



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412/441-3800 www.ELPC.church

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)

JANUARY 3, 2016 — 11 AM SANTUARY WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

TIME OF PREPARATION

“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards” — Søren Kierkegaard

“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”
— Mother Teresa

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

#137

“He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

#126

“Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child”

WONDERFUL CHILD

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 Rev. Fowler-Searcy

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Judy Menk

Leader: God's face is shining on us in this New Year. God's majesty and glory fill the heavens.

People: How amazing are the works of God! Who are we that God should care for us?

Leader: God calls us by name and promises to bless us. God names us a children and heirs with Christ.

People: In this New Year of promise, may we leave behind our slavery to things. May we aspire to spiritual fulfillment.

Leader: The God who exalted Jesus calls us to discipleship. We are being saved to do God's work in the world.

People: God is at work in us, doing great and wonderful things; thus our efforts are crowned with glory and honor.

All: Let us worship God with joy this day! Hallelujah and Amen!

* HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Judy Menk

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Judy Menk

Gracious God, you chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless, yet we do not love our brothers and sisters as he taught. You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, yet we take our status for granted and fail to obey Christ when he calls us to follow. With all wisdom and insight you have made known to us the mystery of your will, yet we stubbornly refuse to study your Word. Forgive our sin, O God, and help us set our hope on Christ that we may live for the praise of his glory.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Judy Menk

Leader: In Christ, when we heard the Word of truth, the gospel of our salvation, and believed in him, we were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. This is the pledge of our **inheritance toward redemption as God's own people. In this promise lies our assurance.** Friends believe the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Praise God!

EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-14

Pam Kimmel

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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

* HYMN #127

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-18

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"In the Beginning ..."

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Tom Menk

Please use the words most familiar and comfortable to you.

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Menk

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

"Joyful, Joyful"

Journey Praise Team



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and
praise.

Leader: Glorious God, for all we have inherited from your hand, for making us in your own image, for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ, we give you thanks. Nothing we do can repay you. No service we render, no obligations we fulfill can discharge our debt to you. We can only pour out our gratitude and give of ourselves and these gifts that this world become a place where your reign is realized and you are truly known.

People: Amén. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN #136

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy



Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Liturgists: Sara Hackett

Pam Kimmel

Judy Menk

The Rev. Tom Menk

Musicians: **Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo**, *Music Associate*

Journey Praise Team

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time. All are welcome!

If you would like to make a food or monetary donation in support of our Fellowship Time, please call Kate Carlson (412.441.3800 x16).

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers for our worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Norma (412.441.3800 x11). The cost is \$100 a Sunday.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am Journey. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jan 10 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.

Jan 10 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

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 151.*

♦ 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

(Room 135, in Highland Ave hallway)

Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to listen for the still, small voice of God. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is ELPC.

Open 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 Narthex. 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 January 24 and 31 for an opportunity to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register (412.441.3800 x22; GloriaK@coh.net).

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