**TIME OF PREPARATION**

“People of God, dare to hope. Dare to believe. Hear what God, the Living God, Mother and Father of us all, will speak, for God will speak peace to her people.”

— Brian Wren

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Flor Peeters

“Veni, Emmanuel”

Holst/Schweizer

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 Fowler-Searcy

* **SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

People: Y también contigo.

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP / ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

Michael, Angela, Lila and Nora Chang

Leader: The world says, “Worry,” but we shall say, “Rejoice!”

The news says, “Fear,” but we shall say, “Rejoice!”

The society around us says, “Just be happy,” but we shall say, “Be faithful in the Lord.” For we know that joy comes in the promises and steadfast presence of the Lord.

The first three candles are lit.

Leader: As we light our Advent candles, we pray for hope, peace and joy.

People: Come to us, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Joy.

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

STUTTGART

**CALL TO CONFessions**

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You, O Lord, are near to us this day and always. In your presence, we confess our need for repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry, We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and too often we are afraid or downhearted. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our silence into rejoicing, for the sake of the One who proclaims good news for all the world. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.
**Sung Response Hymn #92**

**Waiting**

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

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**On This Day in History:**

Birthdays are celebrated for composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770), novelist Jane Austen (1775), and playwright Noel Coward (1899). Andrew Young was also appointed as Ambassador to the United Nations (1976).

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**American composer Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943) is professor of music at the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. O Magnum Mysterium was composed in 1994 and has been widely performed and recorded around the world.**

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**In Luke 1:63, notice that Zechariah does not say that the child’s name will be John, but that it is John. Zechariah is not making a decision; he is being obedient to what has already been decided. After this act of obedience, he recovers the power of speech and praises God.**

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**(November 30, 2006)**

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**The 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  “Sans Day Carol”  Stephen Caracciolo

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:
A nd Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:
A nd Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:
A nd Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, then trust we our Savior, who rose from the dead:
A nd Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Doxology at the Presentation

Old Hundredth

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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: Loving God, you provide more than enough for all. Accept what we give this day – given as each is able – that it may be used for the benefit of Christ’s church and the world you have so deeply loved and redeemed.

People: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN #107  “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”  REJOICE, REJOICE

CHARGE & BENEDICTION  “Veni, Emmanuel”  Robert J. Powell

POSTLUDE
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.
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 110B.

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 (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.
- Available 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 Fellowship 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 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp for more information about future classes (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x122).

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

**Christmas Joy Offering Received**
The *Christmas Joy Offering* will be received today at all worship services. Please see the bulletin insert for additional information.

**Purchase Bicentennial Glass Items**
ELPC’s Bicentennial glass items are on sale today after all worship services. *They make great Christmas gifts!*  

**LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering**
All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry at 12:30 pm today. Contact Wil Forrest for info or to attend (Wil@coh.net).

**Church Tour**
All are welcome to attend a tour of the Trinity Chapel after the 11 am worship service today. Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after worship.

**Christmas Giving Tree Donations Due Today**
Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church by Noon today. To participate by donating money, make checks out to *ELPC Giving Tree*.

**Today’s Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)**
Today’s *Journey* service DOD is Tony Richardson-Eckes. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Dave Cowan.

**Advent Devotionals Available**
Pick up Advent devotional materials at the *Journey* service, on the 2nd floor CE table, or near the Hospitality Desk.

**Ushers and Greeters for Christmas Eve**
If you will be attending either of our Christmas Eve services, and have a heart for ushering and greeting, please contact David Carl (412.378.4735; dbcarl335@gmail.com) or Sherry Anderson (mishand408@comcast.net; 412.361.4419) to express your interest.

**Café Justo Coffee for Sale — Dec 23**
*Café Justo Coffee* will be available for sale during *Fellowship Time* on Sunday, Dec 23. It makes a great last-minute gift for that coffee lover in your life! For just $10/pound, your purchase will support this fair trade cooperative and help provide a sustainable income for Mexican coffee farmers. Check or cash only. *Note: Café Justo will be sold on the 4th Sunday of each month in 2019.*

**No Taizé Sung Prayer Service — Dec 26**
Please note we will not have a Taizé sung prayer service on Wednesday, Dec 26.

**DG2! (Doing Good Together) Project — Dec 27**
Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom will gather together on Thursday, Dec 27 from 3-8 pm to make and serve dinner to the residents at East End Cooperative Ministry. Contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

**Tween Movie Night — Dec 28**
Youth (grades 4–6) will enjoy pizza, popcorn and a movie at *Tween Movie Night* from 6-8 pm on Friday, Dec 28. Bring a friend and send your movie suggestions to Sara Hackett!

**College Reunion for Young Adults — Dec 30**
College-age young adults are invited to catch up over lunch following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Dec 30. For more info and to RSVP, please contact Sara Hackett (412.673.2926).

**Church Tours — Dec 30, Jan 6 and 27**
All are welcome to join any of our church tours following the 11 am worship service on these dates:
- Dec 30 — *Sanctuary and Chapel*
- Jan 6 — *Sanctuary and Chapel*
- Jan 27 — *Stained Glass*

**Year-End Examen Mini-Retreat — Dec 31**
Find God in your life as you review the year ending and consider intentions as you look forward into the year ahead at our *Year-End Examen Retreat* on New Year’s Eve, Monday, Dec 31 from 9 am–Noon in the 2nd floor Parlor. Continental breakfast provided.

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**Christmas Eve Worship Services**
Join us in the Sanctuary for our Christmas Eve worship services on Monday, Dec 24. Both services will feature the celebration of the Lord’s Supper and candle lighting.

**Friends & Family Service at 5 pm**
Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will preach.

**Candlelight Service at 11 pm**
Special prelude music begins at 10:30 pm. Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will preach.
No Committee Meetings This Week

Chatham Baroque in Concert — Jan 5
ELPC’s Cathedral Concerts series continues at 8 pm on Saturday, Jan 5, with a performance by Chatham Baroque in the Chapel. Regarded as one of the country’s most distinguished period ensembles, Chatham Baroque has excited local, national, and international audiences for nearly 30 years with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of 17th and 18th century music, played on instruments of the time. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members from Dr. Edward Alan Moore.

Winter Rally Day — Jan 6
As we gather for Church School on Sunday, Jan 6, after our Christmas break, the Christian Education Committee invites you to a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Room beginning at 9:30 am. Please bring a breakfast bread to share. Grab a bite to eat on your way to class, and wish your friends a Happy New Year!

Bible Study — Jan 7 and 8
All women at ELPC are welcome to join Presbyterian Women as they continue their Bible study titled God With Us When We’re Powerless on Monday, Jan 7 at 7 pm, and Tuesday, Jan 8 at 10 am. Monday’s group will meet for Bible study and fellowship in the Harambe Room. Tuesday’s group will meet for Bible study in the 2nd floor Parlor, followed by a potluck lunch. Soup will be provided, but please bring a side or salad to share, as well as your own place setting.

Looking for a way to put your love in action?

If you have something to share, visit the ISERVE / E webpage at www.ELPC.church/ programs/iserve-2, or contact Jim DiGiorgio (JimD@coh.net).

♦ Club 116 meal providers for Spring 2019 term ♦

PTS Public Meeting — Dec 17
Join Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave, 15206) for a Public Meeting on Monday, Dec 17 from 6-8 pm in Long Hall (Knox Rm) to discuss their 10-year campus master plan vision. Neighborhood stakeholders and residents are invited to learn about the vision for the Seminary, discuss opportunities for collaboration, improved connections to the neighborhood, and how potential development opportunities can address programmatic needs in the community. Please email ctanakapack@pts.edu for more info.

Do You Enjoy Crafts? — Jan 8, 9, 23 and 28
Consider joining one of our “hands on” groups to use your skills to care for others. We share lots of fellowship, along with our patterns, problems, and projects. All ages and skills are welcome. Contact Diane Jackson (dnjcks@verizon.net; 412.441.6021) for more info about these groups.

♦ Knitting Group—Tuesday, Jan 8, 1–3 pm
♦ Toy Makers—Wednesday, Jan 9 & 23, 9 am–12 pm
♦ Sewing Group—Monday, Jan 28, 2:30–6 pm

Tweed Night — Jan 13
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to a night of bowling, pizza, trophies, and fun at Tweed Night on Sunday, Jan 13 from 4-6 pm. Please bring a beverage or snack to share, and your friends! Contact Sara Hacket for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Ministry Events — January
Contact Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (KelliB@coh.net; 405.501.0711) for details about these young adult ministry events:

♦ Friday, Jan 4: “REcipe” First Friday Potluck, 7 pm
♦ Sunday, Jan 6: “RESolution, RESPONSibility, or REFuictance” YAM Sunday School Class, 9:45 am
♦ Tuesday, Jan 15: “REjoice” Ringing in the New Year with Handbells, 7 pm
♦ Sunday, Jan 27: “REflect” Stained Glass and Mosaic Class, 12:30 pm

Toiletries for the Holidays: Chapel Market
We ask that you consider sharing the holidays with shoppers at our Chapel Market ministry by donating toiletries and new socks for men and women. Body lotion, face lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste are especially needed. Donations can be put in the box near the Highland Ave entrance (no clothing at this time).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

There will be no Church School classes on Sundays, Dec 23 and 30 for a Christmas holiday break.
Classes will resume on Winter Rally Day, Sunday, Jan 6.