



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 19, 2017 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The poet is the priest of
the invisible.
(Wallace Stevens)

Sigfrid Karg-Elert
(1877-1933) was a
famed German organist
and composer. The tune
of *Now Thank We All
Our God* is used more
as a structural device in
this piece, never being
easily recognizable to
the listener.

PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION:
Shine your light on your
Word, O Lord; by your
Spirit let us see your
wonder. For your justice
outruns our sense of
fairness; your love
overwhelms our deepest
affections. Open our
eyes, unstop our ears,
and show us your most
excellent way; for Jesus'
sake. Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

**"To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour."**

— William Blake

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Simple Gifts"

The Brass Roots
arr. Matthew Cates
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
The Brass Roots
Sigfrid Karg-Elert

"Now Thank We All Our God"
(*Marche Triomphale*)

*Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music/Prelude.
Please use this as a time for silent prayer and preparation.*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. 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

Jean Kennedy

Leader: All our words of faith and praise cannot capture the majesty of our God;
People: We praise you, Lord, who has been our dwelling place in all generations.
Leader: Yet through hymns of joy and poetry of wonder, we celebrate the one who from everlasting to everlasting is our God.
People: Even when our language falls short, God knows our hearts and the Spirit intercedes on our behalf with sighs too deep for words.
Leader: Let everything that has breath now praise the Lord!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #611

HYMN TO JOY

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood.
(T.S. Eliot)

There are three things that a poem must reach: the eye, the ear, and what we may call the heart or the mind. It is most important of all to reach the heart of the reader.
(Robert Frost)

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought; that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.
(Romans 8:16)

Rosephanye Powell (b. 1962) is one of America's premiere women composers of choral music. Her research has focused on the African-American spiritual and the art songs of William Grant Still. The text of *To Sit and Dream* is based on Langston Hughes' (1902-1967) poem *To You*.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

PRAYER OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

The Rev. Callahan

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!

PRESENTATION OF THEME

Poetic Faith

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

POEMS & SCRIPTURE LESSONS

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Children of any age are welcome to come to the steps of the chancel for Moments with our Children.

Those who have completed first grade or younger are invited to attend our Extended Session program for the remainder of our worship time in the Nursery Suite on the first floor.

POEMS & SCRIPTURE LESSONS

* HYMN #410

"God Is Calling Through the Whisper"

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

POEMS & SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Ruth 1:16-17

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Micah 6:8

John 1:1-5

SERMON

"The Words of Life"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

"To Sit and Dream"

Rosephanye Powell
text from Langston Hughes

To sit and dream. To sit and read. To sit and learn about the world.

Outside our world of here and now. Outside our problem world.

To dream of vast horizons of the soul, of dreams made whole, unfettered free. Help me

All you who are dreamers too. Help me make our world anew.

I reach out my hand to you.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

I'm a great believer in poetry out of the classroom, in public places, on subways, trains, on cocktail napkins. I'd rather have my poems on the subway than around the seminar table at an MFA program. (Billy Collins)

Poetry is truth in its Sunday clothes. (Joseph Roux)

Virgil Fox's (1912-1980) setting of *Now Thank We All Our God* is an arrangement of the third movement of Bach's *Cantata No. 79*. In the original, the chorus is singing the hymn tune. In Fox's arrangement for organ, the hymn tune is heard prominently on the solo trumpet stops of the organ.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



* 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:	For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God and Mother of us all. We offer these gifts to further your realm on earth and offer ourselves as vessels of your servant love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #643

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

"Now Thank We All Our God"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

arr. Virgil Fox

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 L. Fowler-Searcy
 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
 Jean Kennedy
 Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*
 ELPC Chancel Choir
The Brass Roots:
 Sam Eisenhandler, *trumpet*
 Matt McCormack, *trumpet*
 Rana Jurjus, *horn*
 Mike Ross, *trombone*
 John Caughman, *tuba*
 Acolyte: Marley Ervin
 Beadle: Liz Hopkins
 Crucifer: Isaiah Wilson
 Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us in the Social Hall for our annual *Thanksgiving Feast!* All are welcome!

♦ 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 \$150 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.
 Nov 26 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf.
 11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.
 Nov 26 — 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 annual *Thanksgiving Feast* in the Social Hall. 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 Sundays, Dec 3 and 10 to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. 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.

GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

RUTH 1:16-17

But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

SONG OF SOLOMON 8:6-7

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

MICAH 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

JOHN 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

POETRY IN SCRIPTURE

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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JOHN 14:1-6, 27

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

ROMANS 8:35, 37-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ECCLESIASTES 3:1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

MATTHEW 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

I CORINTHIANS 13:1-7, 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

TODAY AT ELPC

Annual Thanksgiving Feast

Join us in the Social Hall after the 11 am service for a turkey luncheon!

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (Deacon-on-Duty) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our worship services.

Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Elaine Phillips**.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Kathy Kiewra**.

Eastman at East Liberty Cathedral Concert

Eastman at East Liberty, co-sponsored with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, will bring Caroline Robinson, Amanda Mole and Ivan Bosnar (three rising star organists from the Eastman School of Music) to perform at ELPC on Sunday, Nov 19 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. Please see Dr. Ed Moore for a free ticket to the concert. A live stream of the concert will be available at Facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian.



The Chapel Market

The Chapel Market will be closed on Monday, Nov 27 to give our dedicated volunteers a well-deserved long holiday weekend. However, as the weather gets colder, donations of men's, women's, children's and infant's winter coats and boots are especially needed, as are winter clothing for children and men. New and gently used, clean clothing donations are accepted on Mondays from 10 am-Noon, or whenever the church building is open. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. For more info or to volunteer, please contact Linda and Harold Deiss (deisshl@consolidated.net).

Sewing Group — Nov 20

The ELPC Sewing group will meet on Monday, Nov 20 from 2:30–6 pm in the sewing space. Come when you can, and stay for whatever time works for you. Please contact Diane Jackson for info (dnjcks@verizon.net).

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering — Nov 26

Presbyterian Women will honor the women of ELPC by receiving the Presbyterian Women *Thank Offering* on Sunday, Nov 26. The *Thank Offering* supports programs that relieve pain, provide clean water, alleviate homelessness, provide educational opportunities, and lift up the lives of women and children throughout the world. Last year, your generosity exceeded \$3,000!

The Great Exchange — Nov 26

Folks of all ages are invited to join us in the Social Hall for *The Great Exchange* on Sunday, Nov 26 at 12 pm. Together, across the generations, we will share a simple lunch and explore some fun and intriguing discussion questions centered around the topic of *traditions*.

Examine ELPC's Architecture — Nov 26

Join our tour guide following the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Nov 26 for a closer look at the history, Gothic architecture, stained glass, and symbolism of our church's majestic Sanctuary and intimate Chapel. Please gather at the front of the Sanctuary following worship.

Faith, Science, and Our Spiritual Life Discussion — Nov 30

What do the Universe and God have in common? If I believe in God does that mean I have to deny physics? Join us on Thursday, Nov 30 from 6:30-8 pm as we discuss the intersection between the science of our universe and our understanding of the Divine. We will read, watch videos, and try to make meaning of this precious moment which we share. You are welcome whether you have read and studied these questions before or have never really thought about these things before! Come, join the conversation! (Please note: there will be no Discussion on Dec 28, but this monthly offering will resume on Jan 25.)

Hanging of the Greens

SUNDAY, NOV 26
AFTER 11 AM WORSHIP



In preparation for the Advent season, volunteers are invited to stay after worship on Sunday, Nov 26 to help us decorate our Sanctuary with the trees, wreaths, and garlands that symbolize the good news of Christ's promised presence in our world. A light lunch will be provided. Please join us!



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

Carol Chontos' father David,
Aura Jirau, Kathy Kiewra, Pam Kimmel's niece Jen,
Lee Lewand, Mike Maiolo,

Dr. Ed Moore's father Bill, Gail Noden, Dom Odim,
Henry Petrilli's father Larry, Sel Whitaker, and Pat Valoon.

*Our condolences to Tim and Linda Benedict
on his mother's passing.*

*Our condolences to the family of
Roy Hiller on his passing.*

His service will be on Saturday,
Nov 25 at 1 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary.



Our condolences to Tom Whalen on his aunt's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

*The church building will be closed on Thursday and Friday.
ELPC pastors and staff wish everyone a blessed Thanksgiving!*

Youth & Young Adults.....Tuesday, 5:30 pm (Rm 250)
Session.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (McKelvy Rm)

Support the Annual Christmas Giving Tree – Dec 3 and 10

Every year, the Deacons organize the *Christmas Giving Tree* to benefit children and families.

The *Giving Tree* will be set up in the **McKelvy Room, East Transept Hall and/or Narthex** on Sundays, Dec 3 and 10, as well as on Wednesday, Dec 6. Stop by and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to help you record your name and phone number with the information from your tag.

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office no later than noon on Sunday, Dec 17. If you would like to participate by donating money, please make the check out to "ELPC Giving Tree" and deliver it to the church office.

LGBTQ Ministry – Dec 10

All LGBTQ folks and allies are invited to be part of the LGBTQ Ministry. The next *Spiritual Gathering* will be held on Sunday, Dec 10 after the 11 am worship service when we will be doing a soup potluck and telling stories. See Wil for details or to attend. All people are welcome!

INQUIRERS' CLASSES

Dec 3 and 10

If you are interested in becoming a member or friend of ELPC, or learning more about Presbyterian theology, please attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sundays, Dec 3 or 10 from 12:15-2:30 pm. Lunch is provided. Contact Gloria Knopp to register or for more info (GloriaK@coh.net).

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service – Nov 21

All are invited to an *Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service* on Tuesday, Nov 21 at 7:30 pm at Beth Shalom Congregation (5915 Beacon St, 15217). Sister Janice Vanderneck, director Casa San Jose ministries, will be the special guest speaker.

Belle Voci Performs with River City Brass – Dec 7

On Thursday, Dec 7 at 7:30 pm, Belle Voci of Pittsburgh will perform with River City Brass in a spectacular holiday concert at Carnegie Music Hall (Oakland). Purchase tickets by calling 412.434.7222.

The Pageant of Peace – Dec 10

All people are invited to enjoy our annual *Christmas Pageant* in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec 10 at 10 am, as the children and middle school youth of ELPC reenact the story of the birth of Jesus. This year's pageant will be authored by Ashley Birt.

There will be a rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 9 at 9:30 am, followed by a brief Christmas party for participants. All children and youth in grade 8 and under are invited to participate. Youth in grades 6–8 are asked to attend Church School on Sunday, Dec 3, or let Sara Hackett know that you will be participating, so that a speaking part can be set aside for you.

Advent Mini-Retreat – Dec 17

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to find a few moments of precious quiet amongst the noise of consumer Christmas, to reflect upon the amazing gift of incarnation apart from the madness of Sparkle Season, to come to the stable and kneel at the miracle of love come to life. Join us on Sunday, Dec 17 after 11 am worship. A light lunch will be served.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Nov 26 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Contemporaries (Harambe Rm) – "Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited: John the Baptist" facilitated by Mary Alice Lightle

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) – Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15–23; Matthew 25:31–46 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Chapel) – "Images from a Refugee Camp" led by photojournalist Maranie R. Staab

Soul Food (3rd floor Music Rm) – A concluding discussion of chapter five of *Everything Belongs* by Richard Rohr, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Judy Roberts and David Carl