**TIME OF PREPARATION**

“I hope your Christmas has had a little touch of eternity in among the rush and patter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next – but that, after all, is the idea!” — Evelyn Underhill, Letters

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

Michael Painter, organ

“Six Carol Settings”

Wilbur Held

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

God Rest You Merry

*Please use this as a time for silent prayer and preparation.*

**WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS**

The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes

**SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

The Rev. Richardson-Eckes

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lenore Williams

**PROCESIONAL HYMN #113**

Gloria

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Sara Hackett

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Sara Hackett

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.*
ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON
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!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON
I Samuel 2:18-20, 26

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN
There is no Extended Session program today. Children are invited to worship with their families.

* HYMN #139 “That Boy-Child of Mary”

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:41-52

SERMON “One Child Left Behind”

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

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 MUSIC “‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

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* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.
* 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: On this day, we are grateful for hearts made joyful in the Christmas gift of your Son. You, O God, are generosity itself. Bless these offerings to the benefit of those in need. Bless our lives in the service of sharing your love in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray.  
People: Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #134  “Joy to the World”  ANTIOCH

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE  “Voluntary in D”  George Dyson

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.
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

P R A Y E R  R O O M  ( i n  H i g h l a n d  A v e  h a l l w a y)
Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is ELPC.
   Available everyday

N E W  Y E A R ’ S  E V E

6:50 am ...... World Healing Day. Join us in body or spirit from 6:50–8 am for meditation and a walk on the labyrinth in the Social Hall.

9 am .......... Year-End Examen Mini-Retreat. Review the year ending and consider intentions into the year ahead at this mini-retreat from 9 am–12 pm in the 2nd floor Parlor. A light breakfast will be provided.

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 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 on February 3 and 10 from 12:30-2 pm to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp to register or for more information (GloriaK@coh.net).

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

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. Jim Davidson
   Co-pastor of Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church, honorably retired

Liturgists: Sara Hackett
   The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes
   Lenore Williams

Musicians: Michael Painter, Organist

Soloists: Carly Black
   Adrianna Cleveland
   Todd Farwell

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

F E L L O W S H I P  T I M E

Please join us for our Fellowship Time after worship in the 1st floor Fellowship Room. All are welcome!

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

W O R S H I P  F L O W E R S

If you would like to purchase flowers for our Sanctuary worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Norma (412.441.3800 x111). The cost is $150 a Sunday.

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.
   Jan 6 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am .......... Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
   Jan 6 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

Extended Session
There is no Extended Session program today. Children are invited to worship with their families.
TODAY AT ELPC

Take Home Christmas Decorations
Well-used church Christmas decorations will be free to a good home! While they cannot be utilized at church anymore, you may find crafty re-uses of them at home. Please see the selection available today after the 11 am worship service. Enter the doors to the right of the Chancel in the West Transept where items will be available outside the Christmas Room.

College Reunion for Young Adults
College-age young adults are invited to catch up over lunch following this morning’s Sanctuary worship. For more info and to RSVP, please contact Sara Hackett (412.673.2926).

Church Tour
All are welcome to join the Sanctuary and Chapel tour after the 11 am worship service. Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after today’s service.

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.
The Sanctuary service DOD is Matt Stufft.

Love to Cook or Bake?
If you enjoy cooking or baking, you can put your talents and gifts to use by providing a hearty meal for Club 116, which still needs food providers in 2019! Many dates are available from Jan 9 through May. Please contact Jim DiGiorgio to sign-up or with questions (JimD@coh.net).

World Healing Day — Dec 31
Join us in body or spirit from 6:50–8 am on New Year’s Eve, Monday, Dec 31 for meditation and a walk on the labyrinth in the Social Hall. Add your love and light to the healing of this world. We invite you to then stay for the Spiritual Life Committee’s Year-End Examen Mini-Retreat beginning at 9 am in the 2nd floor Parlor.

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.

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!

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

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.

The Labyrinth will be available daily through New Year’s Eve in the Social Hall.
December 30, 2018 • 1st Sunday after Christmas

As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:

Sue Bailey,
Kelli Booher,
Carol Chontos’ father David,
Molly Dimond-Stephany’s sister-in-law Andrea,
Laura Dobrich’s nephew,
Katelyn Haas’ friend’s mother Pamela,
Lee Lewand,
Pen Lytle,
Emily Mohn-Slate’s mother-in-law Karena,
and Jerry Wrzosek.

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

No Committee Meetings This Week

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.
The ELPC pastors and staff
wish you and yours a blessed and Happy New Year!

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

Tween Night — Jan 13
Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to a night of bowling, pizza, trophies, and fun at Tween Night on Sunday, Jan 13 from 4-6 pm. Please bring a beverage or snack to share, and your friends! Contact Sara Hackett 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 RELuctance” 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

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Jan 20
All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Jan 20. Contact Wil Forrest for info or to attend (Wil@coh.net).

In Our Community

Samaritan Counseling Workshop — Begins in January
If you are close to someone with a personality disorder, you’re most likely to feel ill at ease, frustrated, highly stressed, confused, manipulated and misled! So what on earth can you do about it? Led by a licensed therapist, the My Life Is Upside-Down Workshop takes place in a safe, private environment where you will be supported and affirmed. This workshop will help you to understand the most common personality disorders; explore how you are affected (by the person with the disorder); manage the stress that you are experiencing; and learn techniques for coping and taking care of yourself. Join this workshop by calling Samaritan at 412.741.7430. Space is limited! Samaritan accepts most insurances and offers financial aid for those who qualify.

Does Science Threaten Belief? — Jan 26
Plan on joining us for an opportunity to look more closely at your faith as we spend the day with ELPC member Kevin Seybold on Saturday, Jan 26 in the McKelvy Room from 9 am–4:30 pm. Kevin will lead us through a day of study and reflection based on a video series that uses interviews with world renowned theologians and scientists to explore Test of Faith: Does Science Threaten Belief?

Sunday School Classes for all Ages
Jan 6 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (Harambe Rm) — “Faith and Personal Finances” facilitated by the Contemporaries Steering Committee

Journey with Scripture (2nd Floor Library) — Isaiah 60:1–6; Psalm 72:1–7,10–14; Ephesians 3:1–12; Matthew 2:1–12 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “The Paradoxes of Peace in the Middle East” led by Pastor Randy Bush

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A continuing discussion of selections from Meditations of the Heart by Howard Thurman, facilitated by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, Steve Evrard and Michele Bosser.

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

Located in the 1st floor nursery suite and 2nd floor — Find rooms, teachers and curriculum at www.ELPC.church