Today we honor the Gifts of Women, grateful for our three women pastors, our guest preacher, the dedicated work of women elders, deacons, staff and church volunteers, the wisdom of church leaders like St. Teresa and Julian of Norwich, the musical talents of the women section leaders and choir members, and of composers like Cecilia Smith (whose commissioned piece is part of our March 24 concert). Thanks be to God for all this and much more!

Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained. (Helen Keller)

Never allow a person to tell you no who doesn't have the power to say yes. (Eleanor Roosevelt)

**February 24, 2019 • 11 AM Sanctuary Worship**

**Gifts of Women Sunday**

**Time of Preparation**

“Making my will one with the will of God, this is the union which I desire and should like to see in everyone; and not just a few of those raptures, however delightful, which go by the name of union.” — St. Teresa of Avila

“Prayer oneth the soul to God.” — Julian of Norwich

**Ministry of Music**

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

“‘The Peace May Be Exchanged’”

Dan Locklair

(from Rubrics)

**Welcome & Church News**

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

**Sharing God’s Peace**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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 (from Jeremiah 17:5-8)**

Sherry Anderson

Leader: When we turn our hearts away from God and toward ourselves, putting trust in our own strength,

People: We become like a shrub in the desert, living in a parched, arid place.

Leader: When we trust in God, when our trust is God, we are like a tree planted by water.

People: Our roots go deep, we are ever-green; even in a drought we are not anxious, but we can bear fruit and share the gifts of the God who made us.

Leader: Let us worship God together.

**Processional Hymn #610**

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Azmon

**Call to Confession**

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**Prayer of Confession**

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Merciful God, your call to discipleship is both compelling and demanding. You call us to reorder our lives, challenging us to notice the people who are quick to pass by: those who are poor and hungry, those who weep, those who are hated, bullied and excluded. We become complacent, trusting in our own self-sufficiency, rather than seeking the partnerships of grace to which you call us.

Forgive us, O God, and turn us back to your gospel. Hear now our prayers, offered for ourselves and for the sake of your world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.
**Sung Reflection Hymn #775**

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;  
All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When I’m in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**Assurance of God’s Forgiveness**

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. ¡Alaben a Dios!

**Hebrew Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 17:7-8

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

**Reception of New Members & Friends**

Members: Edith Battle, Rebecca Dilla, Beverly Fafata, Billie and Nancy Harlan, Benjamin and Harriett King, Ronald and Lida Larsen, Evalynn Welling, Jared and Nicole Welty, Suzanne Wolfe

Friends: Sheryl Austin, Wesley and Kathleen Oliver

**Moments with our Children**

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Children of any age are welcome to come forward 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.

**Hymn #306**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Dennis

**Gospel Lesson**

John 15:1-8

The Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett

**Sermon**

“Fruitful Partnerships”

The Rev. Dr. Moffett

**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.

**Recognition of EECM Food Drive**

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

**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**

“Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake”

Richard Farrant
**DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION**

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all creatures here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.
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**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION**

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: Holy God, bless and multiply these gifts we give as signs of our trust in you. Use them to bless the poor, feed the hungry, and comfort those who weep; in Jesus’ name.

People: Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN #656**

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Moffett

Dr. Moore, organ

Rubrics by Dan Locklair (b. 1949) is a five movement suite commissioned by the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh and premiered at Calvary Episcopal Church on April 16, 1989. The entire suite will be performed by London organist Martin Baker this afternoon at 3 pm at Calvary Episcopal Church.
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.
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Young Children’s Ministry for infants and toddlers (up to age 3) — First Floor Nursery. Every Sunday.
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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 annual Congregational Meeting in the Social Hall. 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 Sundays, April 7 and 14 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register (GloriaK@coh.net).
Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.
Church Events and Announcements
February 24, 2019 • 7th Sunday after Epiphany

TODAY AT ELPC

Today is Gifts of Women Sunday
Today is the 2019 Gifts of Women Sunday. We honor women who exhibit grace that knows no boundaries. The idea that God is a boundary-crosser is not new. Nor is the idea that God’s grace flows through the world unhampered by human boundaries. Here at ELPC, the gifts of women are evident in today’s service as women preach, assist in liturgy, sing, greet and usher. We invite you to join Presbyterian Women of ELPC and around the world in celebrating the boundary crossing power of God.

ELPC Welcomes the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett
We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, the new executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA), as our guest preacher this morning.

Congregational Meeting
All ELPC members are encouraged to attend our annual Congregational Meeting in the Social Hall after today’s Sanctuary worship service to review reports and financial budgets. Lunch will be provided. Nominations for the incoming slate of officers also will be voted on.

The biographies of the nominees for Church Officers are located in a notebook in the Balaka Rm for you to preview. Please do not remove the notebook from there.

Climate Change Letter Writing
The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is sponsoring today’s Climate Change Letter Writing in the Fellowship Room before and after the 11 am service, which supports the Green New Deal, a congressional resolution to reduce fossil fuel use and create jobs.

Fun and Fitness and Open Hand Ministries!
Interested in participating in the 2019 Pittsburgh Marathon and raising money to support the programs of Open Hand Ministries? ELPC has opportunities to get involved (runners, walkers, cheer station volunteers), and is putting together a Relay Team, plus full or half marathon runners/walkers can register for free. Join us after the service in the Social Hall to learn more, or contact Molly Davidson-Welling (mollydw@yahoo.com) or Emily Rosenthal (ejr116@gmail.com).

Café Justo Coffee for Sale
Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale in the Social Hall at the Congregational Meeting. The cost is $10/pound. Check or cash only please.

Sound and A/V Volunteers Needed
Volunteers are needed to help with sound and video for the worship services, and A/V helpers to assist with properly setting up the A/V carts for classes and other events. Contact Tim Benedict (tim@tbenedict.com) or Wayne Gaines (wayne75@msn.com) for more info.

ELPC’s Chapel Market
The Chapel Market is seeking volunteers for Monday mornings (10 am-Noon). Please contact Linda and Harold Deiss (724.443.1826; deisshl@consolidated.net) if you are interested in helping. Spring and summer clothing and toiletry donations are also needed (body and face lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste), and can be left at the Highland Ave entrance.

Sewing Group — Feb 25
Join the Sewing Group on Monday, Feb 25 from 2:30–6 pm to use your skills to care for others. All ages and skills are welcome. Contact Diane Jackson for more info (dnjcks@verizon.net; 412.441.6021).

YAM Events — Feb 25 and March 1
If you are interested in attending any of the following Young Adult Ministry (YAM) events, please contact Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net).

✦ Sewing Project with ELPC’s Sewing Group — Monday, Feb 25, 6 pm. Childcare available.

✦ TRAIL First Friday @ Jolina’s Mediterranean Cuisine — March 1, 7 pm.

PW Bible Study — March 4 and 5
All women at ELPC are welcome to join Presbyterian Women for the Bible study titled God With Us Through Our Trials on Monday, March 4 at 7 pm in the Harambe Room and/or Tuesday, March 5 at 10 am in the 2nd floor Parlor (followed by a potluck lunch; soup provided, but please bring a side or salad to share, as well as your own place setting).

Ash Wednesday Services and Presenter — March 6
On Wednesday, March 6 the season of Lent will begin with our Ash Wednesday service at 12 pm, featuring the imposition of ashes, led by Pastor Heather in the Chapel. Following the service, join us in the Fellowship Room for a discussion led by Ruth Farrell and lunch. Ruth will speak about her ministry at Casa San José. ELPC member Linda Harrington will join Ruth to talk about her experience teaching the English Second Language classes for Casa San José. The weekly 7 pm Taizé Prayer service will also offer the imposition of ashes.
February 24, 2019 • 7th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Joseph Adjaye, Cecil Birt, David Carl’s co-worker’s sister, Kate Carlson’s brother-in-law Ray, Molly Dimond-Stephany’s sister-in-law Andrea, Jan Herzer, Jean Kennedy’s sister Valeria, MeShawn LeVert’s mother Gwen, Lee Lewand, Clay and Kathy McQueen, Ashley Parker, Henry Petrilli, David Phillips, Pat Valoon and Frances Wilson.

Condolences to ELPC employee Kate Carlson on her cousin’s passing.

Condolences to the family of Rev. J. Robert Hewett on his passing. Rev. Hewett was ELPC’s pastor from 1981-1985.

In Our Community

Bag It: Is your life too plastic? Movie Viewing — Feb 27
The documentary Bag It: Is your life too plastic? will be shown at Calvary Episcopal Church (315 Shady Ave) on Wednesday, Feb 27 at 7 pm.

EECM Dinner Crew Needs Volunteers
East End Cooperative Ministry’s Thursday Night Dinner Crew is seeking volunteers to help serve dinner and food providers. Contact Jim Russ (jr06@andrew.cmu.edu; 412.421.7630) for info.

Environmental Book Club Discussion — March 14
The Environment Subcommittee of the Justice Committee invites you to a discussion of LaudatoSi: On Care for Our Common Home, the encyclical letter from Pope Francis on Thursday, March 14 at 7 pm. The book draws all Christians into a dialogue about our common home. Please contact Nancy Heastings for more info (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Church Photo Directory — March 17, 24 and 31
March 17, 24 and 31 are the final dates to have your photo taken for the new church directory. Please contact Gloria Knopp (GloriaK@coh.net).

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — March 24
All are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, March 24 at 12:30 pm when we will begin our book discussion of the themes in the first three chapters of Matthew Vine’s God and the Gay Christian. Previous reading not required. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed. Contact Wil Forrest for more info or to attend (Wil@coh.net).

Cathedral Concert — March 24
The ELPC Chancel Choir presents an inspirational program of music inspired by the Psalms at the next Cathedral Concert, From One Generation to Another—A Celebration of the Psalms on Sunday, March 24 at 3 pm.

Sunday School Classes
March 3 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am
♦ Adults ♦

Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm) — “The Role of Christianity and Government” led by Tony Richardson-Eckes

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Exodus 34:29–35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2; Luke 9:28–43a facilitated by Lora Betha and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “Finding Joy in our Lenten Traditions” led by the Rev. Jim Davidson

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of selections from Meditations of the Heart by Howard Thurman, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, Michelle Bard, and Yamuna Morgenstern

YAM (Rm 213) — “Regret as it relates to the Easter story” led by Kelli Booher