



# 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)*

## DECEMBER 9, 2018 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The second prelude setting of *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* is from Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) collection of chorale preludes called *Das Orgelbüchlein* (*Little Organ Book*). This chorale is found in the purple *Glory to God* hymnal, #102.

ADVENT PRAYER:  
Blessed are you, Lord  
God: by your tender  
mercy a new dawn  
breaks upon us. Give  
light to all who wait in  
darkness, and guide our  
feet this day in paths of  
peace; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.

### TIME OF PREPARATION

"Knowledge is an unending adventure at the edge of uncertainty."

— Jacob Bronowski

"It is in the admission of ignorance and the admission of uncertainty that there is a hope for the continuous motion of human beings in some direction that doesn't get confined or blocked, as it has so many times before in various periods in history."

— Richard P. Feynman

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland"

Helmut Walcha

"Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599"

J. S. Bach

(*Savior of the Nations, Come*)

*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 / ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Aidevo, Deborah, Alexander and Christopher Hughes-Ihonde

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord!"

A choir sings in the sanctuary, "Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

The prophets tell us that every valley shall be filled and every heart shall be made whole, for peace is stronger than turmoil and love is more powerful than hate.

*The first two candles are lit.*

Leader: As we light our Advent candles, we pray for the holy peace of God.

People: Come to us, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Peace.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #104

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

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

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Both Abraham and Sarah laugh when told that they will become parents in their old age. Both doubt this angel-delivered good news, as can be seen in Genesis 17 and 18. But to them was born the child of laughter, Isaac.

Never ask anyone over 70 how they feel. **They'll tell you.** (George H.W. Bush)

Today is the birthday of English poet John Milton (1608), American author and creator of the Uncle Remus stories Joel Chandler Harris (1848), and the American inventor of freeze-dried foods, Charles Birdseye (1886). On this day A Charlie Brown Christmas first aired on CBS (1965), and Star Wars: The Last Jedi premiered in Los Angeles (2017).

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

O Lord, we seek to serve you with glad and generous hearts. When our hearts are hardened by fear and disbelief, forgive us so we may ever trust the depth of your promise. When we fall into selfish ways, forgive us so we may ever know the goodness of your call. By your grace, O God, cleanse us. By your providence, help us to learn from our mistakes. By your Holy Spirit, equip us to love and honor you this day and always. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #90

WAIT FOR THE LORD

“Wait for the Lord”

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Genesis 18:1-5, 9-14

RECOGNITION OF 50 & 51 YEAR ELPC MEMBERS

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

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.*

\* HYMN #87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN 42

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:18-24

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“The Other Christmas Story: Part I”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. 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. Fowler-Searcy

*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.*

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

Charles Coffin (1676-1749) was born in Buzancy, Ardennes, France and educated in Paris. He authored over 100 hymns. Due to his opposition to a papal bull of Pope Clement XI, Coffin was denied last rites and a Christian burial.

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.  
(Max Ehrmann, *Desiderata*)

The postlude setting of *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* is from Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) collection of chorale preludes known as the *Leipzig Chorales*, as they are from the final period of his life when he lived and worked in Leipzig, Germany.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“In Night’s Dim Shadows”

Robert Lehman  
text by Charles Coffin

*In night’s dim shadows lying, our limbs fast locked in sleep,  
To thee, with faithful sighing, our souls their vigil keep.  
Desire of every nation, hear, Lord, our piteous cry;  
Thou Word, the world’s salvation, uplift us where we lie.  
Lord, be thine Advent hastened, lest sin thy people mar;  
The gates which Adam fastened — the gates of heaven, unbar.  
Son, to thine endless merit, Redeemer, Saviour, Friend,  
With Sire and Holy Spirit be praises without end. Amen.*

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



\* 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:	God of righteousness, in faith and hope we offer our gifts of money and self, that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now. Help us always to say “Here I am, Lord.” Despite the darkness of this world, help us ever to walk in your light.	
People:	Amen.	

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #100

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661”  
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

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

*Some prayers or liturgy were reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, copyright 2012.*

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan  
Aidevo, Deborah, Alexander  
and Christopher Hughes-Ihonde  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*  
*Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Acolytes: Elliott Stephany and Quinn Seif  
Beadle: Liz Hopkins  
Crucifer: Oliver Stephany  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after worship 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 Wil Forrest (412.441.3800 x118).*

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

*If you would like to purchase flowers for our Sanctuary service in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Norma Meyer (412.441.3800 x111).*

◆ 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.  
*Dec 16* — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. Third Sunday in Advent.  
*Dec 16* — 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 (*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* TODAY from 12:30-2 pm in the Good Samaritan Room (G12) to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp for info about 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

### Want to Become Part of our Faith Family?

If you're interested in becoming an ELPC member or friend, stay for our *Inquirers' Class* following Sanctuary worship today. Please see Pastor Randy Bush immediately after the service if you'd like to attend today's class in the Good Samaritan Room (G12), or call Gloria Knopp (412.441.3800 x122) for info about future classes.

### Mini-Retreat on the Incarnation

All are welcome to join us after today's Sanctuary worship service from 12–3 pm in the 2nd floor Parlor as we focus on entering into the reality of the Incarnation. Lunch provided. *Sponsored by the Spiritual Life Committee.*

### Support the Christmas Giving Tree

Stop by the *Giving Tree* near the Hospitality Desk today 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.

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

Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Doug Cooper**.  
The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Susan Spangler**.

### Advent Devotionals Available

As a gift to you this season, the Christian Education committee is offering a range of Advent devotional materials. You can pick up your copy at the Journey service, on the 2nd floor CE table, or near the Hospitality Desk.



### Christmas in East Liberty – Dec 14

Our *Christmas in East Liberty* Cathedral Concert will take place at 7:30 pm on Friday, Dec 14, 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. The concert will feature the premiere of *I Wonder as I Wander*, offered in memory of Gabriel D'Abruzzo, former ELPC music associate. Please join us for this highly anticipated concert of the season!



### Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Event – Dec 14

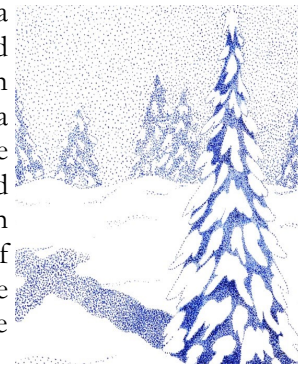
YAMs are invited to ELPC on Friday, Dec 14 at 7:30 pm for the *Christmas in East Liberty* concert. After the concert, they will walk to BRGR for fellowship and a cookie exchange. Please bring a dozen cookies (*self baked, someone else baked, store bought*) to exchange. Containers for you to take them home will be provided. Please RSVP if you will be participating in the fellowship or cookie exchange by Dec 12 to Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net; 405.501.0711).

### Half Day Insight Meditation Retreat – Dec 15

The Insight Meditation Group is hosting a *Half Day Meditation Retreat* on Saturday, Dec 15 from 8:30 am–1 pm in the 2nd floor Parlor. All are welcome, and no prior experience is necessary. Please contact Susan Spangler for more info (sspanglerlrcsw@gmail.com).

### Blue Christmas Service and Gathering – Dec 15

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



### 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).

### Purchase Bicentennial Glass Items – Dec 16

ELPC's Bicentennial glass items will be on sale Sunday, Dec 16 after all worship services. *They make great Christmas gifts!*

### Church Tours – Dec 16 and 30

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

- ✦ Dec 16 — Trinity Chapel
- ✦ Dec 30 — Sanctuary/Chapel

### Café Justo Coffee for Sale – Dec 23

Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale during *Fellowship Time* on Sunday, Dec 23. It makes a great last-minute gift for that coffee lover in your life! 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. *Note: Café Justo will be sold on the 4th Sunday of each month in 2019.*





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

Sue Bailey, David Carl's aunt Yvonne,  
Carol Chontos' father David,  
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,  
Laura Dobrich's nephew, Lee Lewand, Darrell Knopp,  
Pen Lytle, Sandra Owen's sister Carol, Henry Petrilli,  
Cameron Teacoach and her friend Celina,  
Pat Valoon's friend Patti and her family,  
and Chris Wharton's grandmother Mary Lou.

### Committee Meetings This Week

Personnel..... *Tuesday, 6:00 pm (2nd fl Library)*  
Deacons..... *Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Garth Overlook)*  
Mission Board..... *Wednesday, 5:00 pm (2nd fl Library)*

### No Taizé Sung Prayer Service – Dec 26

Please note we will not have a Taizé sung prayer service on Wednesday, Dec 26.

### DG2! (Doing Good Together) Project – Dec 27

Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom will gather together on Thursday, Dec 27 from 3–8 pm to make and serve dinner to the residents at East End Cooperative Ministry. Contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

### Tween Movie Night – Dec 28

Youth (grades 4–6) will enjoy pizza, popcorn and a movie at *Tween Movie Night* from 6–8 pm on Friday, Dec 28. Bring a friend and send your movie suggestions to Sara Hackett!

### Year-End Examen Mini-Retreat – Dec 31

Find God in your life as you review the year ending and consider intentions as you look forward into the year ahead at our *Year-End Examen Retreat* on New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec 31 from 9 am–Noon. Continental breakfast provided.

### Toiletries for the Holidays: Chapel Market

We ask that you consider sharing the holidays with shoppers at our *Chapel Market* ministry by donating toiletries and new socks for men and women. Body lotion, face lotion, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste are especially needed. Donations can be put in the box near the Highland Ave entrance (clothing is not needed at this time). The *Chapel Market* is open 5 times per month to provide neighborhood shoppers with free clothing.

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

**iSERVE**  
LOVE IN ACTION

If you have something to share, visit the iSERVE webpage at [www.ELPC.church/programs/serve-2](http://www.ELPC.church/programs/serve-2), or contact **Jim DiGiorgio** (JimD@coh.net).

♦ Club 116 meal providers for Spring 2019 term ♦

## In our COMMUNITY

### Valley View Church Fundraiser – TODAY!

Valley View Presbyterian Church's *Wings 'n Things* fundraiser will be held today from 1:30–5:30 pm. They are selling BBQ or Buffalo wings (and sides) at 601 N Aiken Ave, 15206. Please call 412.361.0870 for more info.

### Amnesty International Write-for-Human-Rights – Dec 12

Join *Amnesty International Group 39* and other human rights groups on Wednesday, Dec 12 at Calvary Episcopal Church (315 Shady Ave, 15206) for the annual *Write-for-Rights* event. Stop in and stay as long as you can. Free refreshments; a candle lighting ceremony and reading of a City Council proclamation will be held at 7:30 pm.

### Belle Voci Performances – Dec 14 and 15

Belle Voci of Pittsburgh will perform their annual *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](http://www.bellevocipgh.com) for tickets and info.

## Christmas Eve Worship Services

Join us in the Sanctuary for our Christmas Eve worship services on Monday, Dec 24. Both services will feature the celebration of the Lord's Supper and candle lighting.

- ♦ **Friends & Family Service at 5 pm.** Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will preach.
- ♦ **Candlelight Service at 11 pm.** Special prelude music begins at 10:30 pm. Rev. Dr. Randy Bush will preach.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Dec 16 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

### ♦ ADULTS ♦

**Contemporaries (Harambe Rm)** – “Turning off the Christmas Machine” led by the Contemporaries Steering Committee

**Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library)** — Zephaniah 3:14–20; Isaiah 12:2–6 Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

**Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm)** – “Discussion with Rabbi Doris Dyen”

**Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm)** – A discussion of selections of *Meditations of the Heart* by Howard Thurman, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Steve Evrard, and Judy Roberts

*There will be no Church School classes on Sundays, Dec 23 and 30 for a Christmas holiday break. Classes will resume on Winter Rally Day, Sunday, Jan 6.*