December 18, 2016 • 11 AM Sanctuary Worship
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Time of Preparation

“Warren,” she said, “he has come home to die: You needn’t be afraid he’ll leave you this time…”

‘Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.’
‘I should have called it something you somehow haven’t to deserve.”

— Robert Frost, “The Death of the Hired Man” (1914)

“So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.”

— Galatians 6:10

Ministry of Music

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Gustav Holst’s (1874-1934) setting of Christina Rossetti’s (1830-1894) poem In the Bleak Midwinter first appeared in The English Hymnal in 1906.

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Henry Thomas Smart (1823-1870) arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome & Church News

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* Sharing God’s Peace

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo. And also with you.

Advent Candle Lighting Litany

Antwone Wright, Sarah Bendal and Kyle Kim

Leader: The story of Jesus was at first a family-story, one that began when the angel came to Mary and later appeared to Joseph in a dream. It’s a story that included Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth and their kinsfolk both in Nazareth and Bethlehem. It is a story filled with emotions, including a deep and abiding love that stretches from years ago to right here today.

As four candles are lit, the congregation sings Advent hymn #88 (vs. 7):

O come, thou Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind. Bid envy, strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: We light these candles of hope, peace, joy and love as a visible reminder of God’s promises made incarnate in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Messiah who heals the world.

* Processional Hymn #105 “People, Look East”

Besançon

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.
ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
English hymn writer Charles Wesley was born (1707); the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was ratified (1865); Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker Suite premiered in St. Petersburg (1892); and the Rev. Jesse Jackson founded his civil rights organization Operation PUSH in Chicago (1971).

The hymn Love Has Come takes the familiar Christmas carol tune for Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella and adds new words written 20 years ago by an American hymnwriter with the very apt name of Ken Bible.

CALL TO CONFESSION
The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
The Rev. Dr. Bush
God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in the world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. We limit our families to blood or race, while you claim us all as your children. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #144 (please remain seated; vs. 1 and 2 only) CRANHAM
“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON
The Rev. Dr. Bush
Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! ¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

BELL ANTHEM
“The Rev. Dr. Bush

GOSPEL LESSON
Luke 2:25-35
The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS & FRIENDS
The Rev. Schoenewolf
Members: Harvey Adams Jr., Regina Anderson, Patricia Buben, Kathleen Mahin, Martha Mannix, Alan and Marilyn McIvor, Steven and Gail Mosites, Christopher Wharton
Friends: Kirsten Berger, Adam and Caitlin Clever, Bill and Bambi Goehring, Marty Gussenhofen, Phil Parr, Judd and Samantha Poeske, John Smith

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN
Our Extended Session program is provided for infants and toddlers up to age 3 in the first floor Nursery and pre-school age through grade 1 in Room 151.

* HYMN #110
“Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH

GOSPEL LESSON
Mark 3:31-35
The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON
“What Family Said About Jesus” The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER
The Rev. Schoenewolf

The Lord’s Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (한국어) in the Glory to God hymnal.
Offering Invitation
The Rev. Schoenewolf
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.

Offertory Anthem
“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”
 Bruce Neswick
The text can be found in the Glory to God hymnal #129.

*Doxology at the Presentation*

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication*
The Rev. Callahan

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, you bless us with many gifts, including claiming us as your family member and friend. We thank you for your steadfast love and for the gift of faith. Use our gifts to bring comfort and justice to those in need this day and always. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

*Recessional Hymn #140*
Irby

“Once in Royal David’s City”

*Charge & Benediction*
The Rev. Dr. Bush

Postlude
“’The First Nowell”
arr. David Willcocks

Our worship concludes with the postlude. For the benefit of those who wish to listen to the postlude, please refrain from visiting with your neighbors until you have left the sanctuary, or until the postlude has concluded.
Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

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♦ Participants In Today’s Service

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sarah Bendal and Kyle Kim
Antwone Wright
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Gabriel T. D’Abruzzo, Music Associate
ELPC Chancel Choir
ELPC Ringers
The Brass Roots:
Kenny Bandy, trumpet
Matt McCormack, trumpet
Rana Jurjus, horn
Morgan Wynn, trombone
Will Hammer, tuba
Acolytes: David Bellin and Duncan Rieger
Beadle: Laura Ristau
Crucifer: Josh Bellin
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ Fellowship Time

Following the service, please join us for our Fellowship Time in the McKelvy Room in honor of our new members and friends. All are welcome!

♦ Worship Flowers

The flowers today are in loving memory of Anntoinetta Chiodo, presented by Phyllis Coontz, Elaine, Josh and David Bellin.

♦ Christmas Eve Worship

11 pm ..........Candlelight Service. Prelude music begins at 10:30 pm. The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

♦ Worship Next Sunday

There will be no Journey service on Dec 25 and Jan 1.
11 am ..........Sanctuary Worship.

Extended Session

After the Moments with the Children during the 11 am Sanctuary service, a children’s ministry is offered with songs, Bible or mission stories, prayer, sharing and creative activities. A simple snack is served.

In an effort to best know and care for your child, we ask that all families fill out a green Extended Session “Ticket” and that your child bring it with him/ her to Extended Session every week.

* Young Children’s Ministry for infants and toddlers (up to age 3) — First Floor Nursery. Every Sunday.
* Pre-school age children (through grade 1) — Room 151.

♦ Weekday Worship

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

A 35-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.
   Mondays, 7 am to 1 pm
   Wednesdays, 9 am to 9 pm

Taizé Sung Prayer

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France.
   Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room (Room 135, in Highland Ave hallway)
Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is ELPC.
   Open everyday

Welcome Visitors!

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

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

Stay after today’s service for our Fellowship Time in the McKelvy Room. Identify yourself as a newcomer, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about ELPC.

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 a New Members and Friends Class to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Lunch is provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for information on future classes (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x22).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.
Church Events and Announcements
December 18, 2016 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

**TODAY AT ELPC**

**Christmas Joy Offering Received**
The 2016 *Christmas Joy Offering* celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the “wondrous gift” of God with us. Since the 1930s, the PC(USA) has provided the opportunity for congregations to join this celebration of God’s wondrous gift by supporting those in need of help and hope through the *Christmas Joy Offering*. In gratitude to God for the wondrous gift of Jesus, ELPC will receive the *Christmas Joy Offering* today at both services. Please give generously.

**YAM CE Class: A Christmas Event**
The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) will have a CE class this morning from 9:45-10:45 am in the Pastor’s Conference Room. Celebrate the season with some breakfast, scripture and friends.

**Reception of Friends and Members**
Anyone wishing to be formally affiliated with our church as a “Friend of ELPC” is invited to meet briefly today in the 1st floor Library at 10:20 am. We will be welcoming new friends and members as part of the 11 am service.

**Renovations Meeting**
We anticipate renovation work to begin on ELPC in early 2017. To help prepare for this, you can meet with Renovations Committee members and hear more about the extent of the work and timing for the construction in the 1st floor Library following today’s 11 service.

**Free Blood Pressure Screenings**
Free blood pressure screenings are available after today’s 11 am service in the Session Room. All are welcome!

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**Christmas Eve Services**
Saturday, December 24

Services will be in the Sanctuary, and include Communion and candle lighting.

- **5:00 PM**
  - **FAMILY SERVICE**
  - The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will preach.

- **11:00 PM**
  - **Candlelight Service**
  - Music begins at 10:30 pm.
  - The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will preach.

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**Today’s DOD**
Today’s *Journey* service DOD is Susan Spangler. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Kathy Kiewra.

**New Christmas in East Liberty Concert CD Available**
The Brass Roots and Dr. Ed Moore have recorded a new Christmas CD, *Christmas in East Liberty*. Copies are available for purchase for $12. The CD is also available as a digital download for $10. Please see Dr. Moore for the website address, or if you wish to purchase a CD.

**Journey Worship Service**
There will be no 8:45 am Journey worship service on Sundays, Dec 25 or Jan 1. This service will resume on Sunday, Jan 8.

**Christmas Day Celebration — Dec 25**
All are invited to celebrate Christmas together as a church family after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec 25, in the McKelvy Room. Our time together will include brunch, music and fellowship. Please RSVP to Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.260.2554) today.

**World Healing Day — Dec 31**
On Saturday, Dec 31 from 6:50 to 8 am, join us on the labyrinth for *World Healing Day* — a planetary affirmation of peace and love, forgiveness and understanding involving millions of people in a simultaneous global mind link. You can walk the labyrinth and/or meditate. Please join us in body or spirit and add your love and light to the healing of this world. For more info, call 412.244.3333 or visit www.quartus.org.

**Year-End Examen — Dec 31**
Before celebrating the New Year, join us in the 2nd floor Parlor on Saturday, Dec 31 from 9 am—Noon for a guided meditation on the movement of God in your life during the past year. By exploring the flow of God in your life, it will become easier to experience the presence of God in this moment and the next—and the one after that. Please join us in this time of prayer, reflection, and listening. A light breakfast will be served.

**Vigil Against LGBTQ Violence — Jan 6**
High school students and young adults are invited to help host the Gay Christian Network Conference’s *Vigil Against LGBTQ Violence* with young adults from ELPC on Friday, Jan 6. The conference and vigil will be downtown, outside. We will meet at ELPC at 6 pm. Please contact Sara Hackett if interested (SaraH@coh.net).
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As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:

Ray Anthony, Diana Armstrong,
TJ Benedict’s friend Jen,
Chanteera Blackshear, Sharron Boddy’s sister,
Kathy Callahan’s mother Ginny,
Kate Carlson’s cousin Jack,
Judi Dixon’s husband Ken,
Mary Evrard’s godmother Ginny,
Patrice Fowler-Seary’s mother JoAnn,
Sharon Geibel,
Barbara Goodwin’s husband John,
Maria Elena Hernandez,
Jan Herzer and her friends Francine, Bob and Mick,
Eric Kalsey, Pam Kimmel’s niece Jen,
Lee Lewand, Gail Mallory,
Deborah Marx’s friends Monica and Chris,
Polly McQueen’s brother Clay,
Sonya-Marie Morley’s friend and Deborah Marx’s
cousin Eileen and her family,
Jon Nelson’s friend Clair, Jan Pressman’s daughter Caryn,
Mary Randolph’s mother Cecilia,
Heather Schoenewolf’s cousin Louise,
Pat Valoon and her friend Robert,
Rich White, and Andrew Wilkinson’s mother Leslie.

Our condolences to Margaret Baco on her mother’s passing.

Our condolences to David Carl on his uncle’s passing.

Our condolences to Justin and Florence Johnson on their brother-in-law’s passing.

Feeling Crafty? — Jan 3, 9, 11 and 25

New helpers are always welcomed in the following groups. Contact Diane Jackson for more info (412.441.6021; dnjcks@verizon.net).

Knitting Group — Tuesday, Jan 3, 1–3 pm
Sewing Group — Monday, Jan 9, 2:30–6 pm
Toymakers — Wednesdays, Jan 11 and 25, 9 am–12 pm

Healing Communities Training — Jan 7

The Justice Committee encourages members interested in helping our church discern a call for ELPC to support those in our community returning from incarceration, to attend the Healing Communities training from 1-6 pm on Saturday, Jan 7 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave). Our goal, after this training, is to evaluate whether (and explore how) ELPC might become a Station of Hope for those returning from incarceration. One recent study determined the most important determinant of the future success of such individuals is the community of loving support they find upon returning from incarceration. The cost is $20. Contact John Buckley for scholarships (412.963.0139; mrjohnbuckley@gmail.com). To register, please contact Scilla Wahrhaftig (Scillahw@gmail.com; 412.361.1581).

Belle Voci Singers Perform — Today!

Belle Voci, a community-based intergenerational women’s choir, will perform today from 3:30-4:30 pm in the International Poetry Room of the main Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh in Oakland. Visit www.carnegielibrary.org for more info.

Advent Lessons and Carols Worship Service — Dec 19

Join Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for an all-campus worship service, All Creation Waits with Eager Longing, on Monday, Dec 19 at 5:45 pm in the Hicks Chapel, featuring choral and instrumental music, congregational singing, and readings by PTS faculty, staff, and students. For more info, please visit www.pts.edu.

No Committee Meetings This Week

The church building will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec 26 and 27, for the Christmas holiday. The church will also be closed on Monday, Jan 2 for the New Year’s holiday.

Looking for a way to put your love in action?

Visit the iSERVE webpage at www.ELPC.church/programs/iserve-2 to learn about other service opportunities, or contact Wil Forrest (412.441.3800 x14).

LGBTQ Ministry Gathering — Jan 15

The next LGBTQ Ministry spiritual gathering will be on Sunday, Jan 15 after the 11 am service. To learn more or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x14).

Church School Classes

There will be no Church School classes on Sundays, Dec 25 or Jan 1 so that we can enjoy the holiday season.

An intergenerational Winter Rally Day celebration will be held on Sunday, Jan 8 from 9:45-10:45 am. Gather together and explore the scriptures through multi-sensory activity stations, which will re-appear at the 11 am service. Join us for a continental breakfast and time of fellowship as we begin the new year. The Christian Ed Committee will provide fruit and bagels, but please bring a breakfast bread or pastry to share.