Time of Preparation

“To deny the freedom of the will is to make morality impossible.” — J.A. Froude

“All theory is against the freedom of the will; all experience is for it.” — Samuel Johnson

Ministry of Music

“Choral Dorien”
Jehan Alain

“Thou Shalt Bring Them In”
G.F. Handel

Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music/Prelude.

Please use this time to fill out the red Friendship pads and for quiet worship preparation.

Welcome & Church News

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* 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.

Call to Worship

Gil Hickman

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name!
People: As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God’s steadfast love to all who trust in God.
Leader: God satisfies us with good as long as we live, so our youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
People: We will gather now to worship our God, to attune our ears to the voice of the Lord.
Leader: Let us worship God together!

* Processional Hymn #643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Nun Danket Alle Gott

Call to Confession

Gil Hickman

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth’s resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to a beloved community, but we break your laws and forsake your love. Forgive us your sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.
ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
The following people were born: philosopher René Descartes (1596), composer Franz Joseph Haydn (1732), and heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson (1871); the following people died: poet John Donne (1630) and author Charlotte Brontë (1855); the following works were premiered: Oklahoma! (1943) and The Glass Menagerie (1945); and the Eiffel Tower was officially opened, despite criticism that it was not suitably French (1889).

Humans are born free, yet are everywhere in chains.
(Jean Jacques Rousseau)

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.
(Thomas Paine)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Leader: As a parent welcomes home a wayward child, so God embraces all who seek God’s grace and desire to love God and our neighbors. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #358 (remain seated)

“Steal Away”

Congregation sings refrain only.

Refrain: Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!
Steal away, steal away home; I ain’t got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me; he calls me by the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain’t got long to stay here. (refrain)

Green trees are bending; poor sinners stand a trembling.
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain’t got long to stay here. (refrain)

My Lord, he calls me; he calls me by the lightning.
The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain’t got long to stay here. (refrain)

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Leader: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

People: Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

Leader: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

People: For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

People: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Leader: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

People: You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Leader: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

People: Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

Leader: Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

People: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Leader: Luke 15:1-10

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

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 #509 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Joshua 5:9-12 The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON “Faith + Free Will” The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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 “Write Your Blessed Name” K. Lee Scott

text: Thomas à Kempis

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, and a faithful Guide to the courts of heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. O Jesu, my only Savior! Write your blessed name… Amen.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.

* 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 Let us give thanks to the Lord nuestro Dios.
People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios. It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Leader: You continually seek for us, that we might find our way back to you and your merciful ways. With these offerings, we extend a portion of our lives to you, O God, that it may serve those in need and prosper your goals of justice, healing and peace on earth. By your grace, may it be so, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #69 “Here I Am, Lord”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

“Little Prelude and Fugue in F Major, BWV 556”
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 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
March 31, 2019 • Fourth Sunday in Lent

TODAY AT ELPC

Tour the Holy Land Info Meeting
ELPC and Temple Sinai are working together on a shared study mission to Israel, taking place Nov 10–18, led by Pastor Randy and Rabbi Jamie Gibson. Join us for an information session in the 2nd floor Parlor after the 11 am worship service today.

Sponsor Youth Participating in the 30-Hour Famine
Sponsor youth in grades 6-12 before and after worship today for the 30-Hour Famine. Money raised will support ELPC’s sister church, Balaka CCAP, in Malawi, as well as our youth team traveling there this summer. To RSVP or for more info, contact Sara Hackett or Anthony Williams.

Earth Care Challenge Pledge
Take the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee’s Earth Care Challenge Pledge in the Garth Overlook Room after today’s 11 am service, and in the Fellowship Room before the 11 am service. You can record your pledge today and next Sunday.

Today’s Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)
The Journey service DOD is Doug Cooper.
The Sanctuary service DOD is Kathy Kiewra.

Church Photo Directory
Have your photo taken for the new church directory today in the McKelvy Room after the 11 am service.

PW Bible Study — April 1 and 2
All women at ELPC are welcome to join Presbyterian Women for their Bible study on Monday, April 1 at 7 pm in the Harambe Room and/or Tuesday, April 2 at 10 am in the 2nd floor Parlor (followed by a potluck lunch; soup provided, but please bring a side or salad to share).

Facing Systemic Racism Lenten Series — April 3
Our six-week Lenten study of The Belhar Confession continues to meet on Wednesdays from 5–7 pm. This series provides a theological grounding for our congregation’s anti-racism work. Study materials are included and a light meal of soup will be served. This week’s lesson materials can be accessed at https://tinyurl.com/ELPCThelharLent.

YAM First Friday Game Night — April 5
Join young adults at the Pittsburgh Friends Meeting House (4836 Ellsworth Ave) for game night on Friday, April 5 at 7 pm! Feel free to bring a game to play with others. Food will be snack-potluck style, so bring a snack to share. Contact Kelli Booher if you need a ride or for more info (kellib@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x114).

Women’s Retreat — April 5 and 6
Susan Spangler will lead the Presbyterian Women’s Retreat in Christian meditation practice at Camp Crestfield from Friday to Saturday, April 5-6. Get to know each other better, enjoy good food, and spend time relaxing or hiking in the countryside. The retreat is open to all. Please RSVP to Kay Shissler (kshissler@juno.com).

Youth Ministry Events — April 6 and 7
- DG2! — Sunday, April 7, 12 from 4 pm
Youth in grades 4–12 will partner with youth from Rodef Shalom to show acts of loving kindness by playing Bingo with residents at Charles Morris Nursing and Rehab Center. Meet in the Harambe Room for lunch following worship. We will return to ELPC by 4 pm.
- 30-Hour Famine — Saturday, April 6 at 3:30 pm to Sunday, April 7 at 10:45 am
Youth in grades 6–12 will explore our faith and what it means to be part of the global church through fasting, service, prayer, and games. We will break our fast with communion during Journey worship and then have breakfast together. Money raised will support ELPC’s sister church, Balaka CCAP, in Malawi, as well as our youth team traveling there this summer. A permission slip is required. To RSVP or for more details, contact Sara Hackett or Anthony Williams.

Young Children’s Ministry — April 7
Families with children age 3 and under are invited to a special intergenerational church school class in the nursery from 9:45-10:45 am on Sunday, April 7. We will talk about the sacrament of Communion together, and explore how we can begin to teach our young children about its importance. We will explore this together through hands-on activities, and conversation together. Please RSVP to Pastor Heather (HeatherS@coh.net).

Psychology of Religion — April 7
The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to explore the Psychology of Religion with Kevin Seybold on Sunday, April 7 after the 11 am service in the 2nd floor Parlor. An ELPC member, Kevin is Professor of Psychology at Grove City College, and author of Explorations in Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion and Questions in the Psychology of Religion. A light lunch will be served.

Rescheduled: Justice Committee Meeting — April 14
The Justice Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday, April 14 at 12:30 pm. There will be no committee meeting on April 7. For more info, please contact Carol Chonoska (carolchonoska@gmail.com; 724.272.9722).
March 31, 2019 • 4th Sunday in Lent

As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:
Joseph Adjaye, Diana Bloss, Jack Burley,
Carla Depperman’s friend Dorothy,
Molly Dimond-Stephany’s sister-in-law Andrea,
Nancy Harlan’s co-worker,
Jan Herzer’s friend Jake, Liz Hopkins’ mother Margery,
Morris Jordan, Gloria Knopp’s mother Dorothy,
Nancy Lesher, Lee Lewand, Clay and Kathy McQueen,
Emily Mohn-Slate’s mother-in-law Karena, Ashley Parker,
Jan Pressman’s friend Nate, Cassandra Sawtelle’s son Elias,
Heather Schoenewolf’s uncle Jim and friend Tony,
Tim Sergi’s sister Kimberly, and Pat Valoon.
Condolences to Denise Sheffey-Powell on her mother’s passing.

Heretics, Doubters and Other Saints — April 14
The Spiritual Life Committee is offering a new opportunity for dialogue: Heretics, Doubters and Other Saints. Do you secretly think that if everyone actually knew what you believe (and do not believe) that you would not be welcomed in church? Come together with others who have also been carrying around their secret doubts and questions, to talk about the wide breadth of theology within the Presbyterian church, and to explore how your personal faith might be more complete after worship on Sunday, April 14. A light lunch will be provided.

The Arsenal Duo to Perform — April 14
The eighth season of ELPC’s Cathedral Concerts series continues on Sunday, April 14 at 3 pm with a performance by the Arsenal Duo. Comprised of organist Edward Alan Moore and pianist Nathan Carterette, the Arsenal Duo will offer a captivating performance, uniting their respective instruments in a unique and spectacular fashion. Featured on the program will be the first movement of Tchaikovsky’s piano concerto and George Gershwin’s iconic Rhapsody in Blue. A freewill offering will be received.

Committee Meetings This Week
Mission Board.........................Monday, 5:30 pm (2nd fl Library)
Property.........................Tuesday, 7:00 pm (2nd fl Library)

Middle School Mission Trip Meeting — April 14
Youth in grades 6–8 who are interested in attending Mission Possible at Crestfield Camp from July 7-12 are asked to attend an informational meeting following worship on Sunday, April 14. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net). Parents are invited also.

ELPC Tours — April 14 and 28
Throughout the year, ELPC offers a variety of tours for members, friends, and visitors following Sanctuary worship on Sundays.

- Tower Tour — Sunday, April 14
  The climb requires a bit of stamina; comfortable shoes and pants are suggested. The tour is not recommended for small children.
- Sanctuary and Chapel Tour — Sunday, April 28

Tweens Night — April 26
Tweens in grades 4–6 will get together for dinner and messy games at Tweens Night on Friday, April 26 from 6–8 pm. We will be outdoors so dress for the weather and for a mess!

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — April 28
All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, April 28 at 12:30 pm when they continue the discussion of Matthew Vine’s God and the Gay Christian (chapters 4–6). Previous reading or attendance is not required to participate. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed. Contact Wil Forrest for info or to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

Sponsor Flowers for Easter
You are invited to help provide flowers for our Easter services on April 21, or to make a monetary donation to the EECM Food Pantry. Forms are available around the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
April 7 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am
♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm) — “Letter from Birmingham Jail” led by Pastor Randy Bush

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b–14; John 12:1–8 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “The Violent-Religious Conflicts and International Organizations of the 20th Century” led by ELPC Elder Ron Stone

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of selections from Spiritual Ecology—The Cry of the Earth led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Steve Evvard, and Michelle Bard