



# 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 3, 2017 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is near. (Romans 13:11)

### TIME OF PREPARATION

I believe in the sun, even when it isn't shining.

I believe in love, even when there's no one there.

And I believe in God, even when He is silent.

*Discovered on a cellar wall in Cologne, Germany shortly after World War Two. The anonymous author is believed to be a Jew who had hidden with many others in this cellar in an attempt to escape Nazi torment.*

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

**"Partita on Winchester New"**

Bruce Neswick

*Chorale-Meditation-Bicinium-Aria-Trio*

*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

John Bavaro and Stanley Koepke

Leader: The prophets have cried out, praying that God would tear open the heavens and come down;

People: to make mountains quake, stars fall, and nations tremble.

Leader: But instead God comes in a still, small voice,

People: and in a babe born to us in a Bethlehem manger.

Leader: And so we stay alert and keep watch,

People: **because we are God's people who long to see God's face.**

Leader: Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, remembering the words of the prophets foretelling the birth of God's promised Messiah.

*The first candle is lit.*

Leader: We light this candle as a witness to the hope we find in Jesus Christ – who was, who is, and who is to come!

People: Let us worship the God for whom we wait – the same God who we know is also right here, among us!

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #82

HYFRYDOL

**"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

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

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

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY:

Illinois was admitted as the 21st state (1818); Andrew Jackson was elected President of the United States; novelist Joseph Conrad was born in Ukraine to Polish parents who were in exile (1857); *Concerto in F*, the first jazz concerto for piano and orchestra, was premiered by its composer George Gershwin at a concert in Carnegie Hall in NYC (1925); the musical *Camelot* opened on Broadway (1960); the first human heart transplant was performed in Cape Town, South Africa (1967).

Charles Wesley's (1707-1788) hymn *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* was published in *Hymns of Intercession for all Mankind* (1758). John Wesley (1703-1791) attributed the tune HELMSLEY to composer Thomas Olivers (1725-1799) for use with his **brother's text**, but the melody is believed to have been originally composed by Thomas Arne (1710-1788).

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #359 *(please remain seated)*

FREEDOM IS COMING

“Freedom Is Coming”

O freedom, O freedom, O freedom. Freedom is coming. O yes, I know.

O Jesus, O Jesus, O Jesus. Jesus is coming. O yes, I know.

O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.

O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know. O yes, I know.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13:24-37

Lenore Williams

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

*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.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Presentation of Child:* Bennet Joseph Teacoach, son of Jon and Cami Teacoach

*Profession of Faith*

*Act of Baptizing*

\* HYMN #92

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

WAITING

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 64:1-9

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

“Advent Waiting: Hope Against Hope”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in **Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit**, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (*Ecumen. Apostles' Creed*)

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.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

arr. John Rutter

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

*Lo! He comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.*

*Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.*

*Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own:  
O come quickly, O come quickly, Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!*

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## December 3 • First Sunday of Advent

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

Faithful God, your  
promises stand  
unshaken through all  
generations. Renew us  
in hope, that we may be  
awake and alert  
watching for the glorious  
return of Jesus Christ,  
our judge and savior,  
who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever. Amen.

Some minds remain  
open long enough for the  
truth not only to enter,  
but to pass on through  
by way of a ready exit  
without pausing  
anywhere along the  
route.  
(Sister Elizabeth Kenny,  
Australian nurse,  
1886-1952)

### \* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

*The communion bread is being presented by Sara Hackett and Brianna Allison.*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ, all creatures here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore.

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

### — SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER —

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

#### 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.*

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Schoenewolf

#### SHARING BREAD & CUP

*Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may partake of the bread and the cup, placing the used cup in the basket provided, then returning to seats via the side aisles. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.*

#### PRAYERS FOR HEALING & WHOLENESS

*After receiving communion, worshipers may go to one of the prayer stations for intercessory prayers,  
anointing with oil, and/or the laying on of hands.*

#### COMMUNION HYMN #347

PICARDY

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

God of Grace, we give you thanks that Christ is being revealed among us, in every time and place, until he comes again in the fullness of glory. May this **communion meal be a reminder to us of Christ's presence within us and among us. May we be strengthened by this bread and this cup that Christ's love might shine through us as we await his coming with hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN #384

SOON AND VERY SOON

“Soon and Very Soon”

### \* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

#### POSTLUDE

“Partita on Winchester New – Toccata”

Bruce Neswick

*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: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
John Bavaro  
Stanley Koepke  
Lenore Williams  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*  
*Music Director*  
Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Acolyte: Emmy Thompson  
Beadles: Michele Bossers and Liz Hopkins  
Crucifer: Duncan Rieger  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time and annual *Toymaker's Sale*. 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 x118).*

♦ 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 10* — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.  
First Sunday in Advent  
*Dec 10* — 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 an ***Inquirers' Class*** today and next Sunday to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. See Dr. Randy Bush after the service if interested in attending today, or contact Gloria for next week (GloriaK@coh.net).

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

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Toymakers' Annual Sale

The Toymakers' annual sale will be held in the McKelvy Room after today's 11 am service. Available will be a sampling of the toys made for distribution to women's shelters and mission trips, as well as some seasonal goodies. This sale enables the Toymakers to buy wood, paint, and tools for the whole year.



### Inquirers' Class

If you are interested in becoming a member or friend of ELPC, or learning more about Presbyterian theology, attend an *Inquirers' Class* today in the 3rd floor Music Room and next Sunday from 12:15-2 pm. If interested in attending today, see Dr. Randy Bush immediately after the service, or contact Gloria Knopp (GloriaK@coh.net).

### Support the Annual Christmas Giving Tree

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 today and next Sunday, 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 by 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.

### Advent Devotionals

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to offer Advent devotionals. They are available at the Journey service, outside the Sanctuary, and on the 2nd floor table.

- ♦ *Pop-Up Advent Calendar* — Each day of Advent, children can open a new window and reflect on a part of the special story about God's love
- ♦ *Living the Gospel Life* — Pocket-size devotional for teens and adults that offers reflections, scripture passages, and a daily challenge
- ♦ *Oh Holy Night* — Takes families on a prayer journey offering a prayer, reflection, and activity for each day
- ♦ *Glory to God in the Highest* — Booklet for adults that explores how God's glory was revealed through the birth of Christ our Savior.

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary offers an online devotional written by students in their Doctor of Ministry program. You can read them online at [www.pts.edu](http://www.pts.edu).

### Youth Ministry Event: DG2!

Students in grades 4-12 are invited to join *Doing Good Together!* (DG2!)—a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom—to work on service projects in our community today from Noon-2:30 pm, and also on Thursday, Dec 28 from 3-8 pm. Contact Sara Hackett to participate.



### The Chapel Market

Beginning Dec 7, and continuing the first Thursday monthly, *The Chapel Market* will be open evening hours from 5-7:30 pm, and will continue to be open every Monday from 10 am-Noon. As the weather gets colder, donations of winter coats and boots are needed. To volunteer, please contact Linda and Harold Deiss ([deisslh@consolidated.net](mailto:deisslh@consolidated.net)).

### PW Bible Study – Dec 4 and 5

Join Presbyterian Women on Monday, Dec 4 at 7 pm, and/or Tuesday, Dec 5 at 10 am for their Bible study titled *In Community with God's Messengers*. Tuesday's session will be followed by a potluck lunch. All are welcome!

### Youth Ministry Events – Dec 9, 15 and 17

- ♦ *Jr. High Service Project* (Dec 9) — Youth in grades 6 to 8 will shop for Christmas gifts for children in foster care after the ELPC Christmas Pageant rehearsal
- ♦ *Tween Night* (Dec 15) — Youth in grades 4 to 6 are invited to join us for dinner, making Christmas crafts and baking from 5:30-7:30 pm
- ♦ *Confirmation Class* (Dec 17) — Meet in the 2nd floor Parlor from 12:30-3:30 pm for lunch and discussion

### 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!

## RENOVATIONS UPDATE

The progress of many of our renovations is becoming more visible, and making access to ELPC easier! Glass doors at the Highland Ave entrance have been newly installed, and the handicap-accessible South Whitfield entrance can be used on Sundays.

Starting around Dec 12, the 1st floor hallway leading towards the Chapel will be re-opened through the holiday season. The rooms off this corridor will not be usable at this juncture, but as the season of Advent reminds us, *soon and very soon....*





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

David Carl's father Alfred,  
Valire Carr Copeland's mother Reva,  
Carol Chontos' father David,  
Jan Herzer's friends Mike, Dan and Nicole,  
Bill Johnson, Morris Jordan, Kathy Kiewra,  
Pam Kimmel's niece Jen, Lee Lewand,  
Rachel Mackey's stepfather Haven, Mike Maiolo,  
Gail Noden, Dominic Odim's brother,  
Sel Whitaker, and Pat Valoon.

*Our condolences to the family of Reggie Plato on his passing.*

### Committee Meetings This Week

Justice ..... Tuesday, 9:00 am (Rm 227)  
Property..... Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Rm 250)

### 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 today, or let Sara Hackett know that you will be participating.

### Church Tours – Dec 10 and 24

- ✦ *Trinity Chapel* on Dec 10
- ✦ *Sanctuary and Chapel* on Dec 24

Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after the 11 am worship service to join the tour group. All are welcome!

### Advent Mini-Retreat – Dec 17

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to participate in an *Advent Mini-Retreat* on Sunday, Dec 17 after the 11 am worship service. A light lunch will be served. Come reflect upon the amazing gift of incarnation and treat yourself to a real celebration of Christmas! (Note: This mini-retreat replaces the *Enneagram Defense Mechanisms* with Kerry O'Donnell offering previously scheduled.)



### Christmas in East Liberty – Dec 15

Join us as our *Cathedral Concerts* series continues with a joyous performance in the ELPC Sanctuary on Friday, Dec 15 at 7:30 pm. The Brass Roots returns for another festive concert with the ELPC Chancel Choir and Dr. Edward Alan Moore at the organ. A freewill offering will be received.

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



### Pittsburgh Youth Chorus Concert – Today

Today at 4 pm in the Sanctuary, the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus will perform their winter concert *Make a Joyful Noise*. Purchase tickets at [www.pittsburghyouthchorus.org](http://www.pittsburghyouthchorus.org).

### EECM'S Annual "Let Peace Shine" Prayer Vigil – Dec 7

Join East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) on Thursday, Dec 7 from 7-8 pm for their 3rd annual *Let Peace Shine Prayer Vigil*. Beginning at 6:30 pm, line up on the sidewalk outside EECM (6140 Station St, 15206). Each participant will light a candle and help the next light their candle, sparking the message of peace.

### Belle Voci Concert – Dec 9

On Saturday, Dec 9 at 7:30 pm, Belle Voci of Pittsburgh will perform their holiday concert *A Natale* at Northmont United Presbyterian Church (8169 Old Perry Highway, 15237). Purchase tickets at [bellevocipgh.com](http://bellevocipgh.com).

### RCC Holiday Concert – Dec 9

The Renaissance City Choir will perform their holiday concert *Our Family Time* at ELPC on Saturday, Dec 9 at 7:30 pm. They will be joined by the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra. Please call 1.800.838.3006 to buy tickets.

### Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land Lecture – Dec 11

Learn about life for Palestinian Christians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Tina Whitehead, recently returned from Jerusalem, on Monday, Dec 11 at 7 pm at Calvary Episcopal Church. She works with Sabeel, a Palestinian Peace and Justice movement, and Bethlehem Bible College. This illustrated lecture, *Living Stones: Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land*, is sponsored by the Social Justice and Outreach Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

### Church School Updates

There will be no *Church School* classes on Sundays, Dec 10, 24 or 31, so that we all can enjoy the *Christmas Pageant* and take a holiday break. Classes will resume on *Winter Rally Day*, Sunday, Jan 7. A light breakfast will be provided.

### 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).

◆ Meal Providers for Club 116 in 2018 ◆