



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)

NOVEMBER 25, 2018 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897) was an organist and composer born in Alsace, France. Of the 160 pieces he composed during his short life, the *Suite Gothique*, op. 25 for organ is his most famous work. The third movement of the suite is played as this morning's prelude and the fourth movement as the postlude.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
(Psalm 51:10-11)

TIME OF PREPARATION

"To banish imperfection is to destroy expression, to check exertion, to paralyze vitality."
— John Ruskin

"One of the basic rules of the universe is that nothing is perfect. Perfection simply doesn't exist....Without imperfection, neither you nor I would exist."
— Stephen Hawking

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Prière à Notre-Dame"

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Léon Boëllmann

*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

David Carl

Leader: Grace to you and peace from the one who is and who was and who is to come,

People: And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Leader: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

People: All the earth is full of God's glory.

Leader: Let us rejoice and worship the Lord!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #299

HANOVER

"You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim"

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carl

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Carl

Holy God, how often we trust in the wisdom of this world and the promises of earthly rulers instead of the power of your love. Help us to turn our hearts toward you. Restore us in your love, and set us free to forgive as we have been forgiven, by the grace and mercy of Christ. Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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No one is without difficulties, whether in high or low life, and every person knows best where their own shoe pinches. (Abigail Adams)

The date of the book of Jude is uncertain. Its reference to the "words spoken by the apostles" means it comes from a period in the church after that of the original disciples – likely in the latter half of the 1st century. It interprets both Old Testament and apocryphal books of the bible.

This joyful setting of Psalm 46 by arranger Mark Schweizer alternates between 7/8 and 4/4 rhythms and incorporates the hymn *Now Thank We All Our God*.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDON

David Carl

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!

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 18:33-38a

Lenore Williams

ELPC BICENTENNIAL ORAL HISTORY — ROY HILLER

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Child: Noah Canavezi Kniess, son of Ana and Ryan Kniess
Profession of Faith
Act of Baptizing

* HYMN #543

"God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me"

GREEN TYLER

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Jude 1-25

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SERMON

"Big Themes, Little Books: Holy Imperfections"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering

Sherry Anderson

OFFERING INVITATION

Sherry Anderson

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

"Canticle of Thanksgiving"

Mark Schweizer

*God is our refuge and strength, in strife our constant aid;
Therefore, although the earth be removed, we will not be afraid:
Our God, who is the Lord of hosts, is still upon our side; and ever will abide.*

*Though mountains fall to seas, and oceans leap with foam;
And roar in anger, yet we still find in his grace our home.
Our God, who is the Lord of hosts, is still upon our side; and every need provide.*

*Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*Come, and behold what works have by the Lord been made;
Come, see what wonders now proclaimed in majesty arrayed.
Our God, who is the Lord of hosts, our guardian and our guide; will ever more abide.*

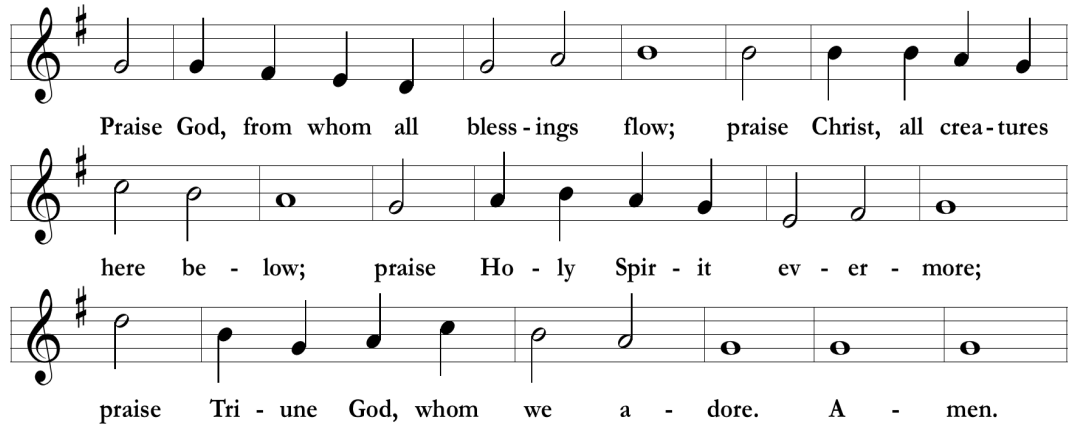
* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
In the French and Indian War, the British captured Fort Duquesne in Pittsburgh (1758); the *Farmer's Almanac* was first published by Robert Bailey Thomas in West Boylston, MA (1792); Andrew Carnegie was born in Dunfermline, Scotland (1835); the singer Tina Turner was born (1941) and the ICC outlawed segregation in interstate travel (1955).

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Sovereign God, come to us now in silent, holy power. Still our distracted minds, our bruised hearts, our longing bodies. Then speak the power of Jesus' name in such a way that we might hear it, in such a way that we might bear it into the world. Make us a people who seek not to preserve what we know but to make palpable who you are – for we move and pray by the gift of your spirit within us. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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:	Lord Jesus, you've said to us, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Accept these offerings as today's responses to your voice. Accept our lives as imperfect vessels seeking ever to be filled by your grace, wisdom and power. For in Christ's name we pray.	
People:	Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #485

ENGELBERG

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

"Toccata"

Léon Boëllmann

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. Heather Schoenewolf
Sherry Anderson
David Carl
Lenore Williams
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Michael Painter, *Organ Accompanist*
Acolyte: Elliott Stephany
Beadle: Lenore Williams
Crucifer: Oliver Stephany
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us for our *Fellowship Time* after worship in the 1st floor Fellowship Room. All are welcome!

If you would like to make a food or monetary donation in support of our Fellowship Time, please call Wil Forrest (412.441.3800 x118).

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The Sanctuary flowers today are in loving memory of Dr. Paul C. Williams on his birthday, from the Williams, Fabilli and Motley families.

♦ 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. First Sunday in Advent.
Dec 2 — Derail Holcomb preaching.

11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. First Sunday in Advent.
Dec 2 — The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy 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 (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 *Fellowship Time* in the Fellowship 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 **December 2 and 9** from **12:30-2 pm** in the 3rd floor Music Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp to register or for more information (GloriaK@coh.net).

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



TODAY AT ELPC

Thank Offering Received

Since 1888, Presbyterian Women have joyfully expressed gratitude for God's blessing by sharing their blessings with those in need at home and around the world. The *Thank Offering* funds provide education, safe housing, clean water, health care, help for prisoners, justice for women, and so much more. You are invited to participate in the *Thank Offering* today at all worship services.

Hanging of the Greens

In preparation for the Advent season, volunteers are invited to stay after worship today to help us decorate our Sanctuary with the trees, wreaths, and garlands that symbolize the good news of Christ's promised presence in our world. Please join us!

Café Justo Coffee for Sale

Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale during today's *Fellowship Time*. For just \$10/pound, your purchase will support this fair trade cooperative and help provide a sustainable income for Mexican coffee farmers. Check or cash only.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Carla Coles**.
The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Henry Petrilli**.



Book Discussion — Nov 29

The Environment Subcommittee of the Justice Committee invites you to a discussion of the second half of Eliza Griswold's 2017 book *Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America*, at 7 pm on Thursday, Nov 29 in the Session Room. Griswold writes of the devastating impact of fracking on two small communities near Washington, PA. For more info or to RSVP, please contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Tween Night Scavenger Hunt — Nov 30

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to enjoy dinner and an epic scavenger hunt around the church on Friday, Nov 30 from 6–8 pm. Friends are welcome too! RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Facing Systemic Racism Event — Dec 2

Please join us for the final event in our *Facing Systemic Racism Series* on Sunday, Dec 2 at 12:30 pm as we discuss where we, as a church, go next to address systemic racism. Your reflections and input will help guide future events, action, and programs at ELPC. A light lunch will be served. Call 412.441.3800 x140 for childcare.

Toymakers' Annual Sale — Dec 2

The ELPC Toymakers' annual sale will be held following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Dec 2 in the Fellowship Room. Available will be a sampling of the toys they make for distribution to women's shelters and mission trips, as well as ornaments, shelf elves, and Nativity puzzles.

Support the Christmas Giving Tree — Dec 2, 5 and 9

Stop by the *Giving Tree* near the Hospitality Desk on Sundays, Dec 2 and 9, or Wednesday, Dec 5 and select a gift tag. Deacons will be on hand to offer assistance. Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church office no later than noon on Sunday, Dec 16. To participate by donating money, please make checks out to *ELPC Giving Tree* and deliver it to the church office.

Church Tours — Dec 2, 16 and 30

All are welcome to attend a church tour after the 11 am worship service on the following dates:

- ✦ Dec 2 — Stained Glass
- ✦ Dec 16 — Trinity Chapel
- ✦ Dec 30 — Sanctuary/Chapel

Holiday Shopping in the Name of Love — Dec 4

If you shop at Thousand Villages (5820 Forbes Ave) on Tuesday, Dec 4 from 6–8 pm, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the ELPC Deacons. This event is an opportunity to support those artisans far away, and support those in our midst who are most in need this holiday season. Call Tucker Ferda for info (406.249.9811).

TRAIL Event: First Friday @ Shadracks — Dec 7

Young adults are invited to the TRAIL event *First Friday @ Shadracks* on Dec 7. Meet at ELPC at 7 pm to drive to Butler for the *world's largest drive-through, fully synchronized, LED Christmas light and music show of its kind!* RSVP to Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net) to save your seat in the van.

Jr. High Service Project — Dec 8

Following our Christmas Pageant rehearsal on Saturday, Dec 8, youth in grades 6–8 will share lunch, then spend the afternoon shopping for Christmas gifts for children who are in foster care through Project STAR, a program of the Children's Institute.

Christmas Pageant: A Story of Unity — Dec 9

Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec 9 at 10 am as the children of our church tell and enact the Christmas story. Written once again by the Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt, narrators will remind us of how Christ's birth drew unlikely people together in joy and hope. *There will be a dress rehearsal for all participants on Saturday, Dec 8 from 9:30–11 am, followed by a Christmas party for the children who are participating.*



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

Harvey Adams, Tim Benedict's aunt Lois,
David Carl's aunt Yvonne,
Carol Chontos' father David,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,
Wil Forrest and his brother Loren, Lee Lewand,
Nathaniel and Sonya-Marie Morley's friend Darlania,
Jon Nelson's friend Dan,
Rita Nordquist, Sandra Owen's sister Carol,
Ashleigh Parker, Henry Petrilli,
Cameron Teacoach and her friend Celina,
Pat Valoon's friend Patti,
and Chris Wharton's grandmother Mary Lou.

Committee Meeting This Week

The church building will be closed tomorrow until 7 pm.

Peace.....Thursday, 5:30 pm (2nd fl Library)

Mini-Retreat on the Incarnation — Dec 9

All are welcome to join us after Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Dec 9 from 12–3 pm as we focus on entering into the reality of the Incarnation. Lunch will be provided. *Sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee.*

Christmas in East Liberty — Dec 14

Our *Christmas in East Liberty* Cathedral Concert will take place on Friday, Dec 14 at 7:30 pm, with performances by The Brass Roots, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Saxophonist Mike Tomaro, and the ELPC Chancel Choir! A freewill offering will be received.

Blue Christmas Service and Gathering — Dec 15

The ELPC Deacons invite you to a *Blue Christmas* worship service and gathering on Saturday, Dec 15 at 7 pm. There will be a brief worship experience led by the Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes and Tucker Ferda, with assist from Joe Kiewra, and then a time of gathering and sharing food in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Dec 2 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (Chapel) — “What Does America Require?” led by the Rev. Tony Richardson-Eckes

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Jeremiah 33:14–16; Psalm 25:1–10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13; Luke 21:25–36 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Chapel) — “Mary and Jesus: An Islamic Perspective” led by Aliya Khan

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of selections of *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Michele Bossers, and Katlyn Dougherty

In our COMMUNITY

EECM Thanks ELPC for Food Donations

Through the generosity of ELPC's congregants, over 2400 pounds of food were collected last Sunday for the EECM Food Pantry! Thank you for helping people in our community have a nice Thanksgiving meal!

Pittsburgh Youth Chorus Winter Concert — Dec 2

The talented young singers of *Pittsburgh Youth Chorus* will present their annual winter concert in the ELPC Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec 2 at 4 pm. You will hear thrilling and heartwarming music perfect for the season, including *Once in Royal David's City*, *Sing to the Lord a New Song*, *Carol of the Bells* and so much more. Plus, experience the combined choirs of PYC perform *What the World Needs Now Is Love* arranged by Gerald Savage of Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12. There will also be an audience sing-along! Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3819843.

Sing at “Light! A Concert of Interfaith Unity” – Dec 2

Light! A Concert of Interfaith Unity will be held on Sunday, Dec 2 at the JCC (Jewish Community Center) Katz Theater. The event begins at 7 pm with all singers arriving at 5:30 pm for a group run through of the songs and sound check. Candles will be lit for the first night of Chanukkah, the Jewish celebration of light. Contact Sara Stock Mayo(stockmayos@gmail.com) if you are willing to sing with an interfaith group. There is no need to contact Sara if you plan on attending the event without singing.

Belle Voci Performances — Dec 6, 14 and 15

Hear Belle Voci of Pittsburgh perform live with River City Brass on Thursday, Dec 6 at 7:30 pm at Carnegie Music Hall (Oakland). Belle Voci will also perform their annual *A Natale* concert on Friday, Dec 14 at 7:30 pm at Faith United Methodist Church (261 W Chapel Ridge Rd, 15238) and on Saturday, Dec 15 at 7:30 pm at First Baptist Church of Pgh (159 N Bellefield Ave, 15213). Visit www.bellevocipgh.com for tickets and info.

Renaissance City Choir Concert — Dec 8

The Renaissance City Choir presents its holiday concert *Find JOY Together* at ELPC on Saturday, Dec 8 at 7:30 p.m. The concert features *Gloria* by John Rutter, accompanied by members of the Edgewood Symphony Orchestra, and includes a *Grinch!* Medley, *Home for the Holidays*, *Hine Ma Tov*, and *1000 Grandmothers*. The 90 member choir is Western PA's only LGBTQIA+ choir, and rehearses and performs at ELPC. Tickets are available online at www.rccpittsburgh.org.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – Dec 16

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Dec 16 at 12:30 pm. Contact Wil Forrest for info or to attend (Wil@coh.net).