



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)

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • VISITORS' SUNDAY

Paul Manz (1919-2009) was a well-known composer of organ and choral music for the church. The festive setting of the hymn tune CWM RHONDDA heard this morning is his best-known organ composition.

We must practice the presence of God. (God) said that when two or three are gathered together, there he is in the midst of them. (God) is with us in our kitchens, at our tables, on our breadlines, with our visitors, on our farms. When we pray for our material needs, it brings us close to **(God's) humanity.** (In Christ) he, too, needed food and shelter; he, too, warmed his hands at a fire and lay down in a boat to sleep. (Dorothy Day, The Reckless Way of Love: Notes on Following Jesus)

TIME OF PREPARATION

"And in the Incarnation the whole human race recovers the dignity of the image of God. Henceforth, any attack on the least of (humanity) is an attack on Christ, who took the form of (humankind), and in his own Person restored the image of God in all that bears a human form." — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
arr. Paul Manz

"CWM Rhondda"

(God of Grace and God of Glory)

"Jesus, Lead Thou On" (Seelenbräutigam)

arr. Paul Manz

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. 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

Derail Holcomb

Leader: Thanks be to God, in whose image we were made, and who, in love, calls us **"my children."**

People: Thanks be to Christ, who by grace redeemed us in, and who, in **love, calls us "friend."**

Leader: Thanks be to the Holy Spirit, who in power sustains us, and who in love calls us **"church."**

People: Thanks be to our Triune God, the source of our hope and our strength.

Leader: Listen! God is calling - reminding us that our identity, as individuals and as a community, is grounded in love – a love we are called to share! Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #307

CWM RHONDDA

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Derail Holcomb

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Derail Holcomb

You have called us, O God, and we have refused to listen: you have stretched out your hand and we have not taken it. We have taken what you have given us and used those gifts to hurt others and defy you. We have refused to be tamed by your wisdom. Forgive our inability to recognize you and live out the reality of your gospel. Give us the insight we need to understand your place in our lives so that our words and actions reflect the glory of God in the lives of others. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Derail Holcomb

Leader: In spite of our sin, God claims us. In spite of our brokenness, God loves us. **In Christ, God forgives us, redeems us, and welcomes us as God's own.** 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 #399 (*sung 3 times*)

THEMBA AMEN

"God Welcomes All"

God welcomes all, strangers and friends.

God's love is strong and it never ends.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Barbara Griffin

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 #110

"Love Has Come"

BRING A TORCH

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

"Unlikely Community"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

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. Callahan

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

"The Heavens Are Telling"
(from *The Creation*)

Franz Joseph Haydn
text from Psalm 19:1-3

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) composed his oratorio *The Creation* (*Die Schöpfung* in German) between the years 1796 and 1798. He had been inspired to write a large-scale oratorio after he visited England and heard oratorios of Handel performed. The oratorio is divided into three large sections. *The Heavens are Telling* is the final movement in the first section, concluding the fourth day of creation.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:
The first American lighthouse went into operation on Boston Harbor (1716); George Frideric Handel completed his oratorio *Messiah* after working for twenty-three days without interruption (1741); Theodore Roosevelt became the youngest president at age 42 when he was sworn into office following the death of President William McKinley (1901); Blues great B.B. King was born (1925); Helen Keller receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom along with 4 other women: Dr. Lena Edwards, Lynn Fontaine, Dr. Helen Taussig, and Leontyne Price (1964); Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of the U.S. Order of the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, is canonized and becomes the first American-born saint (1975)

Ryan Croyle composed *Fanfare & Processional* for his wedding to Kathleen Mahin on September 16, 2017 at ELPC. Kathleen is a member of the Chancel Choir and Ryan is organist/music director at First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf
Barbara Griffin

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:	God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given to us for the building up of your kingdom – that we too share your peace and hope and love. In Jesus' name we pray.	
People:	Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #137 “He Came Down”

HE CAME DOWN

(with additional stanzas: light, peace, joy)

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare & Processional”

Ryan Croyle

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. Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

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◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
Barbara Griffin
Sara Hackett
Derail Holcomb
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
Michael Painter, *Organist*
ELPC Chancel Choir
Denise Sheffey-Powell, *Soloist*
Jon Erik Schreiber, *Soloist*
Todd Farwell, *Soloist*
Acolytes: Annie Cowan and Quinn Seif
Beadle: Michele Bossers
Crucifer: Youth
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Social Hall after worship for our annual *Church Life Sampler*. Learn more about the ministries and programs offered at ELPC. 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 flowers today are in loving memory of Gail Noden, presented by her daughter Tamara.

◆ 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.
Sept 23 — Alex McNeill preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 23 — 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 110B.*

◆ 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.

Available 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 annual Church Life Sampler in the Social Hall. 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* after worship on Sept 30 and Oct 7 from 12:30-2:30 pm to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp for more info about the classes (412.441.3800 x122; GloriaK@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome to our Visitors!

ELPC extends a warm welcome to all our guests on this very special *Visitors' Sunday*! Thank you for joining us! Please wear a nametag and join us in the Social Hall following the 11 am service for fellowship and our annual *Church Life Sampler*. More info is detailed in the following articles.

Church Life Sampler and Fellowship Time

Our annual *Church Life Sampler* will be held after the 11 am service today in the Social Hall. Come *sample* the various worship and service opportunities that ELPC offers. Meet leaders, ask questions, and jump on board! Lunch is provided. A special activity will be available for children.

Nametags

Today is *Visitors' Sunday* and we ask that everyone wear a nametag so we can greet one another by name. Stick-on nametags are available as you enter worship. Pre-made nametags are on the hooks in the Narthex. Don't have a nametag yet? If you wish to have one made for you, please sign up on the list on the Narthex table. Print your name clearly and expect your nametag to be hung on the holders in about two weeks.

Artwork Donation by ELPC Members

The art piece *City Church City* by Doug Cooper and Stefani Danes is installed at ELPC in the hallway near the South Highland Ave entrance. Doug and Stefani have generously donated this mural that was part of their *Sanctuary: Sacred Space in a Secular World* exhibit.



Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DODs)

The DOD for today's *Journey* and *Sanctuary* services is **Susan Spangler**.



Sewing Group – Sept 17

New helpers of all skill levels are always welcome to join the sewing group. They will meet on Monday, Sept 17 from 2:30–6 pm. Contact Diane Jackson for more info (412.441.6021; dnjcks@verizon.net).

Handbell Choir Rehearsals Resume – Sept 18

The ELPC Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, Sept 18 at 6 pm in the office of Dr. Ed Moore. New members are always welcome. Please contact Dr. Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).

Tween Night: Ice Cream Social – Sept 21

Tweens in grades 4–6 are getting together to bake pizza, make ice cream, and play games in the gym at *Tween Night: Ice Cream Social* on Friday, Sept 21 from 6-8 pm. Friends are welcome! Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Facing Systemic Racism – Sept 22

The next program in our *Facing Systemic Racism* series, titled *Uncovering Your Racial Autobiography*, will be held on Saturday, Sept 22. The Rev. Dr. John C. Welch, Dean of Students at PTS, will lead us to explore our own racial autobiography.



We will share a potluck meal at 5:30 pm in the Social Hall. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share if you are able. The program runs from 6-8 pm. Childcare is available with a reservation by calling 412.441.3800 x140.

Training for Youth Worship Leaders – Sept 23

Any youth in grades 4–12 who is interested in serving as an acolyte, crucifer, or usher during our Sanctuary worship service may attend a training session in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Sept 23 from 10:15-10:45 am.

Church Picnic – Sept 23

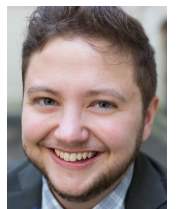
The Church Picnic on Sunday, Sept 23 after the 11 am service is a wonderful time of food and fellowship—allowing people to get better acquainted with our church friends and members who make ELPC so special. The Christian Ed Committee will provide fried chicken, hot dogs, and potato salad. Bring a side dish/salad to share!

LGBTQ Ministry – Sept 23

All are invited to the next LGBTQ monthly gathering on Sunday, Sept 23 at 1 pm. Grab a plate at the church picnic and join us. Contact Wil Forrest for more details or to attend (Wil@coh.net).

Alex McNeill to Visit ELPC – Sept 23

We are pleased to welcome Alex Patchin McNeill as our guest preacher at our 8:45 am *Journey* worship service on Sunday, Sept 23. As an openly transgender man, Alex holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard and is a candidate for ordination in the PC(USA).



Radical Hospitality CE Hour – Sept 23

What does it look like to have a fully-inclusive church that practices the radical hospitality of Christ? Join the discussion with others from ELPC as More Light Presbyterian Executive Director Alex Patchin McNeill joins us to lead the discussion in Room 213 next Sunday, Sept 23 from 9:45-10:45 am. *A Young Adult-hosted CE hour.*



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

Michele Bossers' cousin Laura,
Carol Chontos' father David,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,
Wil Forrest and his brother Loren, Lee Lewand,
Sonya-Marie Morley's cousin Dee'nice
and Schell family friends, and
Janet Pollard's friend Karen.

*Condolences to the family of
Gail Noden on her passing.
A celebration of her life will be held on
Nov 20 at 11 am at ELPC.*



*Condolences to the family of **Donna Stephens** on her passing.*

Committee Meetings This Week

JusticeToday, 12:00 pm (Rm 227)
Stewardship.....Today, 12:00 pm (Trustees Rm)
EnvironmentTuesday, 4:30 pm (Highland Rm)
Session.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Garth Overlook)

TransPride Conferences – Sept 28 and 29

You are invited to attend and volunteer at the *TransPride Professional Conference* on Friday, Sept 28 from 8 am-6 pm and/or the *TransPride Community Conference* on Saturday, Sept 29 from 9 am-6 pm — both at the Persad Center in Lawrenceville. ELPC is co-sponsoring this event. Contact Antwone Wright if you want to help at the ELPC info table (412.225.8154; wrightantwone@yahoo.com).

Blessing of the Animals Service – Oct 6

Our service of the *Blessing of the Animals* will be held on Saturday, Oct 6 at 3 pm. Please bring your pets (on leashes!) to the Penn Ave steps of ELPC. A part of the service will be devoted to our pets who are no longer with us, but remain in our hearts and at our sides. You are encouraged to bring a collar or toy to be blessed. Water will be provided. We look forward to welcoming you all! In case of rain, our service will move into the Narthex.



Malawi/South Sudan Delegation in Pittsburgh – Oct 10-23

Every other year, we welcome our partners from Africa to Pittsburgh. This year is the 25th anniversary of the ELPC–Balaka CCAP partnership. The delegation will be with us Oct 10-23. Please prayerfully consider hosting a delegate during their stay. Contact Kay Shissler for more info or to volunteer (kshissler@juno.com).

Worship Leadership Training – Oct 28

What is a Beadle? Want to find out what an Usher does? Ready to light up the sanctuary? Want to participate in the liturgy? Find out how at our *Worship Leadership Training* event on Sunday, Oct 28 after the 11 am service.

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



Presenting Casop: A Requiem for Rice – Sept 21

Join us at ELPC on Friday, Sept 21 at 7 pm to hear a poignant choral movement from *Casop: A Requiem for Rice*. Composed by Dr. Trevor Weston, the piece is a tribute to those who were enslaved, exploited, and brutalized at rice plantations in South Carolina and Georgia—and who remain unburied, un-mourned, and unmarked. Tickets are \$15 for students with ID, \$25 for senior citizens, and \$30 for adults. Visit www.RequiemForRice.com for more info.

Energy Efficient Workshop – Sept 25

Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold an *Energy Efficiency Workshop* at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave 15206) on Tuesday, Sept 25 from 7-9 pm. Register for this free event by contacting B. David Smith at Clean Air Council (dsmith@cleanair.org; 412.954.8494).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sept 23 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (Harambe Rm) – “Theology for Presbyterians: God” facilitated by the Contemporaries Steering Committee

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) – Proverbs 31:10–31; Psalm 1; James 3:13–4:3–8a; Mark 9:30–37 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) – “Journalism, Political Influence and Profit” led by Neil Cosgrove

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) – A concluding discussion of chapter one of *Surrender to Love* by David Benner, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Liz Gonda, and Michelle Yamada

Young Adults (Rm 213) – “Radical Hospitality” led by Alex Patchin McNeill

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

Located in the 1st floor nursery suite and 2nd floor – Find rooms, teachers and curriculum at www.ELPC.church

Looking for a way to put your love in action?

If you have something to share, visit the **iSERVE** webpage at www.ELPC.church/programs/iserve-2, or contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x114).

♦ Needed: Meal Providers for Club 116 this Fall ♦

Dates still needed: Oct 10, Nov 28 and Dec 5 + 12