DECEMBER 10, 2017 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TIME OF PREPARATION
“There is no despair so absolute as that which comes with the first moments of our first great sorrow, when we have not yet known what it is to have suffered and be healed, to have despaired and recovered hope.” — George Eliot, Adam Bede

MINISTRY OF MUSIC
Johann Sebastian Bach

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645”

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

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* 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
Jon, Cami and Bennett Teacoach

Leader: The prophet Isaiah declares, “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain.”

People: The prophet announces, “The earth shall be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea.”

Leader: We gather to worship and pray this day, that truth, compassion, and justice may shine its light near and far.

People: We call aloud, “Risen Christ, Light of the World, shine in our lives and among us now.”

The first two candles are lit.
Leader: We light candles of peace and hope that truth may prevail and God’s justice be done.

* PROCESIONAL HYMN #105 “People, Look East”
Besançon

CALL TO CONFESSION
Ike Ezekoye

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness, faithfulness and patience. At times we have lost hope. Too often we have trusted in our own resources over the ways of your mercy, wisdom and justice. We turn away from these sins and turn toward you in love. Grant us pardon that we may walk in righteousness and live in hope forevermore. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.
**Sung Response Hymn #90** (please sing 3x and remain seated)  
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!  
**Wait for the Lord**

**Assurance of God’s Pardon**  
Ike Ezekoye

Leader: Salvation, grace and forgiveness are near and lovingly available to all who turn to God. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!

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

**Hebrew Scripture Lesson**  
Ezekiel 37:1-4, 10-14  
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

**New Testament Lesson**  
Romans 8:18-25  
The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

**Special Music**  
“When Hope Goes”  
by James Valcq

Charlotte Bush, soloist  
Rachel D’Abruzzo, cellist

**Sermon**  
“Advent Waiting: Lost Hope”  
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. Fowler-Searcy

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**  
“E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”  
Paul Manz

text from Revelation 22

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, A mighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell thereon, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!  
E’en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more,  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.

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*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes.  
(St. Clement of Alexandria)

The German text of the hymn Comfort, Comfort Now My People dates back to the 17th ct. to the musician Johannes Olearius (1611-1684). The translation was done 200 years later by Catherine Winkworth of Bristol, England. The tune comes from the famous Genevan Psalter (1551) used by the early Reformed/Presbyterian church in Switzerland.

Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people’s way. The Holy One calls and we will answer. Revive our spirits, Lord, and bring peace to our longing souls.  
(Isaiah 57:14-15)

Paul Manz (1919-2009) was a well-known composer of organ and choral music for the church. E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come is his most famous choral work and has been performed around the globe, including at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King’s College, Cambridge.
**DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607**

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

**OLD HUNDREDTH**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.
May the gifts we offer this day help any who are in need. Bless our offerings in Christ's name. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.
People: Y también contigo.
Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.
People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.
Leader: demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.
People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.
Leader: Lord God, you give to us what is good, so that our land and our lives may know true increase. We offer ourselves to you. May the gifts we offer this day help any who are in need. Bless our offerings in Christ’s name. Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #93**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

**POSTLUDE**

“Wachet auf – Finale”

Wayne L. Wold

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.

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* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

On this date in history:
- Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict threatening excommunication, claiming "I stand fast on the truth and no other." (1520);
- poet Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, MA (1830);
- Duke Ellington recorded *Mood Indigo* for Victor Records (1930);
- Jane Addams became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the first American woman so honored (1931) — with other noted recipients later being Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964) and Bishop Desmond Tutu (1984).

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14-15)

Wayne L. Wold’s festive setting of *Sleeper’s Wake* provides a more contemporary contrast to the setting by Bach heard during the prelude this morning. This is the third, and final, movement in a suite based on the tune *Wachet auf*. Wold is college organist at Hood College in Frederick, MD.

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“We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Ike Ezekoye
Jon, Cami and Bennett Teacoach

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

Acolytes: Brianna Allison and Lydia Delp
Beadle: Liz Hopkins
Crucifer: Youth
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ Fellowship Time

Following the service, please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time. 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).

♦ Worship Flowers

We would like to extend a special thank you! to ELPC member Suzan Krauland and her business partner Carolyn Walker from Bloom Brigade for preparing the Sanctuary flowers to enhance our worship space.

♦ Worship Next Sunday

8:45 am........Journey. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.

11 am...........Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.
Dec 17 — 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.

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

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

The Pageant of Peace
If you’re reading these announcements at the Journey service, please enjoy our annual *Christmas Pageant* in the Sanctuary today at 10 am, as the children and middle school youth of ELPC reenact the story of the birth of Jesus.

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 from 12:15-2 pm. See Dr. Bush after the service.

Church Tours — Today and Dec 24
❖ *Trinity Chapel* today
❖ *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!

LGBTQ Ministry
All LGBTQ folks and allies are invited to be part of the LGBTQ Ministry. The next *Spiritual Gathering* will be after today’s 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!

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. Stop by and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to help you.

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.

Today’s Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)
Every Sunday, a DOD (Deacon-on-Duty) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our worship services. During the 11 am Sanctuary service, the DOD will be seated in the East Transept wearing a Deacon stole. Today’s Journey service DOD is Mary Evrard. The Sanctuary service DOD is Susan Spangler.

Next Sunday’s Prelude — Dec 17
The prelude to the 11 am service on Dec 17 will start at 10:50 am and will include some carol singing led by the ELPC Handbell Choir. Come a little early to sing with the ringers!

Reception of New Members & Friends — Dec 17
If you have been visiting ELPC and desire to affiliate with us as a friend, simply come forward next Sunday when invited and we’ll sign you up! Friends receive church mailings and can be part of our active church life; the only caveat is that they are not able to serve as church officers (Elders or Deacons).

The Chapel Market
*The Chapel Market* will be open from 5–7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month, 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).

CHRISTMAS IN EAST LIBERTY
Friday, Dec 15 ♦ 7:30 pm

The Brass Roots will return for another festive concert with Dr. Ed Moore at the organ and ELPC’s Chancel Choir. Please invite your friends and family to join us in the Sanctuary for this joyous concert! A freewill offering will be received.
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, Pam Kimmel’s niece Jen, Lee Lewand, Rachel Mackey’s stepfather Haven, Mike Maolo, Gail Noden, Dominic Odim’s brother, Stephen Simpson-Hunt, and Pat Valoon.

Congratulations to Joel & Beth Minnigh on the birth of their grandson Gideon.

There are Prayer Boxes, with cards for prayer requests, available on the tables in the Narthex and East Transept entrances to the Sanctuary.

Committee Meetings This Week

Neighbors .......................................... Today, 12:30 pm (Rm 250)
Deacons ........................................... Tuesday, 7:00 pm (McKely Rm)

Youth Ministry Events — Dec 15, 17 and 28
† 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
† Doing Good Together! (Dec 28) — A partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom; from 3-8 pm on this date.
Please contact Sara Hackett to participate in any youth ministry events (SaraH@coh.net).

Advent Mini-Retreat Cancelled — Dec 17
The Spiritual Life Advent Mini-Retreat scheduled on Sunday, Dec 17 after the 11 am worship service is cancelled. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

World Healing Day & No Year-End Examen — Dec 31
On Sunday, Dec 31 from 6:50-8 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. Please call 412.773.7152 for more info. Please note there will be no year-end Examen on Dec 31.

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 ♦

In our Community

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.

Affordable Health Care Act Open Enrollment
The time to purchase a new health insurance plan for 2018 is here. You MUST renew the plan you have or select and enroll in a new plan by Dec 15, 2017, in order to have coverage on Jan 1, 2018.

Open enrollment isn’t just for people who don’t have health insurance—those who pay for their own health insurance must shop for a new plan, or re-enroll in their existing plan. Individuals have a choice.

For assistance, contact George Moses at East Liberty Family Health Care Center (412.661.2802), or the Consumer Health Coalition (412.456.1877).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES
Dec 17 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am
♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (Harambe Rm) — “Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited: The Joy of Elizabeth and Mary” led by Frances Wilson

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Chapel) — “Gifts of the Season” facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (3rd floor Music Rm) — A concluding discussion of chapter six of Everything Belongs by Richard Rohr, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Linda Harrington and Michele Bossers

Young Adult (Room 224) — “A Christmas Event” with breakfast, scripture and friends

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

Located in the 1st floor nursery suite and 2nd floor — Rooms, teachers and curriculum information can be found at www.ELPC.church