURE LESSON (*from “Psalms for Praying” by Nan C. Merrill*)

Jo Ellen Aleshire

Psalm 133

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Children in preschool through grade 3 are invited to the nursery suite for a time of learning together (registration form required). Children younger than age 3 are welcome to attend, if accompanied by their parents. Children will return to the worship service during the Doxology. The nursery is open for play to young children who are accompanied by their parents/caregivers during worship; the service is livestreamed into that space.

* HYMN #353 (*music printed in bulletin*)

SOLID ROCK

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 3:5-17

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“Confidence, Caution and Care”

The Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

We offer our gifts in response to God's love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation.

You are invited to use the QR code to the right if you would like to make a donation in support of ELPC. A donation box is also available in the Narthex.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Mark Schweizer

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea-tures here be - low;
praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; praise Tri-une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Woodworth

Leader:	El Señor esté con ustedes.	The Lord be with you.
People:	Y también contigo.	And also with you.
Leader:	Levantemos nuestros corazones.	Lift up your hearts.
People:	Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.	We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader:	Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People:	Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.	It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Leader:	Holy God, we offer you these gifts with thanks, so that together we may plant and water the seeds of your new world. May we be your faithful servants as we cultivate your love, knowing that in all we accomplish it is you who gives the growth.	
People:	¡Amén!	Amen!

* CLOSING HYMN #305 (*music printed in bulletin*)

DARWALL'S 148TH

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Woodworth



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. BJ Woodworth
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Jo Ellen Aleshire
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Music Director / Organist
ELPC Summer Choir
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

Water is available in the Narthex.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our weekly worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211). The cost is \$75 a Sunday during our summer worship schedule with one arrangement.

Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

10 am.....Summer Worship. Our weekly service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from piano and choir. Additional seating is available in the first floor Garth Overlook Room for those who prefer to worship indoors.
Sept 1 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.

◆ 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

Meditation Hour

Join John Benedict, retired psychologist and practitioner of insight meditation, in the Chapel 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

WELCOME VISITORS!

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

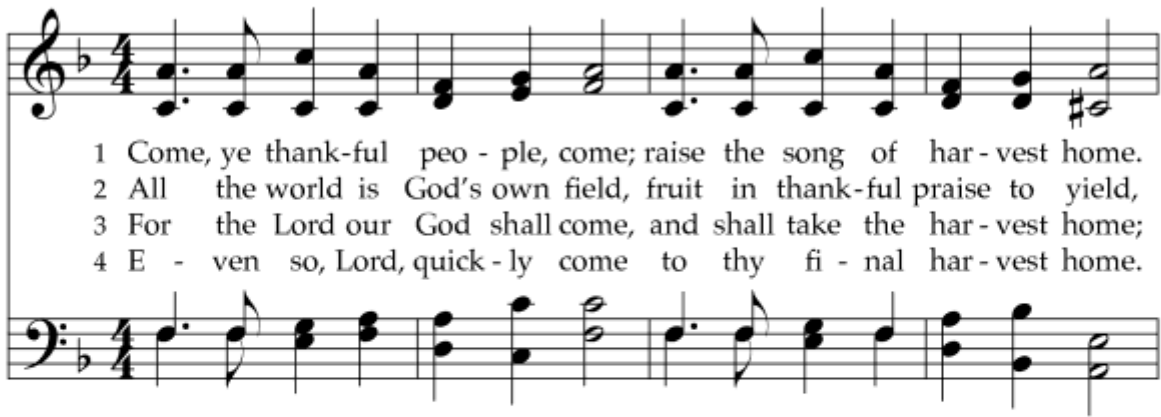
To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to also:

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

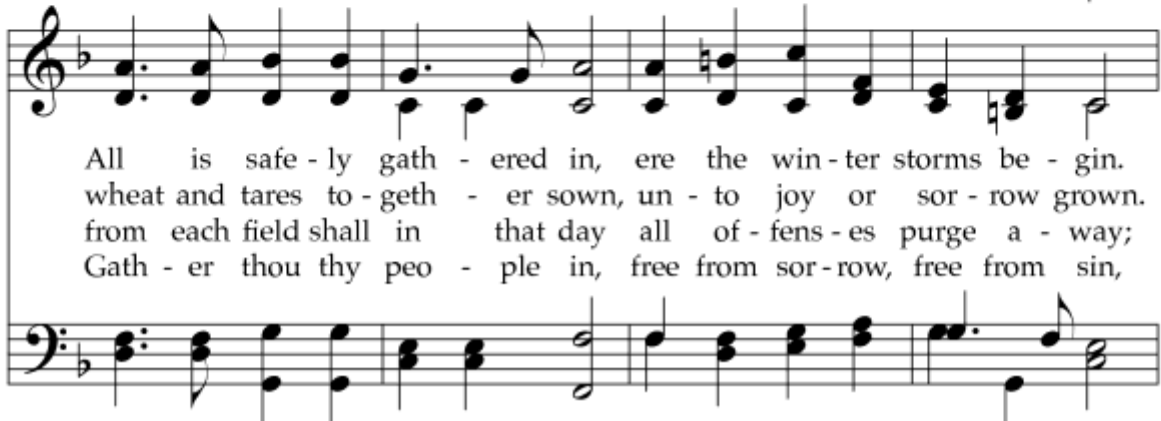
Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, Sept 1 after the 10 am worship service to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Jen King for more info on future classes (412.441.3800 x222; JenK@coh.net).

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

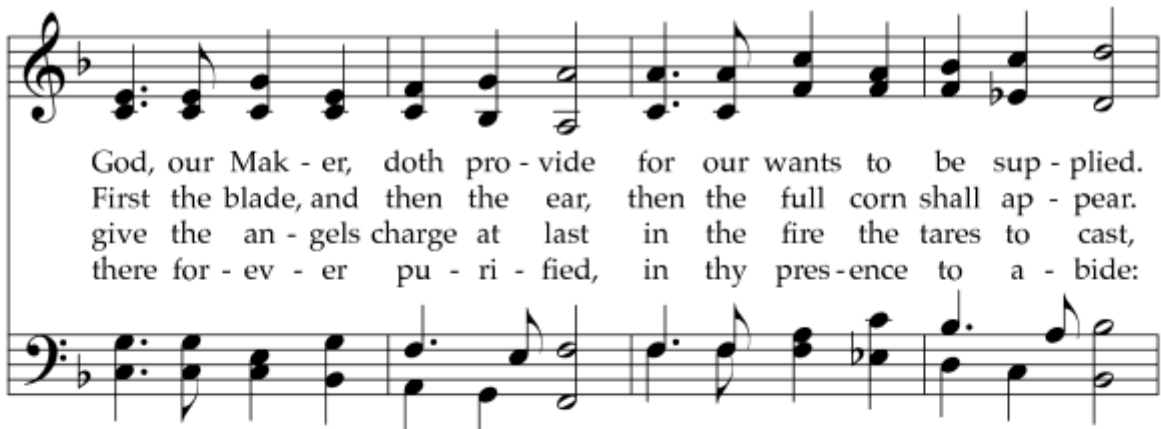
#367 — COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME



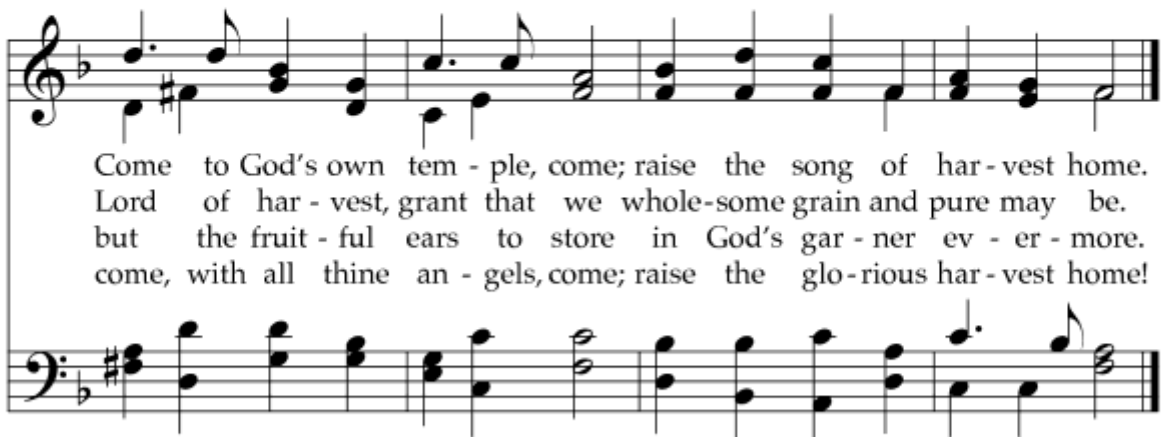
1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit in thank-ful praise to yield,
3 For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the har - vest home;
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
from each field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
Gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
there for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
but the fruit - ful ears to store in God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
come, with all thine an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of this text is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune name commemorates the royal chapel where the composer was organist for forty-seven years.

#321 — THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
 2 E - lect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
 4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,

She is his new creation by water and the word.
 her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:

From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
 One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,

With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternal-ly.

This hymn was one of twelve written by an English curate to affirm the articles of the Apostles' Creed with biblical allusions such as 1 Corinthians 3:11 here. Though not created for this text, the tune was joined to it in 1868, and the two have been inseparable ever since.

#301 — LET US BUILD A HOUSE

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
 C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
 Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
 Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.

Refrain

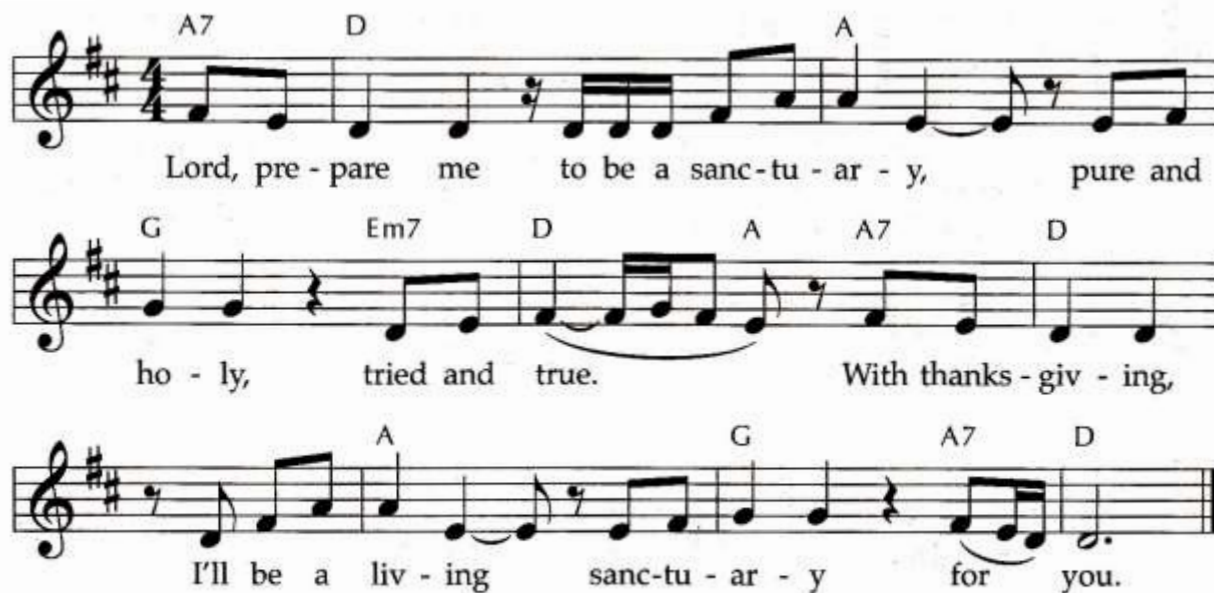
(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F Bb A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F Bb F (C7)

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

#701 — LORD, PREPARE ME (*sing 2x*)



Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

The lines given here convey the central message of the longer song for which they form the refrain. The principal Scripture reference is 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Paul's reminder to the Christians at Corinth that "[they] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in [them]."

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982

MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982; arr. Nylea L. Butler-Moore

Text and Music © 1982 Full Armor Music Publishing Co.

Music Arr. © 2013 Full Armor Music Publishing Co. (admin. in the U.S.A. Peermusic III, Ltd./Hal Leonard Corp.)

SANCTUARY

Irregular

#353 — MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un-
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in

righteous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
chang-ing grace; in ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
whelm-ing flood; when all a - round my soul gives way, he
him be found, dressed in his right - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

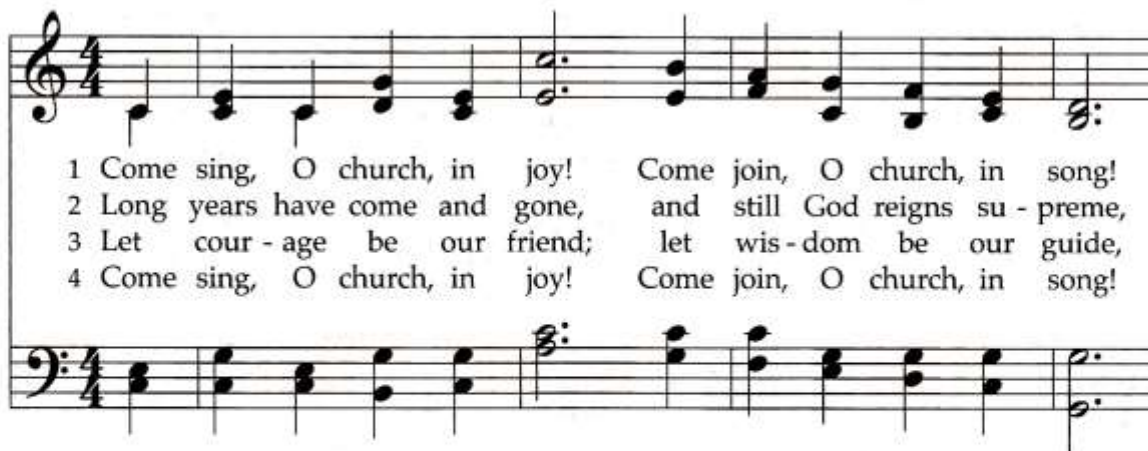
Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an - chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand; all
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.

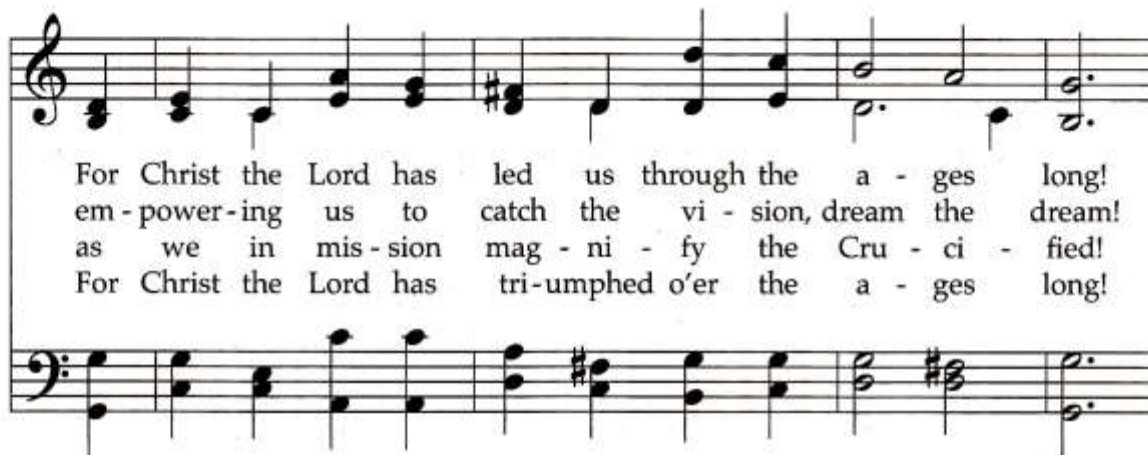
oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth - er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24-27 / Luke 6:47-49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.


#305 — COME SING, O CHURCH, IN JOY!



1 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
3 Let cour - age be our friend; let wis - dom be our guide,
4 Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!



For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!



In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

TODAY AT ELPC

Church Tour

All are welcome to join guide Jo Ellen Aleshire for a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel after today's service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate.

PW Bible Study Books Distributed

Presbyterian Women will be available after worship today to distribute bible study books and answer questions.

The title of the Presbyterian Women's 2024-2025 Bible Study is *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Learn more about this study from its author, the Rev. Dr. Patricia K Tull, in a video at tiny.cc/pw-2024. The Rev. Dr. Tull is an ordained Presbyterian minister and an A. B. Rhodes Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Bible Study begins on Tuesday, Sept 3 from 10 am–Noon (hybrid), and Monday, Sept 9 from 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom). For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Today's Deacon-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (*Deacon-on-Duty*) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our services.

The *summer service* DOD is Hannah Moon.



Connections Dinner Groups

Connections make a big church feel small. *Connections Dinner Groups* are re-forming this fall. Would you like to be part of a group of about 10 people who gather monthly for a potluck meal or other activity to get to know one another? Whether you are new to *Connections* or have participated before, please complete the online form by Oct 6 at <https://tinyurl.com/ELPCconnect>, or scan this QR code.



INQUIRERS' CLASS – SEPT 1

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, Sept 1 after the 10 am worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

For more info or to register, please contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).



LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering – Sept 1

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering and special roundtable lunch discussion on Sunday, Sept 1 after the 10 am worship service. You are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).



Church Tower Tour – Sept 15

All are welcome to join guide Steve Evrard for a tour of the church tower on Sunday, Sept 15. Please gather at the Highland Lobby after the 11 am worship service to participate.

Choir Rehearsals Resume – Sept 5 and 10

Chancel Choir and Journey Praise Team rehearsals will resume on Thursday, Sept 5 at 7 pm. The ELPC Ringers will start rehearsals on Tuesday, Sept 10 at 6 pm. Please contact Dr. Ed Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).



Rally Day – Sept 8

Plan on joining our faith family on Rally Day, Sept 8! Our two-service schedule resumes with Journey worship at 8:45am, and Sanctuary worship at 11 am.

We also will celebrate with breakfast between our services from 9:45–10:45 am in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. We hope you will participate in this time of intergenerational fellowship.

And as a reminder, Adult Education Classes will begin on Sunday, Sept 15.



As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:

Bethany Bray,

Peta Harrigan Cole's sister-in-law Birney, David Jennings Smith, and Mary Anne Kirby.

Condolences to Dr. Charma Dudley on her cousin's passing.

Condolences to Debbie Hurrell on her sister's passing.

Condolences to the family of Sean Bara, Minister of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, on his passing.

Condolences to Evelyn Wrzosek and family on her brother's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Neighbors..... Wednesday, Aug 28 @ 5:30 pm
Justice..... Wednesday, Aug 28 @ 5:30 pm

For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Lecture: Great Composers & Spirituality of Music – Sept 19
Beatrice Institute is sponsoring a free lecture by Manfred Honeck, Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, at First Baptist Church (159 North Bellefield Ave, 15213) on Thursday, Sept 19 from 7:30-9:30 pm. He will explore and showcase the creativity involved in the performing musician to spirituality. Afterwards, Maestro Honeck will be joined by John Henry Crosby, Founder and President of the Hildebrand Project, for a one-on-one interview. The evening ends with a Q&A from audience members. RSVP is requested but not required at <https://beatriceinstitute.org/public-events/manfred-honeck-lecture>. You can purchase a ticket (\$25) for a pre-event reception with Manfred Honeck at 5:30 pm on the Soldiers & Sailors patio using the RSVP link.



Let's Get Free Art Show:

Abolitionist Expressions
Sept 22 to Oct 20

ELPC's Justice and Worship, Music & Arts Committees invite you to attend an art show from Sept 22 - Oct 20 featuring selected works from the permanent collection of *Let's Get Free: The Women and Trans Prisoner Defense Committee*. The show, *Abolitionist Expressions*, includes paintings, collages, and other artwork created by people who are or have been incarcerated.

The mission of *Let's Get Free* is working to "...end perpetual punishment, build a pathway out of the prisons back to our communities through commutation reform, support successful possibilities for people formerly and currently incarcerated, and shift to a culture of transformative justice." The organization's efforts are in line with the goals of both ELPC Committees and we are thrilled to partner with them on this initiative.

The artwork will be displayed in the Highland and Trustees Rooms, and will be available for the public to view on Sundays from Noon – 2 pm, and Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7 pm.

A panel presentation on the societal impact of the death penalty, mass incarceration, and inequities in our legal system is being planned for Sunday, Oct 13 after the 11 am sanctuary worship service.

We're in need of volunteer "gallery sitters" willing to be onsite during the times when the show will be open to the public. Contact Vivienne Selia (vselia@comcast.net).



Whether you embrace the season of fall or are an autumn struggler, join us at Villa Maria from Friday, Sept 27 at 6 pm to Sunday, Sept 29 at 11 am to open yourself up to the bittersweet beauty and the invitations autumn has for you, and receive a liberating measure of divine grace at the *Sacrament of Letting Go Retreat*. We will be led by Lynn Holden, a spiritual director, professional counselor, and founder of Cultivating Awareness. *RSVP to Norma (412.441.3800 x211) by Sun, Sept 15. Cost options are:*

1. One Night (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) Shared Bath | \$70
2. One Night (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) Private Bath | \$110
3. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) Shared Bath | \$85
4. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) Private Bath | \$135