



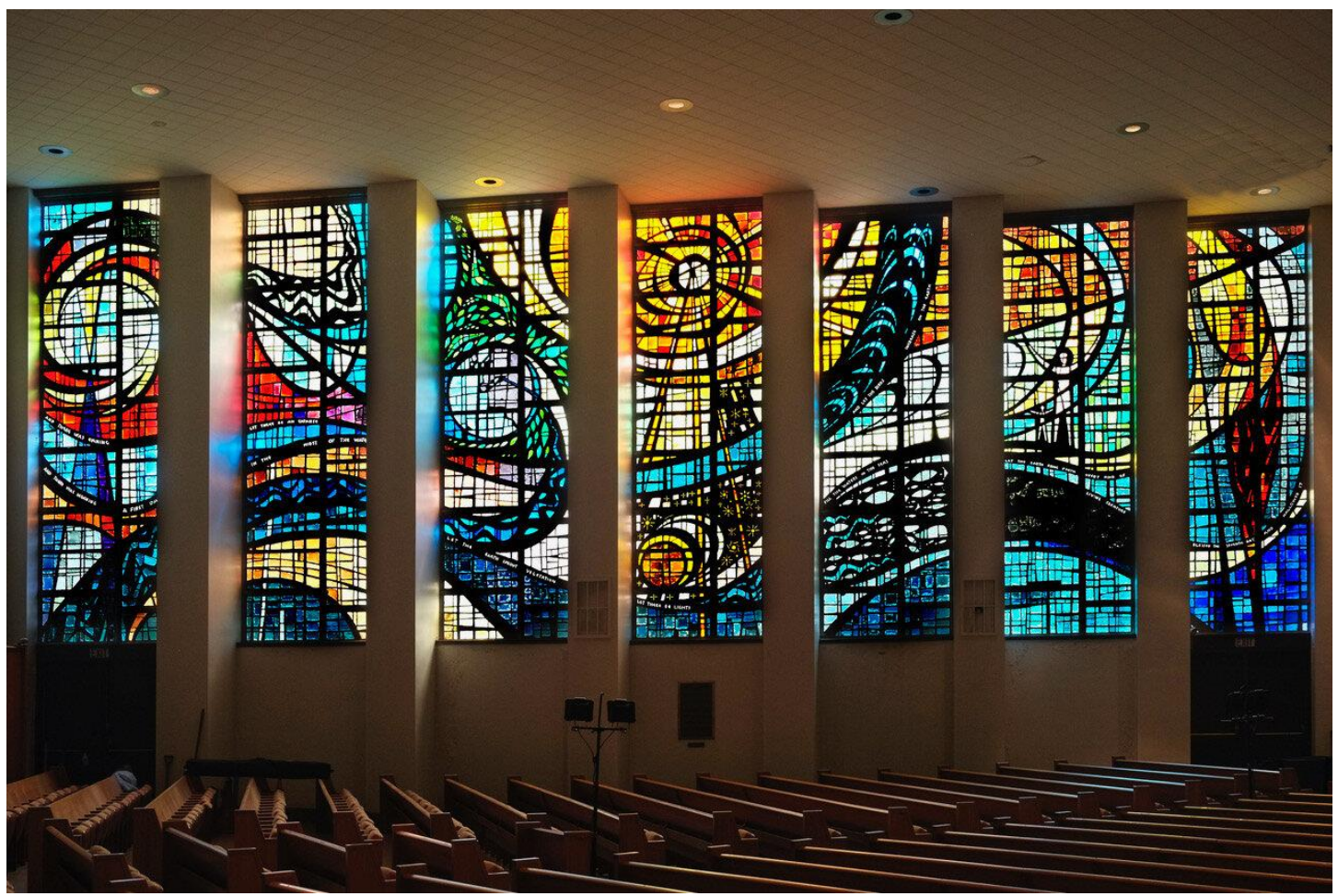
INDEPENDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 22, 2022



Tree of Life Congregation / L'Simcha Synagogue; Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, PA. (s.m.riemer)

C.J. Briggs, Music Director Nancy Bair, Liturgist
Julie Lehmann, Church Secretary Rev. David B. Wigger, Pastor

The angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ~ Revelation 22:1-2

~ **GATHERING** ~

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Micah 4:2*)

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.

So we may learn God's ways, and walk in the path of the Holy One.

PRELUDE

Please sign the friendship register and pass it on.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Psalm 67*)

May God be gracious to us and bless us; may God's face shine upon us.
That God's way may be known upon earth.

Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere the Holy One.

Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

***HYMN**

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER

GTG #375

by Robert Lowry

HANSON PLACE

POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Mighty and merciful God, lover of justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, yet too often we stand only with the strong; you call us to help those who suffer, yet too often we help only ourselves; you call us to honor all people, yet too often we respect only those like us. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community. Amen. [*Silent Confession.*]

***RESPONSE**

BE NOT AFRAID

GTG #243

Taizé Community and Jacques Berthier

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Know that we are forgiven, know that you are loved, and be at peace.
Alleluia! Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ALLELUIA

HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH!

GTG #591

Caribbean melody; arr. by John L. Bell (Refrain)

CHILDREN OF GOD

~ THE WORD ~

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

REVELATION 21:10, 22-22:5

(NRSV)

SECOND READING

JOHN 14:23-29

(NRSV)

This is the good news we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we are saved. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

AMAZING GRACE

GTG #649

by John Newton

SERMON

THE TREE OF LIFE

RESPONSE

AMEN

GTG #601

Anon. Danish

~ RESPONDING TO THE WORD ~

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(from The Confession of Belhar) (Responsive)*

We believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and nourishes the Church from the beginning of the world to the end.
The Church is holy; the Church is universal; it is the fellowship of God's children, called together from the whole of humanity to proclaim God's wonderful deeds. *(continued next page)*

We believe the reconciling work of Christ gives birth to a uniting Church, because Church unity is a gift from God and a goal we need to strive for. **The unity of the Church must become visible so that the people around us can see how separation and hatred are overcome in Christ.**

We believe that the Church belongs to God and that it should stand where God stands: against injustice and with those who are wronged. **We commit ourselves to reject all forms of injustice in ourselves and amongst us; and to struggle against all forms of injustice and every teaching that allows injustices to flourish.**

We are called to confess and do this in obedience to Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Jesus is Lord! We will follow Him! To the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

***RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

GTG #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

~ ***SENDING*** ~

HYMN

I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER

GTG #623

African American Spiritual

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ONE LOVE

Marley

Performed by Playing for Change, feat. Keb' Mo' and Manu Chao



Pieces of today's liturgy are from: *Book of Common Worship* (PCUSA); *Connections*, David Gambrell, ed.; *Call to Worship, Lectionary Aids*; *Presbyterian Outlook*, Teri Ott.

Cover Image: Stained glass windows of the Tree of Life Congregation/L'Simcha Synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA. (s.m.riemer)