



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. 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 31, 2017 — 11 AM SANTUARY WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

TIME OF PREPARATION

“Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:

- I shall not fear anyone on Earth.
- I shall fear only God.
- I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.
- I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.
- I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering.”

— Mahatma Ghandi

PRELUDE

“Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier, BWV 731”
(Blessed Jesus, We are Here)

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Simple Gifts”

Jon Spong

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah Wilson

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: **Praise God from the heavens.**

Leader: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

People: **Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.
Alleluia!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #149

“All Hail to God’s Anointed”

ROCKPORT

CALL TO CONFESSION

Frances Wilson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Frances Wilson

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Dec 31 • 1st Sunday after Christmas Day

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Frances Wilson

Leader: Beloved of God, in Christ God covers us with the robe of righteousness. Know that you are forgiven and claimed as God's own. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!**
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Praise God!

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

Isaiah Wilson

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Schoenewolf

There is no Extended Session program today. Children are invited to worship with their families.

* HYMN #138

"Who Would Think That What Was Needed"

WHITE ROSETTES

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Kalyn Stewing

SERMON

"A Vision of Peace"

Kalyn Stewing

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

SUNG RESPONSE #383

"Dream On, Dream On"

DREAM ON

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"
(*Personent Hodie*)

arr. Gustav Holst

*On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us,
Him the Father gave us.*

*His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him
From the cold would hide him.*

*God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
Lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him.*

*On this day angels sing:
With their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, Heaven's
King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.*

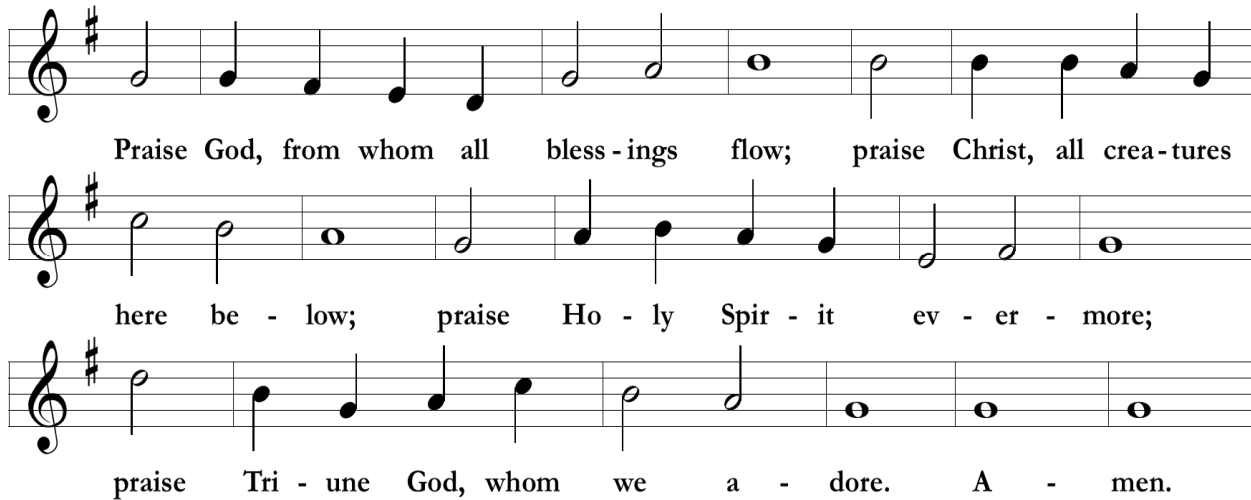
Ideo, ideo, ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo!
(Therefore, glory to God in the highest!)



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Kalyn Stevwing

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: Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world, Jesus Christ, through whom we have received adoption as your children. With Jesus our brother, we dedicate ourselves in ministry to the world, that we may live as heirs of your promises to the honor and glory of your name.

People: Amén.

Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #546

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

SICILIAN MARINERS

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Kalyn Stevwing

POSTLUDE

“In Dir ist Freude, BWV 615”
(In You is Gladness)

Johann Sebastian Bach



Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship. Hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: Kalyn Stevwing, Seminary Intern
Liturgist: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Frances Wilson
Isaiah Wilson
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir Section Leaders
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

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 x18).

♦ 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 \$100 a Sunday.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am **Journey.** An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jan 7 — The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy preaching.

11 am **Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and an organ prelude prior to the service.

Jan 7 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

Extended Session

We will not have an Extended Session program today.

♦ 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 listen for the still, small voice of God. 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 **February 4 and 11** for an opportunity 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; 412.441.3800 x122).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.



TODAY AT ELPC

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Rick Frederick**.

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.

Year-End Giving — Due Today

Contributions to our 2017 Stewardship Campaign, *Rebuilding Bodies and Souls*, will be accepted through 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).



Renovations Update — First Week of January

Beginning this week, the main hallway connecting the Highland Avenue entrance to the East Sanctuary entrance will be closed due to renovation work in that area. There will still be access to the elevator from the Whitfield ground floor entrance and the central staircase will remain open as well. For the next several months, those entering by the Highland Avenue doors will need to walk around through the chapel to access the main sanctuary.

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.

As we gather for Church School on Sunday, January 7, after our Christmas break, the Christian Education Committee invites you to

**Winter
Rally Day**
January 7



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, and wish your friends a Happy New Year!

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.

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 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.

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!

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:

Maxwell Addy's mother Lillian, Tim Benedict,
Carol Chontos' father David, Barbara DeWitt,
Dave Egelston's friend Gary, Mary Evrard's aunt Laura,
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.

Committee Meetings This Week

The church office will be closed tomorrow January 1, 2018.

CE (2nd & 3rd Grade).....Tuesday, 6:30 pm (Room 227)
Property.....Tuesday, 7 pm (2nd Floor Library)

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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Jan 7 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (Harambe Rm) — “The Faces of Jesus” led by Mark Roth and Rev. Carol Divens

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Genesis 1:1–5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1–7; Mark 1:4–11 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Chapel) — “What is the Meaning of Life” facilitated by Wil Forrest

Soul Food (3rd floor Music Rm) — A beginning discussion of *The Book of Joy* by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

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.

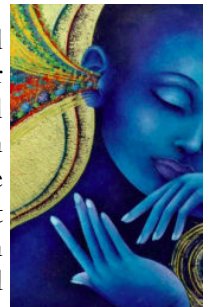
For details about how to raise money for OHM by running in the 2018 Pittsburgh Marathon, please email Zoe Hooey (zoe.hooey@gmail.com) or Emily Rosenthal (EJR116@gmail.com). Join OHM's Marathon kick-off party at Hotel Indigo in East Liberty on Saturday, Jan 20!

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 for info.

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).



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 through Jan 2. Any remaining books will be made available outside of our Church School classrooms on Rally Day before being donated.

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 to learn about other service opportunities, or contact Wil Forrest (412.441.3800 x14).

♦ Book Packers Needed on Jan 2, 1-4 pm, ELPC Library ♦