



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 23, 2018 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP 18TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Thou Shalt Bring Them In is an arrangement for solo organ of an alto aria from Handel’s oratorio *Israel in Egypt*. The oratorio is based on texts from the Old Testament, primarily from Exodus and the Psalms. It premiered in London on April 4, 1739.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
God of love, you teach us a life journey that calls us to deny what is unhealthy and unloving. Lead us in that pathway. Awaken us to the ever-new abundance that is ours through your Word. Be with us in the name of the one who died and rose, Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

“Greatness lies not in being strong, but in the right use of strength.”

— Henry Ward Beecher

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Thou Shalt Bring Them In”

G.F. Handel

“Prelude in C”

David Johnson

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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Vince Ponder

Leader: We gather to worship this day,

People: To be like the people described in Psalm 1 who delight in the ways of the Lord and prosper like trees planted by streams of water.

Leader: We come together as people of faith,

People: To be like the congregation in Ephesians 1, whose hearts are enlightened and whose hope is in the Lord who knows us well.

Leader: We trust in God this day and always,

People: So we might be mindful of the lessons found in Mark 9, when Jesus tells us that the first ones must be the servants of all.

Leader: Let us learn, pray, and worship God together this day and always.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #12

ST. DENIO

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

God of wisdom, forgive our foolishness. We desire what we do not need and corrupt our relationships with envy. You urge us to gentleness, but we stir up conflict. You point us toward the path of humility, but we are drawn to the false promises of worldly greatness. Forgive us this day. Give us your grace that we may be servants of your righteousness, justice and peace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

God doesn't
call the qualified;
God qualifies
the called.

If any seek for greatness,
let them forget greatness
and ask for truth, and
they will find both.
(Horace Mann)

Alex Patchin McNeill has
served as Executive
Director of More Light
Presbyterians since
2013. Their mission
statement is as follows:
*Working toward the full
participation of LGBTQ
people in the life, ministry
and witness of the
Presbyterian Church
(USA) and in society.*

The verses to *Jesus
Loves Me* were written by
Anna Bartlett Warner
(1827-1915). William
Bradbury (1816-1868)
set the words to music in
1862 and added the
refrain "**Yes, Jesus
loves me...**"

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
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!

ELPC HISTORY VIDEO Joe and Jean Kennedy

SCRIPTURE LESSONS Psalm 1 Vince Ponder
Ephesians 1:15-23

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 #231 "Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers" SUO GAN

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9:30-37 The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SERMON "Arguments & Answers: Being Great" The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER Alex P. McNeill
*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. Schoenewolf
*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 William Bradbury
arr. Doris Nelson
"Jesus Loves Me"

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago.
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, "Let them come to me."*

*Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me, all the way.
If I love him when I die,
He will take me home on high.*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
 Caesar Augustus was born (63 BCE), Harvard College had its first commencement (1642), Lewis and Clark returned from their first successful western expedition (1806), the planet Neptune was discovered by German astronomer Johann Galle (1846), Thurgood Marshall was nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals (1961), and Jane Fonda led an anti-nuke rally in NYC (1979).

The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, (s)he went and sold all that (s)he had and bought it. (Matthew 13:45-46)

William Mathias (1934-1992) was a renowned Welsh composer of choral, orchestral, and instrumental works. His *Fanfare* for organ was commissioned for the inaugural concert for the new organ at Memorial Hall, Barry, Wales in 1987.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea - tures
 here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;
 praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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, we are grateful for all that you have provided. We dedicate these gifts to you – first fruits of the harvest you have nurtured from us. May all we share and all we do ever be in the service of your church and reflect your loving care for the world.
 People: Amen.

ELPC HISTORY VIDEO

Joe and Jean Kennedy

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #700

I'M GONNA LIVE

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

William Mathias

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. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Alex P. McNeill
Vince Ponder
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Acolytes: Kevin Moon and Emmy Thompson
Beadle: Erich Stein
Crucifer: Youth
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Social Hall and Courtyard after worship for our annual *Church Picnic*. 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 honor of the wedding ceremony of Tim Chaplin and Jim DiGiorgio, held yesterday at ELPC.

◆ 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 30 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 30 — 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 Picnic* in the Social Hall and Courtyard. 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

Today is Seminary Sunday

ELPC extends a warm welcome to all our guests from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on this very special *Seminary Sunday*. Thank you for joining us! Please pick up a gift bag in the West Transept and join us in the Social Hall following the 11 am service for our annual *Church Picnic*.



Radical Hospitality CE Hour

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 today from 9:45-10:45 am. *A Young Adult-hosted CE hour.*

Training for Youth Worship Leaders

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 this morning from 10:15-10:45 am.

Church Picnic

The Church Picnic after today's 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.

LGBTQ Ministry

All are invited to the next LGBTQ monthly gathering today at 1 pm. Grab a plate at the church picnic and join us. Contact Wil Forrest to attend (Wil@coh.net).

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)

Every Sunday, a DOD (Deacon-on-Duty) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our worship services. Today's *Journey* service DOD is **The Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes**. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Henry Petrilli**.

Chapel Market Donations

The Chapel Market is requesting donations of new or gently-used winter clothing and toiletry items (deodorant, toothpaste, soap, etc.). Please, no men's suits.

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).

YAM Event: Getting Your Just Desserts – Sept 30

Next Sunday, Sept 30 after worship, young adults are invited to spend the afternoon together by going to the *Melting Pot* at Station Square for some delicious chocolate fondue (and perhaps more). The first round of fondue is on the house! Make sure you RSVP to Wil in advance so you get a seat in the van and so we have an accurate reservation (Wil@coh.net). Visit www.meltingpot.com/pittsburgh-pa for restaurant details.

ELPC Tours – Sept 30 and Oct 7

- ◆ Learn about intricate design details (large and small) in our *Sanctuary and Chapel Tour* on Sunday, Sept 30.
- ◆ Climb the heights of our central tower at the *Tower Tour* on Sunday, Oct 7.

Join the tour guides at the Highland Ave entrance following the 11 am Sanctuary worship service.

Bible Study – Oct 1 and 2

All women at ELPC are welcome to join Presbyterian Women for the Bible study lesson *God with us in our Uncertainty* on Monday, Oct 1 (7 pm), and Tuesday, Oct 2 (10 am). Monday's group will meet for Bible study and fellowship in the Harambe Room. Tuesday's group will meet for Bible study in the 2nd floor Parlor, followed by a potluck lunch. Soup will be provided, but please bring a side or salad to share, as well as your own place setting.

Food 4 Thought Begins – Oct 4

Food 4 Thought is a no-cost learning support and enrichment program for youth in grades 6–8, which equips and encourages them by exploring and enjoying food. For more info about how your child can participate in our *Food 4 Thought* program, call Sara Hackett (412.673.2926). The program begins Oct 4 from 4:30-6:30 pm. If you are interested in becoming an adult mentor or a meal team member, call Wil Forrest (412.260.2554).





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

Michele Bossers' cousin Laura,
David Carl's aunt Yvonne,
Kate Carlson's niece's friend Kaitlyn,
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 Russ Overfield.

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

Peace.....Thursday, 5:30 pm (2nd fl Library)
Air Pollution Group.....Thursday, 7:00 pm (Highland Rm)

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.

Cathedral Concert – Oct 7

The eighth season of ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series kicks off with Grammy Award-winning artist Nathan Laube in concert on Sunday, Oct 7 at 3 pm. This concert will be presented in cooperation with the *Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh* (OAS). As part of his performance, Mr. Laube will premiere a new composition by Craig Phillips, celebrating the OAS' 40th season.



Complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members from Dr. Edward Alan Moore (EdM@coh.net). A freewill offering will be received.

World Communion Sunday – Oct 7

ELPC will join sibling congregations around the world to celebrate our oneness in Christ as we partake of the bread and cup at the Table and receive the *Peace and Global Witness Offering* on World Communion Sunday, Oct 7. Following our 11 am worship service, Kendall Pelling, director of land recycling at East Liberty Development, Inc., will give an update on the redevelopment in our community. A light lunch will be served and a limited number of seats will be available for a short tour of our community.

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



Energy Efficiency 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).

Hannah Price Exhibit – Through Nov 17

Hannah Price, a photographic artist and filmmaker, has her new series *Semaphore* on exhibit at the Silver Eye Center for Photography (4808 Penn Ave, 15224) through Nov 17. *Semaphore* is a collection of black and white photographs, concrete poems and video interviews that explore the overt and subtle ways we signal identity to the world. Visit www.silvereye.org for details. *Hannah Price's "Cursed by Night" photo exhibit was on display at ELPC in Spring 2017.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sept 30 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (McKelyv Room) – “Theology for Presbyterians: Jesus Christ” facilitated by the Contemporaries Steering Committee

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) – Esther 7:1–10; 9:20–22; Psalm 124; James 5:13–20; Mark 9:38–50 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) – “The poet Rumi: Selections and Islamic Insights” led by Aliya Khan

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) – A beginning discussion of chapter two of *Surrender to Love* by David Benner, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Steve Evrard, and David Carl

♦ 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