



# 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 17, 2017 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRAYER OF THE DAY:  
Light of the world, you  
greet me this day with  
new possibilities. Shine  
brightly, I pray, until I see  
into the dark places of  
this world, and into the  
dark places of my own  
life. I want to follow you  
in paths of justice, speak  
up with you for liberty,  
and bend with you  
toward the  
brokenhearted, even the  
broken places within  
myself. I will clothe  
myself with your mantle  
of praise, covering my  
whole being. May I ever  
rejoice in you. Amen.

### TIME OF PREPARATION

“God, it would be nice to recognize angels and say, ‘OK. Here am I.’ But since you don’t often come with shining wings, in a flash of light, give us your watchful Spirit that we may resolve our perplexity, detect your presence, and answer your call to be your servant; through Jesus Christ. Amen.”  
— Brian Wren

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

*Please join in singing the first two carols with the bell choir.*

ELPC Ringers

#### “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

#### “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

#### “Ding, Dong! Merrily on High”

arr. Michael Bedford

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

### \* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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 *(from John 1)* Kimberly Gonxhe, Gregory Howard

Leader: Before the Word became flesh, God sent the messenger John to go ahead and testify to the one who was to come.

People: He came as a witness, so that all might believe through him.

Leader: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

People: **This light of Christ embodies God’s love for us and shines through us that we might love one another.**

*The first three candles are lit.*

Leader: We light candles of peace, hope, and love that healing may take place around us and God’s justice be done everywhere.

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

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

I am a man of hope,  
not for human reasons,  
nor from any natural  
optimism, but because I  
believe the Holy Spirit is  
at work in the church and  
in the world even  
when God's name  
remains unheard.  
(Cardinal Leon J.  
Suenens, 1904-1996)

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:  
France officially  
recognized American  
independence (1777);  
Dwight L. Moody  
founded the Moody Bible  
Institute in Chicago to  
train Christian workers  
(1889); Wilbur & Orville  
Wright completed the  
first flight of their flying  
machine (1903); the last  
episode of the *Nat King  
Cole Show* aired due to a  
lack of national  
sponsorship (1957); the  
first episode of *The  
Simpsons* aired (1989).

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #88 (verses 1, 2, 5 and 6 only)

VENI EMMANUEL

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Merciful God, we know you love justice, yet we persist in wrongdoing and evil. We know you have given us the gifts of the Spirit, yet we quench the Spirit among us. We know you have given us the words of the prophets and the Word, Christ the Lord, yet we disregard what we have seen and heard from you. Forgive us this day. Restore us by your grace. Come once more into our hearts, our lives, and our world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #88 (verse 7 only; remain seated)

VENI EMMANUEL

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*The bell choir will play an introduction and one verse by themselves.*

*Please join in singing verse 7 as printed below along with the choir.*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;

**Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:7-18

Eric and Kathy Logan

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Members: Timothy and Courtney Chaplin, Lorraine Commeret, Jim DiGiorgio,  
Katlyn Dougherty, Eric Jester, Mark Motyl, Charles and Janet Stevens,  
Hugh and Lucie Van der Veer, Daniel Zander

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

*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 #106

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 15:1-6, 13

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Someone to Fall Back On”

by Jason Robert Brown  
Jon Erik Schreiber, *soloist*

*I am no prince, I am no saint, I am not anyone's wildest dream.*

*But I can stand behind and be someone to fall back on ...*

SERMON

“Advent Waiting: Personal Hope”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice 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.*

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

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987) was an English composer, pianist, and writer. The text of *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* is from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*, compiled by Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784.

The virtue of hope is an orientation of the soul towards a transformation after which it will be wholly and exclusively love. (Simone Weil)

The Advent hymn *My Soul Cries Out* is a paraphrase of the good news contained in Mary's famous speech, the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55). The hymn text points to the new things God is doing in the world, whether in the young girl Mary becoming the mother of **God's Son or in the** freedom God brings to all who are oppressed, abused, or downtrodden.

#### 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 "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"

Elizabeth Poston

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.  
His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see tis found in Christ the apple tree.  
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

#### \* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

#### \* 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:	Gracious God, as you are always with us, may we give thanks in all times and places. As you share so generously with us, may we share generously with others. Send us out as messengers of hope, using our body, soul, and spirit to your glory. In Christ's name. Amen.	

#### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN #100

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

#### \* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

#### POSTLUDE

ELPC Ringers

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

*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.*

*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. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Sara Hackett  
Kimberly Gonxhe  
Gregory Howard  
Eric and Kathy Logan  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*  
*Music Director*  
**Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo**, *Music Associate*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
ELPC Ringers  
Jon Erik Schreiber, *soloist*  
Acolytes: Sonia and Annabel Degenholtz  
Beadle: Matt Stuftt  
Crucifer: Isaac Degenholtz  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Following the service, please join us in the McKelvy Room for our Fellowship Time in honor of our new **members and friends**, sponsored by ELPC's Membership & Outreach committee. All are welcome!

♦ 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.

♦ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

*There will be no Journey service on Dec 24 and 31.*

11 am....Sanctuary Worship.  
The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching.  
5 pm .....Friends and Family Service.  
Includes communion.  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.  
11 pm ...Candlelight Service.  
Prelude music begins at 10:30 pm.  
Includes communion.  
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*** 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](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Christmas Joy Offering

The *Christmas Joy Offering* will be received at all worship services this morning. Please see today's bulletin insert for details.

### Reception of New Members & Friends

If you have been visiting ELPC and desire to affiliate with us as a *friend*, simply come forward when invited during the 11 am service, 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).

### Confirmation Class Meeting

All confirmation participants are invited to meet in the 2nd floor Parlor from 12:30–3:30 pm today for lunch and discussion.

### Support the Annual Christmas Giving Tree

If you selected a tag from the *Giving Tree*, please give your wrapped gifts to the Deacons during today's Fellowship Time. If you would like to participate by donating money, please make the check out to *ELPC Giving Tree*.

### Advent Devotionals

The Christian Education Committee is pleased to offer Advent devotionals. They are available on the 2nd floor Christian Education table.

### Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Beth Minnigh**.  
The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Susan Spangler**.

### Advent Mini-Retreat Cancelled

The Spiritual Life *Advent Mini-Retreat* scheduled today after the 11 am worship service is cancelled. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

### Free Blood Pressure Screenings

Free blood pressure screenings are available after today's 11 am service in the 1st floor Library. All are welcome!



### Church Tour — Dec 24

Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Dec 24 to join the tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel. All are welcome!

### Youth Ministry Event — Dec 28

Please contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) to participate in DG2 (*Doing Good Together!*) — a partnership between ELPC and Rodef Shalom — from 3-8 pm on Thursday, Dec 28.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

### Church School Updates

There will be no *Church School* classes on Dec 24 or 31. Classes will resume on *Winter Rally Day*, Sunday, Jan 7.

### Year-End Giving — Due by Dec 29

Contributions to our 2017 Stewardship Campaign, *Rebuilding Bodies and Souls*, will be accepted until Sunday, Dec 31, for credit in 2017. Your generous support of our ongoing mission, personnel, and property needs helps us maintain our church's wide range of programs. If you have questions on the status of your giving, please call Deborah Marx, church bookkeeper (412.441.3800 x134).

### 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 412.244.3333 or visit [www.quartus.org](http://www.quartus.org) for more info. NOTE: There will be no year-end *Examen* on Dec 31.



## 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.







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

Valire Carr Copeland's mother Reva,  
Carol Chontos' father David,  
Jan Herzer's friends Mike, Dan and Nicole,  
Morris Jordan, Devo Ihonde-Hughes' mother Victoria,  
Pam Kimmel's niece Jen, Lee Lewand,  
Rachel Mackey's stepfather Haven,  
Mike Maiolo, Gail Noden,  
Dominic Odum's brother,  
Stephen Simpson-Hunt,  
Pat Valoon and Antwone Wright.

*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.

## No Committee Meetings This Week

### First Friday @ Pittsburgh Potluck – Jan 5

Yinz come to S'liberty to enjoy a very Pittsburgh potluck and evening together at *First Friday @ Pittsburgh Potluck* on Jan 5 at 7 pm in the 2nd floor Parlor. Sign up with Wil to bring 'Burg fare such as pierogis, salad with fries, brats, pretzel jello salad, burnt almond torte or just contribute to the cookie table. The evening will be filled with food, friends and games all with Pittsburgh flair. This is a TRAIL young adult event.

### Unhanging of the Greens – Jan 7

Please join us on Sunday, Jan 7 after the 11 am worship service for *Unhanging of the Greens* when we will pack away our Christmas decorations for future use. Snacks will be provided for those able to help that day.

### Taizé Epiphany Procession – Jan 10

All are invited to join us for a special *Taizé Epiphany Procession* on Wednesday, Jan 10 at 7 pm. The procession will begin in the Chapel.

### LGBTQ Ministry – Jan 14

All LGBTQ folks and allies are invited to be part of the LGBTQ Ministry. The next *Spiritual Gathering* will be on Sunday, Jan 14 at 12:30 pm. See Wil for details or to attend. All people are welcome!

### 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



### When the Holidays Hurt – Dec 18

If the holiday season is not filled with peace and joy for you, join Consumer Health Coalition and Staunton Farm Foundation for stories and conversation from 6-8 pm tomorrow, Dec 18 at the East Liberty branch of Carnegie Library (130 S Whitfield St, 15206). Please RSVP for this free event by 8 pm TODAY to Amanda (412.456.1877 x211; [awoodside@consumerhealthcoalition.org](mailto:awoodside@consumerhealthcoalition.org)).

### Support OHM's Marathon Team

Are you already thinking about a New Year's resolution and springtime? Open Hand Ministries (OHM) invites you to consider participating in OHM's 2018 *Marathon Fundraising Event* as a runner, relay team member, pasta party supporter, or financial sponsor! If you want to run as an individual, you can register now.

For details about how to raise money for OHM by running in the 2018 Pittsburgh Marathon, please email Zoe Hooey ([zoe.hooley@gmail.com](mailto:zoe.hooley@gmail.com)) or Emily Rosenthal ([EJR116@gmail.com](mailto:EJR116@gmail.com)). Join OHM's Marathon kick-off party at Hotel Indigo in East Liberty on Saturday, Jan 20!

### Silent Retreat – Jan 26 to 28

Setting time apart for silence and reflection is a time honored tradition for gaining insight into one's own life and deepening one's own relationship with God. Join us from Jan 26-28 to share the silence with others on the journey at Kearns Spirituality Center near North Park from dinner on Friday evening until brunch on Sunday. Registration is required and includes an opportunity to meet with a spiritual director. The cost is \$135, but scholarship assistance is available. Please contact the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan's office for more info or to register (412.441.3800 x111).

### 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 ([deisshl@consolidated.net](mailto:deisshl@consolidated.net)).

### Library Resources are Available

As renovations begin on the space that houses our current Library, we are thinning out our collection. Books and periodicals that will no longer be kept in our permanent collection will be available to congregation and community members for free starting on Dec 20 through Jan 2. Any remaining books will be made available outside of our Church School classrooms on Rally Day before being donated.