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)

**DECEMBER 24, 2016 — 5:00 PM**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**TIME OF PREPARATION**

“What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I’d give him a lamb. If I were a wise one I’d do my part. What can I give him? I’ll give him my heart.”

— “What Can I Give Him” by Christina Rossetti

**PRELUDE**

“Prelude on Greensleeves”

— Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

“O Holy Night”

— Richard Purvis

Cody Conley, violin

— Adolphe Adam

**WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH**

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.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Paul Seif and Sharla Yates, Xander Yates and Quinn Seif

Leader: Let our hearts be filled with joy! Hear the good news!

People: A Savior is born this day in Bethlehem—a Savior, who is Christ our Lord!

Leader: Come, let us worship the newborn king!

People: A babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, who lays in a manger.

Leader: With angels and shepherds let us sing:

People: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

Leader: Let us pray: Give us, O God, such love and wonder that with shepherds and magi, and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy child, the promised King, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

**HYMN (music printed in bulletin)**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

— ADESTE FIDELES

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Barbara Griffin and Jeff Mukogosi

Joan, Josphat and Kira Mukogosi

Leader: Why did Jesus come?

People: Because we were in need of a Savior.

Leader: Why did we need a savior?

People: Because too often we forget to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We get stuck in our sin; we get filled with doubt; we turn from God.

Leader: Then why do we celebrate tonight?

People: Because in spite of our sin, Jesus came to us: to offer us peace, to fill us with hope, and to show us God’s love.

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.
Leader: Let us pray:

People: God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as a light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Leader: The light of God’s love has come to us in a precious baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem. This light – the light of Christ Jesus – was a light to all. No darkness in our lives or in this world can overcome it. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. ¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE (music printed in bulletin; please remain seated)

“The Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILÓ

HEARING GOD’S WORD

The Rev. Dr. Bush
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Isaiah 9:2, 6
Luke 1:31, 2:10-14

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

BARBARA GRIFFIN AND JEFF MUKOGOSI
JOAN, JOSPHAT AND KIRA MUKOGOSI

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Schoenewolf

* HYMN (music printed in bulletin)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

HOMILY

“The Love Letters”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERING INVITATION

MaryBeth, Cynthia and Chaunice Gladis-Johnson

Leader 1: Tonight we celebrate that God has given us a precious gift in Jesus Christ.

Leader 2: Through the baby born in a manger, God came to us to show us God’s love and offer us God’s peace. What more could we ask for?

Leader 3: We offer our gifts, as the shepherds and wise people did those many years ago: as an act of grateful worship and praise.

Leader 1: With joyful hearts, let us now receive this evening’s offering.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Cody Conley, violin

ST. LOUIS

* HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION (music printed in bulletin)

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER

The communion bread is being presented by the Blackshear Family.
— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**
The Rev. Dr. Bush

**The Lord’s Prayer**
The Rev. Schoenewolf

**Words of Institution**
The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Schoenewolf

**Sharing the Bread & The Cup**
Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. The congregation is invited to come forward to one of the four stations by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may partake of the bread and the cup, placing the used cup in the basket provided, then returning to seats via the side aisles. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

**Music During Communion**
Solo: “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”
Hymn: “What Child Is This”

**Prayer After Communion**
Sharron Boddy, Naijah and N’ziyableu

**Lighting the Candles and Passing of the Light**
John 1:1-5
The Rev. Schoenewolf

**Hymn**
“Silent Night”
Stille Nacht

**Charge & Benediction**
The Rev. Schoenewolf

**Postlude**
“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
Edwin C. Johnson
Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

♦ Participants In Today’s Service

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Participants: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Josh Bellin, Sara Hackett, Lynne Irvin
Sharron Boddy, Najiah and N’ziyableu
MaryBeth, Cynthia and Chaunice
Gladdis-Johnson
Barbara Griffin and Jeff Mukogosi
Joan, Joshat and Kira Mukogosi
Paul and Quinn Seif
Sharla and Xander Yates

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist and Music Director
Beth Bush, David Jennings-Smith, cantors
Marcus Kim, Mary Randolph, cantors
Cody Conley, violin

Beadles: Matthew Stufft and Lenore Williams
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ Christmas Eve Worship

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

♦ 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

♦ Sunday Worship

There will be no Journey service on Sundays, Dec 25 and Jan 1.

11 am .......... Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.

Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate this season with us at ELPC. We invite you to stop by the Visitor’s Table in the Highland Lobby or the Narthex for a small welcoming gift, a sweet treat and perhaps some other information about ELPC’s programs and ministries.

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

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 February 5 and 12 for an opportunity to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register for future classes (GloriaK@coh.net).

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

Please Help Us Reunite This Family

Martín Esquivel Hernández was taken from his home and family by immigration agents early on the morning of May 2, 2016. Since that time, he has been held awaiting trial in a for-profit prison in Youngstown, Ohio. A coalition of local progressive organizations has been campaigning for the U.S. Attorney to withdraw the charges against Martín so that he can return to his wife Alma and their three children, Luz, Samantha, and Alex. Martín and Alma have been vitally important activists in Pittsburgh’s Latino community through their involvement with Latino Family Center and the Latino resource center, Casa San José. The coalition is asking people of faith to sign holiday postcards in support of this wonderful family. Martín’s mother, Maria Elena Hernández, is a member of ELPC and she and Alma and the children will be present at this service. Please take a moment following the service to fill out one of the postcards and include a personal message to Acting U.S. Attorney Soo Song. Also, please include this family in your prayers this holiday season.
O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6 with refrain

John Francis Wade (c. 1740–1743)
Trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!

Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!

Refrain

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Public domain
GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born to-day;

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody:

MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, “Hark, how all the welkin rings.” The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg’s introduction of moveable type.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.
MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cumming, 1855  
Public domain

MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.D with refrain
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born king!”
WAY IN A MANGER

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
   The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
   Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

(A7)   (D)               (G)   (D)
C7   F                Bb   F

2 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
   But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
   Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

(G)   (D)
Bb   F

3 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
   I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
   Bless all the dear children in tender care,

(A7)   (D)   (Em)   (A7)   (D)
C7   F   Gm   C7   F

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
   and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
   and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.
WHAT CHILD IS THIS

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y’s lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
Raise, raise the song on high. The vir-gin sings her lul-la-by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar-y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar-y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this “babe, the son of Mary!” The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, 1871
MUSIC: English ballad, 16th cent.; arr. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871
Public domain
1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright

2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light

4 Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;

round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our

mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
ia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”
grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.