



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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 10, 2017 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Johann Sebastian Bach's** (1685-1750) well-known arrangement of *Sleepers, Wake!* is from the *Schübler Chorales*, a set of six chorale preludes written a few years before his death. It is an arrangement of the tenor aria in his *Cantata 140*. The chorale it is based on is found at #349 in *Glory to God*.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**  
We thank you, O God, for those in our lives who have pointed us to Christ: pastors and teachers, strangers and friends. Give us eyes to see him today among those who are oppressed, imprisoned, brokenhearted, or beaten down. Give us the capacity to share our testimony too: how Christ releases and sets free, how he turns ashes into garlands, how he repairs and builds up what was ruined. May we ever point to Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.

### TIME OF PREPARATION

"There is no despair so absolute as that which comes with the first moments of our first great sorrow, when we have not yet known what it is to have suffered and be healed, to have despaired and recovered hope."  
— *George Eliot, Adam Bede*

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Johann Sebastian Bach

"*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645"

*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

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.

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Jon, Cami and Bennett Teacoach

Leader: The prophet Isaiah declares, "They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain."

People: **The prophet announces, "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea."**

Leader: We gather to worship and pray this day, that truth, compassion, and justice may shine its light near and far.

People: **We call aloud, "Risen Christ, Light of the World, shine in our lives and among us now."**

*The first two candles are lit.*

Leader: We light candles of peace and hope that truth may prevail and God's justice be done.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #105 "People, Look East"

BESANÇON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Ike Ezekoye

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ike Ezekoye

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness, faithfulness and patience. At times we have lost hope. Too often we have trusted in our own resources over the ways of your mercy, wisdom and justice. We turn away from these sins and turn toward you in love. Grant us pardon that we may **walk in righteousness and live in hope forevermore. In Christ's name we pray.** Amen.

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

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If you do not hope, you  
will not find what is  
beyond your hopes.  
(St. Clement of  
Alexandria)

The German text of the  
hymn *Comfort, Comfort  
Now My People* dates  
back to the 17th ct. to the  
musician Johannes  
Olearius (1611-1684).  
The translation was done  
200 years later by  
Catherine Winkworth of  
Bristol, England. The  
tune comes from the  
famous Genevan Psalter  
(1551) used by the early  
Reformed/Presbyterian  
church in Switzerland.

Build up, build up,  
prepare the way, remove  
every obstruction from  
**my people's way.** The  
Holy One calls and we  
will answer. Revive our  
spirits, Lord, and bring  
peace to our longing  
souls.  
(Isaiah 57:14-15)

Paul Manz (1919-2009)  
was a well-known  
composer of organ and  
choral music for the  
church. *E'en So, Lord  
Jesus, Quickly Come* is  
his most famous choral  
work and has been  
performed around the  
globe, including at the  
Festival of Nine Lessons  
and Carols at King's  
College, Cambridge.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #90 *(please sing 3x and remain seated)*

WAIT FOR THE LORD

“Wait For The Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

Ike Ezekoye

Leader: Salvation, grace and forgiveness are near and lovingly available to all who  
turn to God. 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 Ezekiel 37:1-4, 10-14

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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.*

\* HYMN #87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN 42

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 8:18-25

The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush

SPECIAL MUSIC

“When Hope Goes”

by James Valcq  
Charlotte Bush, *soloist*  
Rachel D'Abruzzo, *cellist*

*When hope goes, sidewalks crack, whitewash fades. Music stops, empty streets, no parade...  
When hope goes, hearts close.*

SERMON

“Advent Waiting: Lost Hope”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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. Fowler-Searcy

*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 “E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come”

Paul Manz  
text from Revelation 22

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God,  
Who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord!  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming, is coming soon, for Christ is coming soon!  
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.*

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

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY:

Martin Luther publicly burned the papal edict threatening excommunication, claiming "I stand fast on the truth and no other." (1520); poet Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, MA (1830); Duke Ellington recorded *Mood Indigo* for Victor Records (1930); Jane Addams became a co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the first American woman so honored (1931) – with other noted recipients later being Martin Luther King, Jr. (1964) and Bishop Desmond Tutu (1984).

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14-15)

Wayne L. Wold's festive setting of *Sleeper's Wake* provides a more contemporary contrast to the setting by Bach heard during the prelude this morning. This is the third, and final, movement in a suite based on the tune *Wachet auf*. Wold is college organist at Hood College in Frederick, MD.

\* 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:	Lord God, you give to us what is good, so that our land and our lives may know true increase. We offer ourselves to you. May the gifts we offer this day help any who are in need. Bless our offerings in Christ's name. Amen.	

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #93

TRURO

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

"Wachet auf – Finale"

Wayne L. Wold

*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 must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope."**

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Photo by  
Chris Litherland

*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  
Ike Ezekoye  
Jon, Cami and Bennett Teacoach  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*  
*Music Director*  
**Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo**, *Music Associate*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Charlotte Bush, *soloist*  
**Rachel D'Abruzzo**, *cellist*  
Acolytes: Brianna Allison and Lydia Delp  
Beadle: Liz Hopkins  
Crucifer: Youth  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time. 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

We would like to extend a special *thank you!* to ELPC member Suzan Krauland and her business partner Carolyn Walker from *Bloom Brigade* for preparing the Sanctuary flowers to enhance our worship space.

♦ 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 17* — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy.  
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.  
*Dec 17* — 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 to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. See Dr. Randy Bush after the service if interested in attending today, or contact Gloria Knopp about future classes (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

### The Pageant of Peace

If you're reading these announcements at the Journey service, please enjoy our annual *Christmas Pageant* in the Sanctuary today at 10 am, as the children and middle school youth of ELPC reenact the story of the birth of Jesus.

### 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 from 12:15-2 pm. See Dr. Bush after the service.

### Church Tours — Today and Dec 24

- ✦ *Trinity Chapel* today
- ✦ *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!

### LGBTQ Ministry

All LGBTQ folks and allies are invited to be part of the LGBTQ Ministry. The next *Spiritual Gathering* will be after today's 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!

### 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. Stop by and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to help you.

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.

## CHRISTMAS IN EAST LIBERTY

Friday, Dec 15 ♦ 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.

## Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24

### 11:00 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy will preach.

### 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.

Services will be in the Sanctuary, and evening services include Communion.

### 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.

### 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. During the 11 am Sanctuary service, the DOD will be seated in the East Transept wearing a Deacon stole. Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Mary Evrard**. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Susan Spangler**.



### Next Sunday's Prelude — Dec 17

The prelude to the 11 am service on Dec 17 will start at 10:50 am and will include some carol singing led by the ELPC Handbell Choir. Come a little early to sing with the ringers!

### Reception of New Members & Friends — Dec 17

If you have been visiting ELPC and desire to affiliate with us as a friend, simply come forward next Sunday when invited and we'll sign you up! *Friends* receive church mailings and can be part of our active church life; the only caveat is that they are not able to serve as church officers (Elders or Deacons).

### The Chapel Market

*The Chapel Market* will be open from 5–7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month, 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).



*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, Pam Kimmel's niece Jen,  
Lee Lewand, Rachel Mackey's stepfather Haven,  
Mike Maiolo, Gail Noden, Dominic Odum's brother,  
Stephen Simpson-Hunt, and Pat Valoon.

*Congratulations to Joel & Beth Minnigh  
on the birth of their grandson Gideon.*

There are **Prayer Boxes**, with cards for prayer requests, available on the tables in the Narthex and East Transept entrances to the Sanctuary.

### Committee Meetings This Week

Neighbors ..... *Today, 12:30 pm (Rm 250)*  
Deacons..... *Tuesday, 7:00 pm (McKehy Rm)*

### Youth Ministry Events – Dec 15, 17 and 28

♦ *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  
♦ *Doing Good Together!* (Dec 28) — A partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom; from 3-8 pm on this date.  
Please contact Sara Hackett to participate in any youth ministry events (SaraH@coh.net).

### Advent Mini-Retreat Cancelled – Dec 17

The Spiritual Life *Advent Mini-Retreat* scheduled on Sunday, Dec 17 after the 11 am worship service is cancelled. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

### World Healing Day & No Year-End Examen – Dec 31

On Sunday, 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. Please call 412.773.7152 for more info. Please note there will be no year-end Examen on Dec 31.

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



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

♦ Meal Providers for Club 116 in 2018 ♦

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



### 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.

### Affordable Health Care Act Open Enrollment

The time to purchase a new health insurance plan for 2018 is here. You MUST renew the plan you have or select and enroll in a new plan by Dec 15, 2017, in order to have coverage on Jan 1, 2018.

Open enrollment isn't just for people who don't have health insurance—those who pay for their own health insurance must shop for a new plan, or re-enroll in their existing plan. Individuals have a choice.

For assistance, contact George Moses at East Liberty Family Health Care Center (412.661.2802), or the Consumer Health Coalition (412.456.1877).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Dec 17 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

#### ♦ ADULTS ♦

**Contemporaries (Harambe Rm)** — “Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited: The Joy of Elizabeth and Mary” led by Frances Wilson

**Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library)** — Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

**Seekers (Chapel)** — “Gifts of the Season” facilitated by Gwen Puza

**Soul Food (3rd floor Music Rm)** — A concluding discussion of chapter six of *Everything Belongs* by Richard Rohr, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Linda Harrington and Michele Bossers

**Young Adult (Room 224)** — “A Christmas Event” with breakfast, scripture and friends

#### ♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

**Located in the 1st floor nursery suite and 2nd floor — Rooms**, teachers and curriculum information can be found at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)