



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)

DECEMBER 11, 2016 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The prelude setting of *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* is from Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) collection of chorale preludes called *Das Orgelbüchlein* (Little Organ Book). This chorale is found in the purple *Glory to God* hymnal, #102.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us out to tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

"When friends laugh, it is for them to disclose the subject of their joy; when they weep, it is for me to discover the cause of their sorrow."

— Joseph François Desmahis

"Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

— John 15:13

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599"
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

arr. Marilyn Biery
J. S. Bach

Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music.

Please use this as a time for silent prayer and preparation.

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.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Stephen, Trish, Margo and Mabel Buben

Leader: The prophets declare that one of the names for the Messiah is Immanuel, which means God-with-us. 'Through the witness of Jesus' friends and disciples, we too have learned to call this rabbi of Nazareth "Immanuel, God's Savior who is with us." This good news fills us with great joy.

As three candles are lit, the congregation sings Advent hymn #88 (vs. 6):

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: We light these candles of hope, peace and joy as a sign of God's presence in Christ, the risen Lord who declares "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83

STUTT GART

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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While there are two letters in the New Testament attributed to the apostle Peter, their content and late date of composition make it more likely that they were written by someone else in Peter's name. There are striking similarities between 2 Peter and Jude, another very late New Testament epistle. Nonetheless, this letter has a strong pastoral quality, calling us to draw near to Christ as "to a lamp in a dark place."

The text of *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* is taken from the fourth-century Orthodox Liturgy of St. James of Jerusalem. Gerard Moultrie's verse translation was published in 1864 when there was renewed interest in early Christian rites, awakened doubtless by the Oxford Movement.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Holy God, you are near. In your presence, we confess our need for repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation nor protect your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are too often afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our brokenness into unified praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSE OF PRAISE HYMN #92 (remain seated)

WAITING (CASON)

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

While we are waiting, come. While we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come. With power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come. Come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

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!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 35:1-7, 10

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.

* HYMN #683

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

COURTNEY

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Peter 1:12-21

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SERMON

"What Friends Said About Jesus"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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. 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

"Let All Mortal Flesh"

arr. John Rutter

The text can be found in the Glory to God hymnal #347.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Today is the birthday of author Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1918) and singer Rosita Dolores Alverio [Rita Moreno] (1931). It is also the date in which Dr. Ralph Bunche became the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize (1950) for his diplomatic work mediating with Israel.

The Advent hymn *Prepare the Way, O Zion* comes from an old Swedish tune, which can be traced to an earlier German folk tune. Its text comes from Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10.

The postlude setting of *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* is from Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) collection of chorale preludes known as the *Leipzig Chorales*, as they are from the final period of his life when he lived and worked in Leipzig, Germany.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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:	Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope. As you have been a friend to us, may we truly be friends to all your children, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #106

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

Johann Sebastian Bach

"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661"

(Savior of the Nations, Come)

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.

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◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Stephen, Trish, Margo, Mabel Buben
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*
ELPC Chancel Choir
Acolytes: Corinne and Paige Krimmel
Beadle: Matthew Stufft
Crucifer: Ian Bush
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

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.
Dec 18 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.
Dec 18 — 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* to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Lunch is provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for information on future classes (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x22).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Christmas Pageant

Join us at 10 am in the Sanctuary 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.

The Great Exchange: Music

Today 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, just come and enjoy.

The Christmas Giving Tree

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

Today's DOD

Today's *Journey* service DOD is Mary Evrard.
The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Henry Petrilli.



Reception of Friends and Members — Next Sunday

Anyone wishing to be formally affiliated with our church as a "Friend of ELPC" is invited to meet briefly next Sunday, Dec 18 in the 1st floor Library at 10:20 am. We will be welcoming new friends and members as part of the 11 am service on that day.



Christmas Eve Services
Saturday, December 24

Services will be in the Sanctuary, and include Communion and candle lighting.

5:00 PM
FAMILY SERVICE
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will preach.

11:00 PM
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Music begins at 10:30 pm.
The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will preach.

Remember Our Weekly Taizé Service

During this month, take time to enjoy the Taizé worship service in the chapel at 7 pm on Wednesdays.

Also stop by the chapel to enjoy the Christmas stained glass window (left rear) or the large Christ the King window over the chapel communion table (which was one of the stained glass windows preserved from the prior ELPC building), which depicts Mary holding the infant Jesus.



Feeling Crafty?— Dec 14


If you are interested in joining the Toymakers, Sewing or Knitting groups, please contact Diane Jackson for more info (412.441.6021; dnjcks@verizon.net). The Toymakers will meet on Wednesday, Dec 14 from 9–11:30 am.

YAM CE Class: A Christmas Event — Dec 18

The Young Adult Ministry (YAM) will have a CE class on Sunday, Dec 18 from 9:45-10:45 am in the Pastor's Conference Room. Celebrate the season with some breakfast, scripture and friends.

Christmas Joy Offering Received — Dec 18

The 2016 *Christmas Joy Offering* celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the "wondrous gift" of God with us. Since the 1930s, the PC (USA) has provided the opportunity for congregations to join this celebration of God's wondrous gift by supporting those in need of help and hope through the *Christmas Joy Offering*. In gratitude to God for the wondrous gift of Jesus, ELPC will receive the *Christmas Joy Offering* on Sunday, Dec 18. Please give generously.



CHRISTMAS IN EAST LIBERTY
Friday, Dec 16 ♦ 7:30 pm

The Brass Roots will return for another festive concert with Dr. Ed Moore at the organ and ELPC's Chancel Choir. Please invite your friends and family to join us in the Sanctuary for this joyous concert!

A freewill offering will be received.



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

Ray Anthony, Diana Armstrong,
Chanteera Blackshear, Sharron Boddy's sister,
Carol Bonner's cousin Mary Kay,
Kate Carlson's cousin Jack, Judi Dixon's husband Ken,
Mary Evrard's godmother Ginny,
Barbara Goodwin's husband John,
Maria Elena Hernandez,
Jan Herzer and her friends Francine, Bob and Mick,
Kathy Kierwa, Pam Kimmel's niece Jen, Lee Lewand,
Gail Mallory, Deborah Marx's friends Monica and Chris,
Polly McQueen's brother Clay,
Sonya-Marie and Nate Morley's brother-in-law Matty,
Jon Nelson's friend Clair, Jan Pressman's daughter Caryn,
Mary Randolph's mother Cecilia,
Betty Rieley, Heather Schoenewolf's cousin Louise,
Pat Valoon and her friend Robert,
Rich White, and Andrew Wilkinson's mother Leslie.

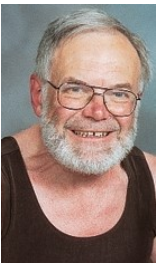
Our condolences to David Carl on his uncle's passing.

Our condolences to Kristine Conley on her uncle's passing.

Our condolences to Doris Dick on her father's passing.

Our condolences to Justin and Florence Johnson on their brother-in-law's passing.

Our condolences to the family of Jim Cover on his passing.



On Wednesday, Dec 14 in the Chapel during the 7 pm Taizé service, prayers and a time to remember Jim Cover will be included. Jim was a member of ELPC, actively involved with the *Toymakers, Seekers, and Mission Committee*. He also played recorder and was a long-time volunteer musician and supporter of the Taizé service.

Christmas Day Celebration — Dec 25

All are invited to celebrate Christmas together as a church family after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec 25, in the McKelvy Room. Our time together will include brunch, music and fellowship. Please RSVP to Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.260.2554) by Sunday, Dec 18.



Looking for a way to put your love in action?



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

◆ Club 116 Dinner Provider for 2017 ◆

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



People's Natural Gas Free Energy Seminar — Dec 15

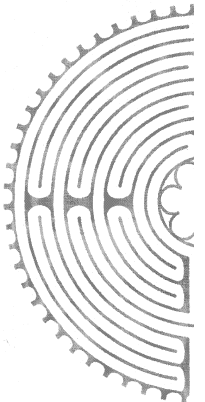
The YWCA in Homewood-Brushton (6907 Frankstown Ave) is hosting a free energy education seminar for current customers of Peoples Natural Gas on Thursday, Dec 15 from 5-7:30 pm. Learn how to lower your gas bill, receive dinner, free energy kits and tips, and have a chance to win a gift card. Limited spots available. RSVP by Dec 13 (no exceptions) to 412.255.1292.

Committee Meeting This Week

Neighbors Today, 12:30 pm (Session Rm)

World Healing Day — Dec 31

On Saturday, Dec 31 from 6:50 to 8 am, join us on the labyrinth for *World Healing Day* — a planetary affirmation of peace and love, forgiveness and understanding involving millions of people in a simultaneous global mind link. You can walk the labyrinth and/or meditate. Please join us in body or spirit and add your love and light to the healing of this world. For more info, call 412.244.3333 or visit www.quartus.org.



Church School Classes

Dec 18 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Contemporaries — “The Stranger and Hospitality: The Parables of the Wedding Feast” led by Mary Alice Lightle

Seekers — “Gifts of the Season” led by class members and invited guests

Journey with Scripture — Isaiah 7:10–16; Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25 facilitated by Jan Irvin and Lora Bethea

Soul Food — A concluding discussion of chapter six of *The Gift of Being Yourself* led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Michele Bossers and Sel Whitaker

YAM — “A Christmas Event” facilitated by Wil Forrest

Renovations are Coming Soon!

We anticipate renovation work to begin on ELPC in early 2017.

To help prepare for this, you can meet with Renovations Committee members and hear more about the extent of the work and timing for the construction in the 1st floor Library following the 11 service on **Sunday, Dec 18.**