



# 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 24, 2017 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:  
Out of the deep shadows, we are attracted to your brightness, Glorious God. **From the trauma of life's battles**, we are drawn to the peace you alone can provide. Away from our irreligion and worldly passions, you invite us to center our lives in you. Come, Holy One, to reign among us. Bring the joy we cannot know apart from you. Lead us in the ways of justice and righteousness. Establish among us your marvelous works that we might declare them to a waiting world. 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

### GATHERING MUSIC

Hymn #128

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

"There's A Cry in My Heart for Emmanuel"

Gabriel D'Abruzzo

(refrain) *There's a cry in my heart for Emmanuel. There's a cry in my heart for "God with us."*

*There's a cry in my heart for Emmanuel. There's a cry in my heart.*

*Jesus, heaven come down to earth. Jesus, Jesus, Lord at thy birth. (refrain)*

*Jesus, come to save us from sin. That heaven's gates we may enter therein. (refrain)*

*Savior, Savior, come from on high. The day of his birth quickly drawing nigh. (refrain)*

Hymn #127

"Jesus, the Light of the World"

ALT: HARK! THE HERALD

### 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

Josh, Michelle, Sam and Evy Bard

Leader: The prophet Isaiah declares, "A young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel."

People: **The good news of this declaration is that Immanuel means "God with us."**

Leader: Much later the risen Christ made this promise, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

People: The loving reassurance of this promise fills us with joy, as we wait upon the Christ now and always.

*The first four candles are lit.*

Leader: We light these candles of peace, hope, love and joy, celebrating the good news that has come to all people this very day.

### \* OPENING HYMN #93

TRURO

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

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

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:  
War of 1812 ended (1814); the Christmas carol *Silent Night* composed by Franz Xaver Gruber was first sung at St. Nicholas parish church in Oberndorf, Austria (1818); fire ravaged the Library of Congress (1851); KKK was founded (1865); President Calvin Coolidge lit first national Christmas tree (1923); and Thomas Edison filed a patent for the phonograph (1877).

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lenore Williams

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lenore Williams

God of the commonplace, we confess that we have been 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 battles of life, where we have nothing on which to rely other than our faith in you. Forgive our lack of trust, our quest to acquire more, our disregard for those who are in want or need and renew your Spirit of righteousness, justice and peace within us, we pray. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #103 *(please remain seated)*

O-So-So

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace”

Come now, O Prince of Peace; make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come now, O God of love; make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.  
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

Come, hope of unity; make us one body.  
Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON

Lenore Williams

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 presence. Glory to God in the highest, love is made known among us. Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel.

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

Vince Ponder

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 #611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Advent Waiting: Blessed Hope”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush

*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.

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

*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 SOLO

“Christmas Lullaby”

Jason Robert Brown  
Adrianna Cleveland, *soloist*

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



BORN ON THIS DATE:

Johnny Gruelle, American cartoonist, children's book writer and creator of Raggedy Ann, in Arcola Illinois (1880-1939); [Irving] Lee Dorsey, Pop and R&B singer (*Working in the Coal Mines*), in New Orleans, Louisiana, (1924-1986); Mary Barra, American CEO of General Motors who was the first woman to head a global automotive company, in Waterford, Michigan (1961).

\* 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: Here, O God, is a portion of the riches you entrust to our use. At best, it is the first fruits of our labor, set aside to support your mission through and beyond our church. You have asked us to clear the highways of stones so our siblings can find their way to your side. By providing a way for them, we too see your pathway more clearly. Help us to walk your paths as we dedicate ourselves with our offerings. Amen.

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #137

“He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Christmas Medley”

Gabriel T. D’Abruzzo

*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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
 Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
 Sara Hackett  
 Josh, Michelle, Sam and Evy Bard  
 Vince Ponder  
 Lenore Williams  
 Musicians: **Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo**, *Music Associate*  
 Journey Praise Team  
 Adrianna Cleveland, *soloist*  
 Beadle: Lenore Williams  
 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

The poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon.

#### ♦ NEXT SUNDAY

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

6:50 am.....World Healing Day. Join us on the labyrinth for a planetary affirmation of peace and love, forgiveness and understanding involving millions of people in a simultaneous global prayer. 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.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.  
*Dec 31* — Kalyn Stevwing, PTS seminary intern, 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*** on Feb 4 or 11 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).

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

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Church Tour

Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after today's worship service to join the tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel. All are welcome!

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

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

### The Christmas Giving Tree Ministry Thanks You!

The ELPC Board of Deacons thanks everyone who participated in the 2017 Giving Tree ministry. ELPC members purchased gifts or supported the ministry financially, making it possible for over 100 children to receive more than 200 presents this Christmas. The outpouring of your generosity is overwhelming and greatly appreciated. Thank you and may God continue to bless each of you.



### 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.

### Year-End Giving – Due by Dec 31

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 prayer. 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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

### Church School Updates

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



### College Reunion – Jan 4

College-age young adults are invited to come catch up over dinner and games at Jen and Eddie Willson's home on Thursday, Jan 4 at 5:30 pm. To RSVP, contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

### 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 'Burgh 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.

### Winter Rally Day – Jan 7

As we gather for Church School on Sunday, Jan 7, after our Christmas break, the Christian Education Committee invites you to a continental breakfast in the new Maker's Space (Room 234), beginning at 9:30 am. Please bring a breakfast bread to share. Come and grab a bite to eat on your way to class!

### 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.



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

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,  
Heather Schoenewolf's sister Erin,  
Erin Starzynski's mother Judy,  
Kalyn Stevwing's cousin's daughter Annamarie,  
Pat Valoon, Tom Whalen's friends Dan and Ed,  
and Antwone Wright.

*Condolences to David Carl on his uncle's passing.*

*Condolences to Valire Carr Copeland on her mother's passing.*

*Condolences to Sonya-Marie Morley on her friend's passing.*

## No Committee Meetings This Week

*The church office will be closed tomorrow and Tuesday.*

*The pastors and staff wish you and yours a blessed Christmas season!*

## Interfaith Panel on the Use of Sound in Faith – Jan 14

Our Christian life—like that of virtually every other faith—is saturated with sound. Bells call us to worship, we sing our praises to God, and are moved by beautiful anthems to the accompaniment of organ, piano, and other instruments. We clap our appreciation, utter aloud prayers and liturgy, and, of course, we listen to sermons, teachers, and the words of others.



All of these sounds have an effect upon who we are, as well as what and how we believe. Scientists study the actual physical effects of differing sound waves on matter, and mystics have long acknowledged the impact of sound, including the sound of silence on the open heart.

Join the Spiritual Life Committee in the Social Hall on Sunday, Jan 14 from Noon-3 pm as we explore the science and spiritual dimensions of sound in our own tradition and that of other faiths. A light lunch is provided.

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

**iSERVE**  
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



## 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!

## Spirituality and Mental Health – Jan 14

On the second Sunday of each month, the *Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community* will have a contemplative prayer gathering of *Spirituality and Mental Health* at 6 pm. A worship experience for better mental health follows at 7 pm. Please visit [www.hotmetalbridge.com](http://www.hotmetalbridge.com) for info.

## 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!

## Nursery Open House – Jan 21

ELPC is a community that welcomes persons of all ages. In an effort to best minister to families with young children (birth through pre-school), we are hosting an *open house* in the 1st floor Nursery on Sunday, Jan 21, during the Church School hour (9:45–10:45 am). Gather with other families in a kid-friendly space for light refreshments, fellowship, and an opportunity to share ideas and insights about how ELPC can best meet the needs of families with young children. Please RSVP to Gloria Knopp by Wednesday, Jan 17 so that we have enough refreshments for everyone ([GloriaK@coh.net](mailto:GloriaK@coh.net)).

## 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 for more info or to register (412.441.3800 x141).