

Sunday, 12 October 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Full Inclusion

Processional Hymn

The author of *God of the Sparrow*, Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008), was made a Fellow of The Hymn Society at the Annual Conference of The Hymn Society in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, in 1988. He was born in Lorain, Ohio, where his father was a Lutheran pastor. As a pastor himself, he served in many Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Churches, including in nearby Tarentum, PA from 1953-1963. Lutheran composer, author, and teacher Carl Schalk (1929-2001) wrote the tune ROEDER in 1983 for this text. It was first sung at the 1987 convention of The Hymn Society in Fort Worth, Texas.

Offertory Anthem

Kyle Pederson (b. 1971) is a Minneapolis-based composer, lyricist, pianist, and educator. Kyle enjoys working at the intersection of the sacred and secular, and his lyrics and music invite the choir and audience to be agents of hope, grace, and compassion in the world. Additional information and links to Kyle's music can be found at <https://www.kylepederson.com/>

Kyle writes about *Does the World Say?*:

Too many times in my own personal experience, I allowed myself to be unduly influenced by the opinions and expectations of others. And as a junior and senior high teacher and coach, I saw this pressure play out daily on my students. And now as a father of young children, I watch as they, too, struggle with expectations the world throws at them. *Does the World Say?* names a few of these pressures, hoping that by naming them they might hold a bit less power over us. The piece then affirms the importance and power of friendship--and the gift available to us to walk alongside somebody buckling under the weight of expectation to remind them that they are not alone, and to remind them that others do not get to define who they are.

The Pittsburgh Pride Choir has been a leading force in our community since 1985. Since 1996 we have been fortunate to welcome them in residence here at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Formerly known as the Renaissance City Choirs, the choir announced at their Pride Concert in June of 2025 that it would become the Pittsburgh Pride Choir. The new name was intended to proudly represent their mission to affirm and celebrate LGBTQIA+ identity and more clearly tie to their roots in Pittsburgh.