



# 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 25, 2016 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP CHRISTMAS DAY

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:  
O God of peace, to you  
we ascribe all honor and  
majesty, beauty and  
strength. You bring forth  
a child whom we call  
blessed, upon whose  
shoulders rests the  
destiny of nations. You  
give us the gift of life  
everlasting, a wonderful  
counselor who shall  
guide all your people.  
With shepherds and  
angels, we lift our voices  
rejoicing: All glory to you  
in the highest, and on  
earth peace among  
those with whom you  
dwell. Amen.

### TIME OF PREPARATION

"Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.  
All things break. And all things can be mended.  
Not with time, as they say, but with intention.  
So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.  
The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you."

— L. R. Knost

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
"Unto Us A Child Is Born"

TRADITIONAL  
TRADITIONAL

Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *piano*

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

### \* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.  
People: Y también contigo.

The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

### CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 98)

Wil Forrest

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous  
song and sing praises.

People: We will sing praises to the Lord with the lyre and the sound of the  
horn.

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

People: We will sing you a new song, O God, for the marvelous things you  
have done. Let us worship God! Hallelujah and Amen!

### \* OPENING HYMN #134

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

God of the commonplace, we confess that we are often impressed by power  
and authority. We do not expect to meet you in the poor of the land, in cold  
barns, or on lonely duty watches. We are slow to hear the angels or to embrace  
**the "good news of great joy." We hesitate to leave our chosen tasks to share in**  
your larger purposes. We settle for idols of material security even as you thrust  
us into the uncertainties and struggles of life, where we have nothing on which  
to rely other than our faith in you. Forgive our lack of trust and faithlessness.  
Renew within us your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

### TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

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ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY:

Pope Leo III crowns Charles the Great (Charlemagne) Roman Emperor (800); St. Francis of Assisi assembles the first Nativity scene in Greccio, Italy (1223); the beloved Christmas carol (*Silent Night, Holy Night - Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*) was sung in Austria (1818); Louisiana and Arkansas are the first states to observe Christmas as a holiday (1831); Montgomery Ward introduces Rudolph the 9th reindeer (1939); *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a film adaptation of the novel by Harper Lee, directed by Robert Mulligan and starring Gregory Peck, is released (1962); and it was the first successful trial run of the system which would become the World Wide Web (1990).

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all. Do not be afraid. This is a day for good news of great joy. The Savior is born anew in our midst. Glory to God in the highest! Praise God for all we are seeing and hearing, as love is made known among us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

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



Lessons & Carols

LESSON — *The Prophet Tells of the Coming of the Savior*  
Isaiah 9:2-7

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

HYMN #102

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

LESSON — *The Peace Christ will bring is Foreshown*  
Isaiah 11:1-10

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

HYMN #109

“Blest Be the God of Israel”

MERLE'S TUNE

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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

LESSON — *The Angel Gabriel Visits the Blessed Mary*  
Luke 1:26-38

Pamela Kimmel

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mary, Did You Know?”

Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene

LESSON — *Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus*  
Luke 2:1-6

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HYMN #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

LESSON — *The Shepherds go to the Manger*  
Luke 2:8-15

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HYMN #113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

LESSON — *The Wise Persons are Led by the Star to Jesus*  
Matthew 2:1-12

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

HYMN #114

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

LESSON — *Great Mystery of the Incarnation*  
John 1:1-15

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Love Has Come”

arr. Eric T. Myers

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

The date of the first Christmas, according to calendar-maker Dionysius Exiguus: The earliest possible date Christmas was celebrated — Dec 25, 337; first definite date Christmas was celebrated — Dec 25, 352.

It is not over, this birthing. There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars... Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and not their eyes, always listening for angels' words.  
(Ann Weems)

Who knows, at birth, what a child will become? Did Mary sing her song when her son left home, when he sat on a hillside, hung on a cross, and shattered the tomb? Who knows what a child will become? For whenever new life surges in a home or a nation, strong as the incoming tide, it changes the shape of the shoreline so that even the castles of power are like sand.  
(Brian Wren)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

*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. Dr. Bush

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"The First Nowell"

arr. Mack Wilberg

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush  
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: No offering can adequately express our thanks, loving God, but what we give, we bring with joy. May the good tidings of salvation live in these gifts, in our hearts, our actions and in our lives. May the ends of the earth know the steadfast love of God through the mission of this church, made manifest in the birth of the Christ child. Amen.

\* CLOSING HYMN

"Raise a Song of Gladness"

♩ = 84 (A) D G A (B)

Ju - bi - la - te De - o om - nis ter - ra.  
Raise a song of glad - ness, peo - ples of the earth.

Ser - vi - te Do - mi - no in lae - ti - ti - a.  
Christ has come, bring - ing peace, joy to ev - 'ry heart.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, in lae - ti - ti - a!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - 'ry heart!

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

"In Dulci Jubilo"

J. S. Bach

*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

Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
Wil Forrest

Sara Hackett  
Pamela Kimmel

Musicians: **Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo**, *Music Associate*  
Carly Noel Black, *cantor*  
Adrianna Cleveland, *cantor*  
Todd Farwell, *cantor*  
Pam Kimmel, *cantor*

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us in the McKelvy Room for our special Christmas brunch with music! 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 poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon.

*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

*There will be no Journey service on Jan 1.*

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.  
*Jan 1* — The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan preaching.

Extended Session

*We will not have an Extended Session program today or next Sunday, Jan 1.*

♦ 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 special Christmas brunch with music 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 February 5 and 12 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; 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

### Christmas Day Celebration

All are invited to celebrate Christmas together as a church family after today's Sanctuary worship service in the McKelvy Room. Our time together will include brunch, music, and fellowship. While an RSVP was requested, please stop by because after those who RSVP'd have been seated, we will welcome others to join us while space permits.

### Today's DOD

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Kathy Kiewra.



### Journey Worship Service

There will be no 8:45 am Journey worship service on Sunday, Jan 1. This service will resume on Sunday, Jan 8.

### New Christmas in East Liberty Concert CD Available

The Brass Roots and Dr. Ed Moore have recorded a new Christmas CD, *Christmas in East Liberty*. Copies are available for purchase for \$12. The CD is also available as a digital download for \$10. Please see Dr. Moore for the website address, or if you wish to purchase a CD.

### World Healing Day — Dec 31

On Saturday, Dec 31 from 6:50-8 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. Call 412.244.3333 or visit [www.quartus.org](http://www.quartus.org).

### Year-End Examen — Dec 31

Before celebrating the New Year, join us in the 2nd floor Parlor on Saturday, Dec 31 from 9 am-Noon for a guided meditation on the movement of God in your life during the past year. By exploring the flow of God in your life, it will become easier to experience the presence of God in this moment and the next—and the one after that. Please join us in this time of prayer, reflection, and listening. A light breakfast will be served.

### PW Bible Study — Jan 3 and 9

Join Presbyterian Women (PW) to explore the lesson *Who is Jesus according to Paul?* on Tuesday, Jan 3 at 10 am, or on Monday, Jan 9 at 7 pm in the 2nd floor Parlor. A potluck lunch will follow the Tuesday Bible Study. Participants are encouraged to bring their own table setting, including a soup bowl, along with a side to share. Soup and beverages will be provided.

### Feeling Crafty? — Jan 3, 9, 11 and 25

New helpers are always welcomed in the following groups. Contact Diane Jackson for more info (412.441.6021; [dnjcks@verizon.net](mailto:dnjcks@verizon.net)).

- ✦ *Knitting Group* — Tuesday, Jan 3, 1–3 pm
- ✦ *Sewing Group* — Monday, Jan 9, 2:30–6 pm
- ✦ *Toymakers* — Wednesdays, Jan 11 and 25, 9 am–12 pm

### First Friday Event: Anti-Violence Vigil — Jan 6

Part worship, part mission, all TRAIL....We will help host the Gay Christian Network Conference's Vigil Against Violence directed at LGBTQ people at 7 pm on Friday, Jan 6 at the Pittsburgh Convention Center. Come help the event happen with other TRAIL folks and help promote this important cause as over a thousand conference participants come to Pittsburgh that weekend. All who help at the Vigil get free admission to the Everyday Sunday and Bobby Jo Valentine concert that evening at 8:30 pm! Visit [www.gaychristian.net](http://www.gaychristian.net) for more details. This is a TRAIL young adult event.

### Healing Communities Training — Jan 7

The Justice Committee encourages members interested in helping our church discern a call for ELPC to support those in our community returning from incarceration to attend the *Healing Communities* training from 1-6 pm on Saturday, Jan 7 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave). Our goal, after this training, is to evaluate whether (and explore how) ELPC might become a *Station of Hope* for those returning from incarceration. One recent study determined the most important determinant of the future success of such individuals is the community of loving support they find upon returning from incarceration. The cost is \$20. Contact John Buckley for scholarships (412.963.0139; [mrjohnbuckley@gmail.com](mailto:mrjohnbuckley@gmail.com)). To register, please contact Scilla Wahrhaftig ([Scillahw@gmail.com](mailto:Scillahw@gmail.com); 412.361.1581).

### Club One Sixteen — Returns Jan 11

*Club One Sixteen* is our Wednesday night (3:30-7:30 pm) youth group for children and youth in grades 1–12. Students enjoy fellowship and recreation, dinner, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study. This program will resume on Wednesday, Jan 11.



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

Ray Anthony, Diana Armstrong,  
John Bavaro, TJ Benedict's friend Jen,  
Kathy Callahan's mother Ginny,  
Patricia Fountain and her daughter Summer,  
Patrice Fowler-Searcy's mother JoAnn,  
Sharon Geibel, Barbara Goodwin's husband John,  
Maria Elena Hernandez,  
Jan Herzer and her friends Francine, Bob and Mick,  
Tom Johnson, Eric Kalsey, Pam Kimmel's niece Jen,  
Kathy Kierwa, Lee Lewand, Gail Mallory,  
Deborah Marx's friends Monica and Chris,  
Polly McQueen's brother Clay,  
Sonya-Marie Morley's friend and Deborah Marx's  
cousin Eileen and her family,  
Sonya-Marie Morley's cousin's boyfriend,  
Sandra Owen's son-in-law Russell,  
Jon Nelson's friend Clair, Jan Pressman's daughter Caryn,  
Mary Randolph's mother Cecilia,  
Heather Schoenewolf's cousin Louise,  
Pat Valoon and her friend Robert,  
and Andrew Wilkinson's mother Leslie.

*Our condolences to the family of Lana Dumrauf on her passing.  
She was a long-time staff member of Pittsburgh Presbytery.*

*Our condolences to Tim Englehardt on his grandfather's passing.*

*Our condolences to Leigh Halverson on her stepfather's passing.*

*Our condolences to Bill Nace on his mother's passing.*

*Our condolences to Tony Richardson on his grandfather's passing.*

### **A Note of Thanks...**

Justin, Florence and Bill Johnson would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts, and cards over their loss of their brother-in-law, Ricardo Gutzmer.

### **LGBTQ Ministry Gathering – Jan 15**

The next LGBTQ Ministry spiritual gathering will be on Sunday, Jan 15 after the 11 am service. To learn more or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x14).

### **Silent Retreat – Jan 20 to 22**

In the midst of winter, it is easier to see the beautiful and intricate pattern of the trees and, in the silence of retreat, it is easier to see the beautiful and intricate pattern of God's presence in our lives. Share the silence with others and begin to trace that pattern for yourself at a *Silent Retreat* from Friday–Sunday, Jan 20–22. The retreat will be held at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center on the Northside. We will gather for dinner on Friday evening, and depart after brunch on Sunday. Registration is required and includes an opportunity to meet with a spiritual director. The cost is \$120 (scholarships available). Registration forms are on the Spiritual Life bulletin board.

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

### **A Time of Prayer – Dec 28**

There will be a time of prayer in support of all refugees, separated families and victims of violence at First Lutheran Church (Grant St, downtown) on Wednesday, Dec 28 at 3:30 pm. Everyone who comes for prayer is encouraged to join the outdoor vigil for Martín Esquivel at 4 pm and process to the Federal Courthouse building.

### **"Rhythm of Justice" Lecture – Jan 14**

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) is hosting the 3rd Annual Lecture and Community Conversation on Race and Faith and The Kelso Lecture titled *Rhythm of Justice*. This lecture and community conversation will be held at PTS (616 N Highland Ave) on Saturday, Jan 14 at 2 pm. For more info about this free event, visit [www.pts.edu/Race\\_Faith\\_2017](http://www.pts.edu/Race_Faith_2017), or call 412.924.1345.

### **No Committee Meetings This Week**

*The church building will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec 26 and 27, for the Christmas holiday. The church will also be closed on Monday, Jan 2 for the New Year's holiday.*

### **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).

◆ weSERVEList (in a pinch helpers) ◆

### **Experience a Choral Fantasy – Jan 29**

Join us on Sunday, Jan 29 at 3 pm as the Duquesne University Choirs, directed by Dr. Caron Daley, perform with The Arsenal Duo (*Nathan Carterette on the piano and Dr. Edward Alan Moore on the organ*) for the next Cathedral Concert in the Sanctuary. The performance is free, but a freewill offering will be received.

## **Church School Classes**

*There will be no Church School classes on  
Sunday, Jan 1  
so that we can enjoy the holiday season.*

An intergenerational *Winter Rally Day* celebration will be held on Sunday, Jan 8 from 9:45-10:45 am. Gather together and explore the scriptures through multi-sensory activity stations, which will re-appear at the 11 am service. Join us for a continental breakfast and time of fellowship as we begin the new year. The Christian Ed Committee will provide fruit and bagels, but please bring a breakfast bread or pastry to share.