**TIME OF PREPARATION**

“Holy and loving God, whose Spirit rested on Joseph, calling him to parenthood, and on Mary, preparing her for motherhood and birth – now, by your Spirit, call and prepare us for our relationships, our work, and our ministry that we also may say, ‘Your will be done in us,’ to the glory of Jesus Christ, now and always.”

— Brian Wren

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

“Prelude on Once in Royal David’s City”

David Willcocks

ELPC Ringers

“The First Noel/Silent Night”

arr. Michael Bedford

**WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS**

The Rev. Patrice 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**

Molly, Andrew, Sydney and Calvin Swagler

Leader: We light candles because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, afraid and alone.

People: We light candles because too many people in this world are suffering or too busy to notice one another.

Leader: We stop everything and light candles for hope, peace and joy.

The first three candles are lit.

Leader: This Sunday we go further and also light a candle for love.

The fourth candle is lit.

Leader: May the light from these candles cover the world, illuminate the valley of the shadow of death, and burn away all things that prevent God’s power from being born among us.

*Congregation sings vs. 6 of hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer,

Our spirits by thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: Friends, be not afraid. The light of God’s love is at hand!

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*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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The carol *Once in Royal David’s City* traditionally is sung as the first carol at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve at King’s College, Cambridge. David Willcocks (1919-2015) was Director of Music at King’s College from 1957-1974.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

God, our light and salvation, let us see the world through your eyes. May we love the widow, migrant and orphan. May we work for justice and ever bear witness to the good news of your kingdom near at hand. May your love reflected through us draw people to you and your healing mercies of grace. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Nothing is small if God accepts it.

(St. Teresa of Avila)

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As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God – the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)
PROCESSIONAL HYMN #100
“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Kathy Glass

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Kathy Glass

Shepherd of your people, we have turned away from you and strayed from the paths of righteousness. We have neglected the welfare of others, ignored those in need, trampled harshly on this creation, and let discord fester within our families. Forgive us, merciful Savior. Turn us back to you. Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news of our faith. God calls us home, restores us to lives of justice and righteousness, and walks beside us as we journey toward the coming days of God’s realm of mercy and grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON
Galatians 4:1-7
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

HANDBELL ANTHEM
“Good Christians All Rejoice (In Dulci Jubilo)”
arr. Sondra K. Tucker

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather 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 #110
“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

GOSPEL LESSON
Matthew 1:18-25
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SERMON
“Heirs Apparent”
The Rev. Dr. Bush

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION & SPECIAL MUSIC
“Gesu Bambino”
Gustav Holst

Pietro Yon
Lis and Megan Ormsbee

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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
“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Text: Christina Rossetti

For the apostle Paul, human beings become God’s children by the free grace of God’s act of adopting us into God’s family. In the community of faith, they receive God’s Spirit, enabling them to call out “Abba,” God our Father/Mother.
*DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION*

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

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION*

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes. The Rev. Dr. Bush
People: Y también contigo. The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones. And also with you.
People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor. Lift up your hearts.
Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios. We lift them up to the Lord.
People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Leader: Holy God, you bless us with many gifts. You visit us with surprising proclamations; you intend for us to be vessels of good deeds; you include us in your plans for healing and hope for the world. Use our gifts and offerings in the same way for the sake of all your children here and around the world. In Christ’s name. Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #140*

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE “The King Shall Come” arr. David N. Johnson

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.
As part of ELPC’s mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. This notice is to inform you that by being in attendance, you give permission for incidences where you appear within the video. Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors.

♦ Participants In Today’s Service
Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Dr. Kathy Glass
Lis and Megan Ormsbee
Molly, Andrew, Sydney
and Calvin Swagler
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist/
Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
ELPC Ringers
Acolytes: Josh Bellin and Mabel Buben
Crucifer: David Bellin
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

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

♦ Worship Flowers
The poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon.

♦ Sunday Worship —
There is no Journey Worship next Sunday, Dec 29.
11 am.........Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. Dec 29 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

Extended Session
After the Moments with our 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 NAMETAG that your child wears 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 38-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.
   Mondays, 9 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 also:

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. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register for 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

Tour of Sanctuary and Chapel
Join guide Tom Morton today after the Sanctuary worship service for an in-depth tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel. All are welcome to join the tour! Please gather in the Highland Lobby.

Sing in our All-Ages Christmas Eve Choir
An all-ages choir will sing a simple anthem at our Christmas Eve Friends and Family service on Tuesday, Dec 24 at 5 pm, under the direction of Dr. Ed Moore. We will rehearse after Sanctuary worship today for 30-45 minutes. Persons of all ages and experience levels are welcome, but children and youth must be accompanied by an adult. Please see Dr. Ed if you’d like to participate.

Café Justo Coffee for Sale
Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale during today’s Fellowship Time. 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. This is a great opportunity to stuff a stocking with some Café Justo, and at the same time support this worthy company.

Club 116 Meals Needed for 2020
Thank you to all who provided meals for our Wednesday night Club 116 this fall! The sign-up sheet for 2020 is now open. It can be a one-time sign up (or more if you want) on one Wednesday evening for a meal that feeds about 40-50. Stay and serve it to the youth, or drop it off if you are busy that evening. For details, contact Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net), or sign up in the Highland Ave hallway.

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 Journey service DOD is Elaine Phillips.
The Sanctuary service DOD is David Cowan.

No Taizé Sung Prayer Service — Dec 25 and Jan 1
Please note we will not have a Taizé sung prayer service on Wednesdays, Dec 25 and Jan 1.

DG2! @ EECM — Dec 26
Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom will gather to make and serve dinner to the residents at EECM at the Doing Good Together (DG2!) event on Sunday, Dec 26 from 3-8 pm. We will meet at ELPC, travel to Rodef Shalom to cook, and then go to EECM to serve dinner. Permission slip and RSVP required. Please contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

World Healing Day — Dec 31
World Healing Day is a global event in hundreds of cities worldwide to share a common vision of hope and healing. Please join us in the Social Hall for a labyrinth prayer walk on Tuesday, Dec 31 from 6:45-8 am. All are welcome to add your love and light to the healing of this world.

Beadles Meeting — Jan 5
The ELPC Beadles will have a meeting on Sunday, Jan 5 after the 11 am worship service. If you are interested in becoming a Beadle or to find out what it’s all about, this would be a great opportunity to come and join our merry band. The meeting will be in the Highland Room, off the Highland Ave Entrance.

Christmas Eve @ ELPC
5:00 pm Family Service
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching
10:00 pm Candlelight Service
The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush preaching
Prelude music begins at 9:30 pm
As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to remember the following people in your prayers:

Kathy Callahan’s friend Shane,
David Carl’s friend’s son Morgan,
Martha DeMarzi’s friend,
Molly Dimond-Stephany’s sister-in-law,
Agnes Green, Cathie Hajdu,
Lynne Irvin, Lee Lewand,
Polly McQueen’s brother Clay,
Carolyn Russ’ friend Norman,
Heather Schoenewolf’s niece Rose,
Pam Walaski’s niece Kaela and Pat Valoon.

Our condolences to Charlotte Smith on her sister’s passing.

No Committee Meetings This Week
ELPC pastors and staff wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!

Knitting Group — Resumes Jan 6
Due to the holidays, the evening knitting group is canceled and will resume on Monday, Jan 6, 2020.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study — Jan 6 and 7
Join PW for their Bible study titled Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the 10 Commandments on Monday, Jan 6 at 7pm, and Tuesday, Jan 7 at 10:15am. Monday’s group will be facilitated by Sherry Anderson and meet in the Trustees Room. Tuesday’s group will be led by Michele Bossers in the 2nd floor Parlor, and is followed by a potluck lunch.

Feeling Crafty? — Jan 7 and 13
Start the new year off with a new knitting project. The Knitting Group is working on special pieces for breast cancer survivors. We will meet on Sunday, Jan 7, following the Presbyterian Women Bible study. The Sewing Group will meet on Monday, Jan 13 from 2:30–6 pm to work on projects for the ELPC clothes closet, and for men and women in Guatemala. Call Diane Jackson (412.441.6021) for more info on either group.

Deborah Marx Retirement Reception — Jan 12
Join us on Sunday, Jan 12 after worship for a retirement reception for Deborah Marx, our financial administrator. Deborah started at ELPC 18 years ago, first as an administrative assistant to our business administrator, then as the church’s bookkeeper. This role expanded last year into the broader position of financial administrator. Join us to celebrate her years of service.

LGBTQ Ministry — Jan 12
All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC’s LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Jan 12 at 12:30 pm to share lunch and fellowship. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. For more details or to attend, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118). God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.

Enjoy Breakfast on Winter Rally Day — Jan 12
Sunday School classes for people of all ages will resume on Winter Rally Day, Sunday, Jan 12 at 9:45 am. The Christian Education Committee invites you to a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Room on the first floor beginning at 9:30 am. Please bring holiday breads and fruits to share (ready to serve). Come and grab a bite to eat on your way to class.

Enneagram Retreat Day — Jan 18
Join the Spiritual Life Committee on Saturday, Jan 18 from 9 am-4 pm for A Day Retreat on the Enneagram. Lunch will be provided. There is no fee for the retreat; but we do ask that you let the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan or Norma know if you plan to attend (412.441.3800 x111).

Play Café — Jan 18
Families with kids of all ages are invited to come together for a time of fellowship and fun on Saturday, Jan 18 from 4-6 pm. At 4:30 pm, Kindermusik educator Christa Beck will lead a family music class where children and their caring grownups can move, play, sing and breathe together. Following music class, there will be a time of free play with stations for kids of all ages, and snacks for all. Just bring yourselves and a snack or appetizer to share. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Pastor Heather Schoenewolf (HeatherS@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x121).

Chatham Baroque to Perform — Feb 15
The ninth season of ELPC’s Cathedral Concerts series continues on Saturday, Feb 15 at 8 pm with a performance by Chatham Baroque in the Chapel. Tickets can be purchased at www.ChathamBaroque.org. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members. Contact Dr. Edward Alan Moore for details.

In the Refuge of One Another Retreat — Feb 28 to March 1
All are invited to our In the Refuge of One Another meditation retreat, taking place Friday–Sunday, Feb 28 to March 1, at the Kearns Spirituality Center. The retreat will be led by Susan Spangler and is informed by the teachings of James Finley and Thomas Merton. Engage in meditative and contemplative practices and teachings that bring to life the complementary intersection of Christianity and Buddhism as faithful paths to God. Beginners welcome!

The cost is $160, which includes meditation instruction, two room nights, dinner on Friday, three meals on Saturday, and brunch on Sunday. Registration forms are available at ELPC.church and throughout our church.

Chapel Market
The Chapel Market is closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, Jan 6 at 10 am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES
There will be no Church School classes on Sundays, Dec 29 and Jan 5 for a Christmas holiday break.