



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 17, 2016 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Enlivening God, each morning I am awakened by your goodness nudging the earth to life. Your steadfast love extends to the sky, your constancy reaches to the clouds. How precious is your care. It shines like the dawn, and dews the desolation of my soul. Manifest in me the gifts of your Spirit that I may rejoice in you as I delight in serving your world this day. Amen.
(from Isaiah 62 and Ps. 36)

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
The Hampton Court Conference of King James I appointed 54 scholars to produce a new translation of the bible (1604); Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston (1706); Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, who saved tens of thousands of Jews, disappeared in Hungary while in Soviet custody (1945); Pres. Eisenhower warns in his farewell address about the rise of "the military-industrial complex" (1961).

TIME OF PREPARATION

"In answer to such questions as, "Why should I be a Christian?" or, "What can the church do for me?" perhaps we ought to tell other people and remind ourselves that God has something for us to do in the world. God commands us to live a faithful, responsible, active life in our "non-religious" intellectual, sexual, business, political and social relationships. That is how we fulfill our humanity in God's image."

— Shirley Guthrie, *Christian Doctrine*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organist*

"Grave and Adagio (Sonata II)"

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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 (from Psalm 36)

Bryan Lawrence

Leader: How priceless is your love, O God! Your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

People: For with you is the source of true life, and in your light we see light.

Leader: Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens and your covenant with us extends to the far horizon.

People: Continue to show your loving-kindness to all your people; may your blessing ever rest upon those who are true of heart.

Leader: Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #611

HYMN TO JOY

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Loving God, in every gathering of Christian believers, you bring together a people of diverse gifts, strengths and needs. You call us to manifest your covenant of common purpose and common faith. Yet we have been led astray by the individualism of our age. We depend on our possession instead of your grace. We denigrate others instead of welcome the gifts they offer. We trust in the might of the sword rather than the strength of your Spirit. Forgive us, we pray. Lead us to true repentance that we may serve you faithfully; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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Etta Cox has been voted **Pittsburgh's best jazz** vocalist for 8 consecutive years. *Alabaster Box* is a single from the 1999 album of the same name by CeCe Winans.

Although the entire book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters, it is typically divided into three sections:
First Isaiah ch. 1-39,
Second Isaiah 40-55, and
Third Isaiah ch. 56-66.
The latter two parts trace the movement of the Hebrew people out of Babylonian exile and back home in Palestine.

Composer René Clausen (b. 1943) is conductor of The Concordia Choir at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. *Set Me As a Seal* is one of the **movements of Clausen's** 1989 sacred cantata *A New Creation*.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 7:36-39, 44-48

Heather Lawrence

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Our Extended Session program is provided for infants and toddlers up to age 3 in the first floor Nursery and pre-school age through grade 1 in Room 151.

SOLO

"Alabaster Box"

Etta Cox, *soloist*
Janice Sjostrand

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 62:1-5

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SERMON

"Marriage in Beulah Land"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

"You shall be called Hephzibah (My Delight is in Her) and your land Beulah (Married)."
— Isaiah 62:4

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English text) or on pg. 40 (Spanish text) in the Glory to God hymnal.

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

"Set Me As a Seal"

René Clausen
from Song of Solomon 8:6-7

*Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death,
Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it.
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death.*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy was commissioned to compose a set of *voluntaries* by the English publishers Coventry and Hollier. Mendelssohn composed several voluntaries and then decided to extend them and organize them into a set of six sonatas. The use of the term *sonata* does not refer to the classical sonata form, but rather as it had been used by Bach, as a suite of varying pieces. **Mendelssohn's six** sonatas, his opus 65, were published in 1845.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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, we offer our gifts with grateful hearts, trusting that by your healing mercy we find unity and reconciliation and shared joy in this act of stewardship. Go with us as we journey forth this day, that we may believe with our minds and trust in our hearts that you alone are Lord of all creation. Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray.

People: Amén.

Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #774

STUTTGART

“There Is Now a New Creation”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

Dr. Moore, *organist*

“Allegro maestoso e vivace (Sonata II)”

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

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.



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. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Bryan and Heather Lawrence
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*
ELPC Chancel Choir
Etta Cox, *soloist*
Acolytes: Charlotte Brake-Hoffman and
Zaida Collins
Beadle: Matt Stuft
Crucifer: Lynne Irvin
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time following the service. All are welcome to attend.

If you would like to make a food or monetary donation in support of our Fellowship Time, please call Pamela Kimmel (412.441.3800 x18).

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in honor of the Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy's **ordination and installation** as Associate Pastor for Mission Ministries at ELPC.

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 x11). The cost is \$100 a Sunday.

◆ WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

8:45 am.....Journey. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.
Jan 24 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.
Jan 24 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf 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 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 McKelvy 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 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 for future classes (GloriaK@coh.net).

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