TIME OF PREPARATION
I believe in the sun, even when it isn’t shining.
I believe in love, even when there’s no one there.
And I believe in God, even when He is silent.

Discovered on a cellar wall in Cologne, Germany shortly after World War Two. The anonymous author is believed to be a Jew who had hidden with many others in this cellar in an attempt to escape Nazi torment.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ
“Partita on Winchester New”
Bruce Neswick
Chorale Meditation - Bicinium - Aria - Trio

Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music.
Please use this as a time for silent prayer and preparation.

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

* 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
John Bavaro and Stanley Koepke
Leader: The prophets have cried out, praying that God would tear open the heavens and come down;
People: to make mountains quake, stars fall, and nations tremble.
Leader: But instead God comes in a still, small voice,
People: and in a babe born to us in a Bethlehem manger.
Leader: And so we stay alert and keep watch,
People: because we are God’s people who long to see God’s face.
Leader: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, remembering the words of the prophets foretelling the birth of God’s promised Messiah.
The first candle is lit.
Leader: We light this candle as a witness to the hope we find in Jesus Christ – who was, who is, and who is to come!
People: Let us worship the God for whom we wait – the same God who we know is also right here, among us!

* PROCESIONAL HYMN #82
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION  The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #359 (please remain seated)  Freedom is Coming

“Freedom Is Coming”
O freedom, O freedom, O freedom. Freedom is coming. O yes, I know.
O Jesus, O Jesus, O Jesus. Jesus is coming. O yes, I know.

GOSPEL LESSON  Mark 13:24-37  Lenore Williams

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN  The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Children of any age are welcome to come to the steps of the chancel for Moments with our Children. Those who have completed first grade or younger are invited to attend our Extended Session program for the remainder of our worship time in the Nursery Suite on the first floor.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Presentation of Child: Bennet Joseph Teacoach, son of Jon and Cami Teacoach
Profession of Faith
A ct of Baptizing

* HYMN #92  “While We Are Waiting, Come”

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON  Isaiah 64:1-9  The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON  “Advent Waiting: Hope Against Hope”  The Rev. Schoenewolf

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (Eccumen. Apostles’ Creed)

OFFERING INVITATION
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  arr. John Rutter

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”
L o! H e comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.
A lleluia! A lleluia! A lleluia! G od appears on earth to reign.
E very eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree;
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.
Y ea, amen! L et all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly, O come quickly, A lleluia! C ome, L ord, c ome!
Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

The communion bread is being presented by Sara Hackett and Brianna Allison.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.
People: Y también contigo.
Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.
People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.
People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

* 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Schoenewolf

SHARING BREAD & CUP

Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. The congregation is invited to come forward 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.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

A after receiving communion, worshipers may go to one of the prayer stations for intercessory prayers, anointing with oil, and/or the laying on of hands.

COMMUNION HYMN #347

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

PICARDY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* The Rev. Dr. Bush

God of Grace, we give you thanks that Christ is being revealed among us, in every time and place, until he comes again in the fullness of glory. May this communion meal be a reminder to us of Christ’s presence within us and among us. May we be strengthened by this bread and this cup that Christ’s love might shine through us as we await his coming with hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #384

“Soon and Very Soon”

SOON AND VERY SOON

* CHARGE & BENGEDICATION

POSTLUDE

“Partita on Winchester New – Toccata”

Bruce Neswick

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Some minds remain open long enough for the truth not only to enter, but to pass on through by way of a ready exit without pausing anywhere along the route.

(Sister Elizabeth Kenny, Australian nurse, 1886-1952)
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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♦ P A R T I C I P A N T S I N T O D A Y ’ S S E R V I C E

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
John Bavaro
Stanley Koepke
Lenore Williams

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist/Music Director
Gabriel T. D’Abruzzo, Music Associate
ELPC Chancel Choir

Acolyte: Emmy Thompson
Beadles: Michele Bossers and Liz Hopkins
Crucifer: Duncan Rieger
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ F E L L O W S H I P T I M E

Following the service, please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time and annual Toymaker’s Sale. All are welcome!

If you would like to make a food or monetary donation in support of our Fellowship Time, please call Pamela Kimmel (412.441.3800 x118).

♦ W O R S H I P F L O W E R S

The Sanctuary flowers today are in loving memory of Dr. Paul C. Williams on his birthday, from the Williams, Fabilli and Motley families.

♦ W O R S H I P N E X T S U N D A Y

8:45 am..........Journey. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall. Dec 10 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush.

11 am..........Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service. First Sunday in Advent
Dec 10 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

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.

♦ W E E K D A Y W O R S H I P

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

W E L C O M E V I S I T O R S!

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 an Inquirers’ Class today and next Sunday to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. See Dr. Randy Bush after the service if interested in attending today, or contact Gloria for next week (GloriaK@coh.net).

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

Toymakers’ Annual Sale
The Toymakers’ annual sale will be held in the McKelvy Room after today’s 11 am service. Available will be a sampling of the toys made for distribution to women’s shelters and mission trips, as well as some seasonal goodies. This sale enables the Toymakers to buy wood, paint, and tools for the whole year.

Inquirers’ Class
If you are interested in becoming a member or friend of ELPC, or learning more about Presbyterian theology, attend an Inquirers’ Class today in the 3rd floor Music Room and next Sunday from 12:15-2 pm. If interested in attending today, see Dr. Randy Bush immediately after the service, or contact Gloria Knopp (GloriaK@coh.net).

Support the Annual Christmas Giving Tree
Every year, the Deacons organize the Christmas Giving Tree to benefit children and families.

The Giving Tree will be set up in the McKelvy Room today and next Sunday, as well as on Wednesday, Dec 6. Stop by and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to help you record your name and phone number with the information from your tag.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office by Sunday, Dec 17. If you would like to participate by donating money, please make the check out to ELPC Giving Tree and deliver it to the church office.

Advent Devotionals
The Christian Education Committee is pleased to offer Advent devotionals. They are available at the Journey service, outside the Sanctuary, and on the 2nd floor table.

❖ Pop-Up Advent Calendar — Each day of Advent, children can open a new window and reflect on a part of the special story about God’s love
❖ Living the Gospel Life — Pocket-size devotional for teens and adults that offers reflections, scripture passages, and a daily challenge
❖ Oh Holy Night — Takes families on a prayer journey offering a prayer, reflection, and activity for each day
❖ Glory to God in the Highest — Booklet for adults that explores how God’s glory was revealed through the birth of Christ our Savior.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary offers an online devotional written by students in their Doctor of Ministry program. You can read them online at www.pts.edu.

Church Events and Announcements
December 3, 2017 • 1st Sunday in Advent

Youth Ministry Event: DG2!
Students in grades 4–12 are invited to join Doing Good Together! (DG2!)—a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom—to work on service projects in our community today from Noon-2:30 pm, and also on Thursday, Dec 28 from 3-8 pm. Contact Sara Hackett to participate.

The Chapel Market
Beginning Dec 7, and continuing the first Thursday monthly, The Chapel Market will be open evening hours from 5–7:30 pm, and will continue to be open every Monday from 10 am–Noon. As the weather gets colder, donations of winter coats and boots are needed. To volunteer, please contact Linda and Harold Deiss (deisshl@consolidated.net).

PW Bible Study — Dec 4 and 5
Join Presbyterian Women on Monday, Dec 4 at 7 pm, and/or Tuesday, Dec 5 at 10 am for their Bible study titled In Community with God’s Messengers. Tuesday’s session will be followed by a potluck lunch. All are welcome!

Youth Ministry Events — Dec 9, 15 and 17
❖ Jr. High Service Project (Dec 9) — Youth in grades 6 to 8 will shop for Christmas gifts for children in foster care after the ELPC Christmas Pageant rehearsal
❖ Tween Night (Dec 15) — Youth in grades 4 to 6 are invited to join us for dinner, making Christmas crafts and baking from 5:30-7:30 pm
❖ Confirmation Class (Dec 17) — Meet in the 2nd floor Parlor from 12:30–3:30 pm for lunch and discussion

LGBTQ Ministry — Dec 10
All LGBTQ folks and allies are invited to be part of the LGBTQ Ministry. The next Spiritual Gathering will be held on Sunday, Dec 10 after the 11 am worship service when we will be doing a soup potluck and telling stories. See Wil for details or to attend. All people are welcome!

Renovations Update
The progress of many of our renovations is becoming more visible, and making access to ELPC easier! Glass doors at the Highland Ave entrance have been newly installed, and the handicap-accessible South Whitfield entrance can be used on Sundays.

Starting around Dec 12, the 1st floor hallway leading towards the Chapel will be re-opened through the holiday season. The rooms off this corridor will not be usable at this juncture, but as the season of Advent reminds us, soon and very soon…. 
As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:

David Carl’s father Alfred,
Valire Carr Copeland’s mother Reva,
Carol Chontos’ father David,
Jan Herzer’s friends Mike, Dan and Nicole,
Bill Johnson, Morris Jordan, Kathy Kiewra,
Pam Kimmel’s niece Jen, Lee Lewand,
Rachel Mackey’s stepfather Haven, Mike Maiolo,
Gail Noden, Dominic Odim’s brother,
Sel Whitaker, and Pat Valoon.

Our condolences to the family of Reggie Plato on his passing.

Pittsburgh Youth Chorus Concert — Today
Today at 4 pm in the Sanctuary, the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus will perform their winter concert Make a Joyful Noise. Purchase tickets at www.pittsburghyouthchorus.org.

EECM’s Annual “Let Peace Shine” Prayer Vigil — Dec 7
Join East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) on Thursday, Dec 7 from 7-8 pm for their 3rd annual Let Peace Shine Prayer Vigil. Beginning at 6:30 pm, line up on the sidewalk outside EECM (6140 Station St, 15206). Each participant will light a candle and help the next light their candle, sparking the message of peace.

Belle Voci Concert — Dec 9
On Saturday, Dec 9 at 7:30 pm, Belle Voci of Pittsburgh will perform their holiday concert A Natale at Northmont United Presbyterian Church (8169 Old Perry Highway, 15237). Purchase tickets at bellevocipgh.com.

RCC Holiday Concert — Dec 9
The Renaissance City Choir will perform their holiday concert Our Family Time at ELPC on Saturday, Dec 9 at 7:30 pm. They will be joined by the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra. Please call 1.800.838.3006 to buy tickets.

Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land Lecture — Dec 11
Learn about life for Palestinian Christians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Tina Whitehead, recently returned from Jerusalem, on Monday, Dec 11 at 7 pm at Calvary Episcopal Church. She works with Sabeel, a Palestinian Peace and Justice movement, and Bethlehem Bible College. This illustrated lecture, Living Stones: Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land, is sponsored by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Committee Meetings This Week
Justice ............................................ Tuesday, 9:00 am (Rm 227)
Property............................................. Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Rm 250)

The Pageant of Peace — Dec 10
All people are invited to enjoy our annual Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec 10 at 10 am, as the children and middle school youth of ELPC reenact the story of the birth of Jesus. This year’s pageant will be authored by Ashley Birt.

There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 9 at 9:30 am, followed by a brief Christmas party for participants. All children and youth in grade 8 and under are invited to participate. Youth in grades 6–8 are asked to attend Church School today, or let Sara Hackett know that you will be participating.

Church Tours — Dec 10 and 24
† Trinity Chapel on Dec 10
† Sanctuary and Chapel on Dec 24
Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after the 11 am worship service to join the tour group. All are welcome!

Advent Mini-Retreat — Dec 17
The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to participate in an Advent Mini-Retreat on Sunday, Dec 17 after the 11 am worship service. A light lunch will be served. Come reflect upon the amazing gift of incarnation and treat yourself to a real celebration of Christmas! (Note: This mini-retreat replaces the Enneagram Defense Mechanisms with Kerry O’Donnell offering previously scheduled.)

Christmas in East Liberty — Dec 15
Join us as our Cathedral Concerts series continues with a joyous performance in the ELPC Sanctuary on Friday, Dec 15 at 7:30 pm. The Brass Roots returns for another festive concert with the ELPC Chancel Choir and Dr. Edward Alan Moore at the organ. A freewill offering will be received.

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).

♦ Meal Providers for Club 116 in 2018 ♦