



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South 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)*

## NOVEMBER 27, 2016 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM SERVICE



The threat to our salvation is the clash of peoples: Jews and Arabs, offspring of a single father, separated in youth by jealousy, in adolescence by fear, in adulthood by power, in old age by habit. It is time to break these habits of hate and create new habits: habits of the heart that will awake within us the causeless love of redemption and peace.  
(Rabbi Rami Shapiro)

### TIME OF PREPARATION

“Eternal God, whose image lies in the hearts of all people, we live among peoples whose ways are different from ours, whose faiths are foreign to us. Help us to remember that you love all people with your great love, that all religion is an attempt to respond to you, that the yearnings of other hearts are much like our own and are known to you. Help us to recognize you in the words of truth, the things of beauty, the actions of love about us. We pray through Christ, who is a stranger to no one land more than another, and to every land no less than to another.”

— World Council of Churches, 1983

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

“Partita on Winchester New”  
Chorale-Meditation-Bicinium-Aria-Trio

Bruce Neswick

### 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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Brittney Krieger and Lauren Uranker

Leader: The prophet Jeremiah has said “The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people. Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.” We light this candle as a symbol of hope as we trust in the promises of God.

*The first candle is lit.*

Leader: May this light bring us together, children of Abraham and Sarah, peoples of faith, ambassadors of shalom, salaam, peace.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #385

OLD HUNDREDTH

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”

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

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All praise is due to God alone, the Sustainer of all the worlds, the Most Gracious, the Dispenser of Grace, Lord of the Day of Judgment! Thee alone do we worship; and unto Thee alone do we turn for aid. Guide us in the straight way – the way of those upon whom Thou hast bestowed Thy blessings, not of those who have been condemned by Thee, nor of those who go astray!  
(*Al-Fātihah, The Opening*)

Composer Mark Sirett (b. 1952) is a native of Kingston, Ontario. This text, by an anonymous poet, possibly dates to the 15th Century.

Today is the birthday of Jimi Hendrix (1942), Bill Nye (1955), and Caroline Kennedy (1957). It is also the date in which Douglas Wilder became the first African American elected governor (1989). According to the Jewish calendar, today is the 26th of Cheshvan 5777, while in the Islamic calendar it is the 27th of Safar 1438.

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM CALL TO PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush  
Rabbi James A. Gibson, *Temple Sinai*  
Imam Abdul Wajid, *Islamic Center of Pittsburgh*

STORIES OF OUR TRADITIONS

*Reading from Hebrew Scripture* Genesis 12:1-9  
*Reading from Qur'an* Sūrah 37 (As-Sāaffāt) vs. 100-113

The Rev. Dr. Bush  
Imam Abdul Wajid

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

*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.*

Sara Hackett

\* HYMN #19

“God of Great and God of Small” GOD OF GREAT AND SMALL

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 25:7-13

Rabbi James A. Gibson

SERMON

“Bridging the Chasm with Blessings” Rabbi James A. Gibson

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.*

OFFERING INVITATION

*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.*

The Rev. Dr. Bush

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes”

Mark Sirett

*Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by any din of drums,  
Nor his manners, nor his airs,  
Nor by any thing he wears.  
  
Thou shalt know him when he comes,  
Not by crown or by gown,  
But his coming known shall be,  
By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.  
  
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.*

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION HYMN #612

KREMSER

“We Praise You, O God” (verse 1 only)

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

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## Nov 27 • First Sunday of Advent

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

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do show the glory of your name and serve the good of all peoples. Amen.

**Bruce Neswick's Partita on Winchester New** is based on the hymn tune of the same name. The tune is found twice in our *Glory to God* hymnal, #42, #96. The partita was composed in 2000 for the 90th anniversary of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

### \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Sharron Boddy

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:	God of all righteousness, you have made your covenant with us through our ancestors and by your graceful Spirit. Receive our gifts of money and self that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now. We trust you and praise you, eternal God of all nations. Amen.	

### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN #49

LEONI

“The God of Abraham Praise”

### \* THREEFOLD CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Imam Abdul Wajid, *Islamic Center of Pittsburgh*  
Rabbi James A. Gibson, *Temple Sinai*  
The Rev. Dr. Bush

### POSTLUDE

“Partita on Winchester New – Toccata”

Bruce Neswick

*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.*



We thank our guests for sharing the love of

HaShem

Allah

God

Shalom. Salaam. Peace.

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

*Some prayers or liturgy were reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, copyright 2012.*

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: Rabbi James A. Gibson, *Temple Sinai*  
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Imam Abdul Wajid,  
*Islamic Center of Pittsburgh*

Sharron Boddy

Sara Hackett

Brittney Krieger and Lauren Uranker

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,  
*Organist/Music Director*

**Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo**, *Music Associate*  
ELPC Chancel Choir

Acolytes: Cecilia and Samuele Novelli

Beadle: Laura Ristau

Crucifer: Lynne Irvin

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us for our Fellowship Time in the McKelvy Room. All are welcome!

*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 Sanctuary flowers today are in loving memory of Dr. Paul C. Williams on his birthday, from the Williams, Fabilli and Motley families.

◆ 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.  
*Dec 4* — 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.  
*Dec 4* — 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 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 a *New Members and Friends Class* TODAY and Sunday, Dec 4 to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Lunch provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp to register for next week (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x22).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Children of Abraham Service

The three major world religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—all share a common foundation in the life of the patriarch Abraham. God's covenant with Abraham and his wife Sarah included the promise that their children will prosper and become the 12 tribes of ancient Israel, and the tribes descended from Ishmael.

This morning, Pastor Randy will be joined by Rabbi Jamie Gibson (Temple Sinai) and Imam Abdul Wajid (Islamic Center of Pittsburgh) to explore our common faith heritage grounded in Abraham's story. We thank them for sharing their faith with us.

### The Christmas Giving Tree – Today + Dec 4

Every year, the Deacons organize the *Christmas Giving Tree* to benefit children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM), as well as our ELPC ministries.

The *Giving Tree* will be set up near the Information Desk before and after our Journey and Sanctuary services today and next Sunday, Dec 4, and our Taizé services on Wednesdays, Nov 30 and Dec 7. Stop by and pick up a tag!

Wrapped gifts with tags are due in the church office by noon on Sunday, Dec 11. To make a monetary donation, make your check payable to *ELPC Giving Tree* and deliver it to the church office.

### Young Adult Ministry (YAM): An Awesome Abrahamic Event

One patriarch and three religions come together at ELPC as we welcome our siblings in faith from local Muslim and Jewish congregations. YAMs are invited to start at the church school class (9:45-10:45 am in the Pastor's Conference Room), then experience a combined worship service (11 am), before the young adults have lunch and conversation in the 2nd floor Parlor (12:30-2:00pm).



### Hanging of the Greens

You're invited to help with our annual holiday decorating following today's 11 am service. We'll have a variety of activities, from sorting ornaments to hanging wreaths. No experience is necessary! All are welcome to come help the Worship, Music, and Arts Committee ready our worship space for the season.

### Today's DODs

Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Mary Evrard**.  
The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Matt Stuftt**.

### New Members and Friends (Inquirers) Class

For those who have registered for today's *New Members and Friends* class, please gather in Room 244 after the 11 am service. If you would like to join next week's class for an opportunity to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology (with lunch), please call Gloria Knopp (412.441.3800 x22) to register or for details.

### Advent Devotionals Available

The Christian Education Committee is offering Advent Devotionals so that you might deepen your faith as you await the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. The devotionals are on the table outside of the East Transept and on the Christian Education table on the 2nd floor. They will also be available at the Journey service.



### Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee is grateful for the positive pledge responses already received by the congregation. If you haven't had an opportunity to turn in a pledge for 2017, there are pledge cards in the pews and also near the Highland Ave hospitality desk available to be filled out and placed in the offering plates. Your response is appreciated as it saves the church from having to mail out reminder letters.

### Presbyterian Women Thank Offering – Dec 4

Presbyterian Women will honor the women of ELPC by receiving the Presbyterian Women *Thank Offering* on Sunday, Dec 4. The *Thank Offering* supports programs that lift up the lives of women and children around the world.

### Tour the Trinity Chapel – Dec 4

Join Elder Penn Hackney following the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Sunday, Dec 4 to visit and learn about the small, beautiful Trinity Chapel. Gather at the front of the Sanctuary following the organ postlude, and allow 20–25 minutes for the tour.

### DG2! @ ELPC – Dec 4

Doing Good Together!—a service based partnership with youth at Rodef Shalom—is starting back up on Sunday, Dec 4 from 12:30-3 pm. Youth in grades 4–12 and their families are encouraged to come and serve in a variety of ways. Lunch will be served. Please contact Sara Hackett to participate, or for details (SaraH@coh.net).

### LGBTQ Ministry Gathering – Dec 10

The next LGBTQ Ministry gathering is on Saturday, Dec 10 at 7:30 pm for the Renaissance City Choir concert, and going out after it is over. To attend or learn more, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x14).



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

Diana Armstrong, Chanteera Blackshear,  
Sharron Boddy's sister,  
Carol Bonner's cousin Mary Kay,  
Jim Cover, Kate Carlson's cousin Jack,  
Mary Evrard's godmother Ginny,  
Barbara Goodwin's husband John,  
Leigh Halverson's stepfather Brian,  
Jan Herzer and her friends Francine, Bob and Mick,  
Pam Kimmel's niece Jen, Lee Lewand,  
Deborah Marx's friends Monica and Chris,  
Polly McQueen's brother Clay,  
Sonya-Marie and Nate Morley's brother-in-law Matty,  
Sonya-Marie Morley's friend and  
Deborah Marx's cousin Eileen and her family,  
Jon Nelson's friend Clair,  
Jan Pressman's daughter Caryn,  
Mary Randolph's mother Cecilia,  
Betty Rieley, Cami Teacoach's friend Laura,  
Bob Ross' mother Anne,  
Heather Schoenewolf's cousin Louise,  
Kay Shissler and Marilyn Castle's sister Linda,  
and Andrew Wilkinson's mother Leslie.

*Our condolences to Diane Jackson on her mother's passing.*

### Committee Meeting This Week

*The church office will be closed on Monday.*

Justice..... Today, 12:15 pm (Rm 224)

### Christmas Pageant — Dec 11

Join us at 10 am on Sunday, Dec 11 for a fresh retelling of the Christmas Story by our children and youth in the Sanctuary. This year's pageant, *Do You Hear What I Hear?*, was written by ELPC member Ashley Birt. We remember that many voices told of the Christ Child's birth—from angels to shepherds, and even a star!

*Please note: Pageant Rehearsal*

All children from infancy through grade 8 are invited to participate in our pageant. Rehearsal is at 9:30 am on Saturday, Dec 10, followed by a brief celebration hosted by the Christian Education Committee. Children should report to their Church School classroom to be fitted with a costume.

### The Chapel Market Accepts Winter Outerwear Only



During November and December, *The Chapel Market* can accept **only** donations of winter outerwear (coats, jackets, gloves, scarves, hats, boots). Due to very limited storage space, no other clothing items please until after the Christmas holidays.

*Thank you for your generosity and your interest.*

IN OUR

## COMMUNITY



### Amnesty International Write-a-Thon — Dec 7

Join Amnesty International Group 39 and other human rights groups and community leaders for their 30th Annual Write-a-thon and Human Rights Festival on Wednesday, Dec 7 from 6-9 pm at Calvary Episcopal Church (315 Shady Ave, 15206). Email [amnesty39@gmail.com](mailto:amnesty39@gmail.com) for more info.

### Looking for a way to put your love in action?



Visit the iSERVE webpage at [www.ELPC.church/programs/iserive-2](http://www.ELPC.church/programs/iserive-2) to learn about other service opportunities, or contact Wil Forrest (412.441.3800 x14).

### ◆ Club 116 Dinner Provider for 2017 ◆

### The Great Exchange: Music — Dec 11

On Sunday, Dec 11 at 12:30 pm in the Music Room, folks of all ages are invited to *The Great Exchange: Music*, a fun, interactive event where together—across the generations—we will explore some fun and intriguing discussion questions centered around the topic of music. We will enjoy a simple lunch while sharing our stories with one another. No preparation is necessary.

### Cathedral Concert: Christmas in East Liberty — Dec 16

Please join us—and invite your friends and family—for a joyous *Christmas in East Liberty* performance in the Sanctuary on Friday, Dec 16 at 7:30 pm. The Brass Roots return for another festive concert with the ELPC Chancel Choir and Dr. Ed Moore at the organ. This concert has become an East Liberty tradition and one of the most highly anticipated concerts of the season! A freewill offering will be received.

## Church School Classes

Dec 4 ◆ 9:45 to 10:45 am

**Contemporaries** — “The Stranger and Hospitality: The East End of Pittsburgh” led by Mark Roth and Pastor Patrice Fowler-Searcy

**Seekers** — “Easter and Christmas Christians and God’s Gift of Unique Presence” led by Paul Seif

**Journey with Scripture** — Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12 facilitated by Jan Irvin and Lora Bethea

**Soul Food** — A discussion of the first part of chapter six of *The Gift of Being Yourself* led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Judy Roberts, and Steve Evrard