



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 16, 2018 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gustav Holst's hymn
setting of *In the Bleak
Midwinter* by Christina
Rossetti first appeared in
The English Hymnal
in 1906.

Love children especially,
for they live to soften and
purify our hearts, and, as
it were, to guide us. Woe
to the one who
offends a child!
(Fyodor Dostoevsky)

ADVENT PRAYER:
Caregiving God,
providing for our needs,
as you long to fill the
hungry with food, so also
fill our imagination with
people and things that
are just and true,
excellent, noble, and
worthy of praise, that by
dwelling on the beauty of
goodness, we may grow
into it day by day as
students of Christ in
whose name we pray.
Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

"People of God, dare to hope. Dare to believe. Hear what God, the Living God,
Mother and Father of us all, will speak, for God will speak peace to her people."
— Brian Wren

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Veni, Emmanuel"

Flor Peeters

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Holst/Schweizer

*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. Patrice 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 / ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Michael, Angela, Lila and Nora Chang

Leader: The world says, "Worry," but we shall say, "Rejoice!"

The news says, "Fear," but we shall say, "Rejoice!"

The society around us says, "Just be happy," but we shall say, "Be faithful
in the Lord." For we know that joy comes in the promises and steadfast
presence of the Lord.

The first three candles are lit.

Leader: As we light our Advent candles, we pray for hope, peace and joy.

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

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83

STUTT GART

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

You, O Lord, are near to us this day and always. In your presence, we confess
our need for repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry.
We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted
your word, and too often we are afraid or downhearted. Forgive us, restore us,
and turn our silence into rejoicing, for the sake of the One who proclaims
good news for all the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
Birthdays are celebrated
for composer Ludwig van
Beethoven (1770),
novelist Jane Austen
(1775), and playwright
Noel Coward (1899).
Andrew Young was also
appointed as
Ambassador to the
United Nations (1976).

American composer
Morten Lauridsen
(b. 1943) is professor of
music at the University of
Southern California
Thornton School of
Music. *O Magnum
Mysterium* was
composed in 1994 and
has been widely
performed and recorded
around the world.

In Luke 1:63, notice that
Zechariah does not say
that the child's name will
be John, but that it is
John. Zechariah is not
making a decision; he is
being obedient to what
has already been
decided. After this act of
obedience, he recovers
the power of speech and
praises God.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #92

WAITING

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PARDON

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!

HANDBELL ANTHEM

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Hart Morris

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 5:12-14, 18-21

Vivienne Selia

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Sacrament of Baptism: Ali Margaret Carpenter

Presentation of Members & Friend:

Members: Ali Carpenter, Melia Chandler and Paige Mckenzie,
Jeff Fritz, Kyleigh Graham, Julianne Sanscartier,
Kim Schriver, Eric Yttri

Friend: Philip Wilson

Profession & Affirmations of Faith

Prayer of Welcome

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.*

CHORAL ANTHEM

“O Magnum Mysterium”

Morten Lauridsen

*O great mystery and wonderful sacrament, that beasts should see the new-born Lord lying in a
manger. O blessed virgin, whose body was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:57-66

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SERMON

“The Other Christmas Story: Part II”

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.*

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.*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Sans Day Carol is a 19th century Cornish Christmas carol. This arrangement by Stephen Caracciolo was commissioned by the Maryland State Boychoir.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Sans Day Carol”

Stephen Caracciolo

*Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:
And Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*


*Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:
And Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

*Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:
And Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

*Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, then trust we our Savior, who rose from the dead:
And Mary bore Jesus Christ, our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.*

* 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. 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: Loving God, you provide more than enough for all. Accept what we give
this day – given as each is able – that it may be used for the benefit of
Christ’s church and the world you have so deeply loved and redeemed.

People: Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #107

REJOICE, REJOICE

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Veni, Emmanuel”

Robert J. Powell

*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.*

For mission-oriented Christmas gifts, consider supporting the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance or Presbyterian Mission Agency. Or go to GlobalGiving.org or GiveWell.org for ways to contribute to mission projects around the world.

PRAYER AT THE CLOSE OF DAY:

Thank you, God, for the gift of today and for guarding my heart and mind in Christ Jesus. All that I did and all that I left undone, I now give over to your safekeeping, trusting in your peace that surpasses all understanding. Be my rest as I sleep tonight, and renew me in your love for another day. Amen.

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 Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Michael, Angela, Lila and Nora Chang
Vivienne Selia
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Michael Painter, *Organ Accompanist*
ELPC Ringers
Acolyte: Kevin Lee
Beadle: Michele Bossers
Crucifer: Devan McNamee
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 23 — The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Fourth Sunday in Advent.
Dec 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 (*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* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gloria Knopp for more information about 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.



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

Church Events and Announcements

December 16, 2018 • 3rd Sunday of Advent

TODAY AT ELPC

Christmas Joy Offering Received

The *Christmas Joy Offering* will be received today at all worship services. Please see the bulletin insert for additional information.

Purchase Bicentennial Glass Items

ELPC's Bicentennial glass items are on sale today after all worship services. *They make great Christmas gifts!*

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

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

Church Tour

All are welcome to attend a tour of the Trinity Chapel after the 11 am worship service today. Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary after worship.

Christmas Giving Tree Donations Due Today

Wrapped gifts, with tags securely attached, are due back in the church by Noon today. To participate by donating money, make checks out to *ELPC Giving Tree*.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

Today's *Journey* service DOD is **Tony Richardson-Eckes**. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Dave Cowan**.

Advent Devotionals Available

Pick up Advent devotional materials at the Journey service, on the 2nd floor CE table, or near the Hospitality Desk.



Ushers and Greeters for Christmas Eve

If you will be attending either of our Christmas Eve services, and have a heart for ushering and greeting, please contact David Carl (412.378.4735; dbcarl333@gmail.com) or Sherry Anderson (mishand408@comcast.net; 412.361.4419) to express your interest.

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.*

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!

College Reunion for Young Adults – Dec 30

College-age young adults are invited to catch up over lunch following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Dec 30. For more info and to RSVP, please contact Sara Hackett (412.673.2926).

Church Tours – Dec 30, Jan 6 and 27

All are welcome to join any of our church tours following the 11 am worship service on these dates:

- ✦ Dec 30—*Sanctuary and Chapel*
- ✦ Jan 6—*Sanctuary and Chapel*
- ✦ Jan 27—*Stained Glass*

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 in the 2nd floor Parlor. Continental breakfast provided.

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.





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

Sue Bailey, Henk Bossers,
Carol Chontos' father David,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,
Laura Dobrich's nephew,
Katelyn Haas' friend's mother Pamela,
Lee Lewand, Pen Lytle,
Emily Mohn-Slate's mother-in-law Karena,
Nathaniel and Sonya-Marie Morley's friend Darlania,
Henry Petrilli,
Pat Valoon's friend Patti and her family,
and Jerry Wrzosek.

No Committee Meetings This Week

Chatham Baroque in Concert – Jan 5

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series continues at 8 pm on Saturday, Jan 5, with a performance by Chatham Baroque in the Chapel. Regarded as one of the country's most distinguished period ensembles, Chatham Baroque has excited local, national, and international audiences for nearly 30 years with dazzling technique and lively interpretations of 17th and 18th century music, played on instruments of the time. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members from Dr. Edward Alan Moore.

Winter Rally Day – Jan 6

As we gather for Church School on Sunday, Jan 6, after our Christmas break, the Christian Education Committee invites you to a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Room beginning at 9:30 am. Please bring a breakfast bread to share. Grab a bite to eat on your way to class, and wish your friends a Happy New Year!

Bible Study – Jan 7 and 8

All women at ELPC are welcome to join Presbyterian Women as they continue their Bible study titled *God With Us When We're Powerless* on Monday, Jan 7 at 7 pm, and Tuesday, Jan 8 at 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.

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, or contact Jim DiGiorgio (JimD@coh.net).

♦ Club 116 meal providers for Spring 2019 term ♦

In our COMMUNITY

PTS Public Meeting – Dec 17

Join Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave, 15206) for a *Public Meeting* on Monday, Dec 17 from 6-8 pm in Long Hall (Knox Rm) to discuss their 10-year campus master plan vision. Neighborhood stakeholders and residents are invited to learn about the vision for the Seminary, discuss opportunities for collaboration, improved connections to the neighborhood, and how potential development opportunities can address programmatic needs in the community. Please email ctanakapack@pts.edu for more info.

Do You Enjoy Crafts? – Jan 8, 9, 23 and 28

Consider joining one of our “hands on” groups to use your skills to care for others. We share lots of fellowship, along with our patterns, problems, and projects. All ages and skills are welcome. Contact Diane Jackson (dnjcks@verizon.net; 412.441.6021) for more info about these groups.

- ♦ *Knitting Group*—Tuesday, Jan 8, 1–3 pm
- ♦ *Toy Makers*—Wednesday, Jan 9 & 23, 9 am–12 pm
- ♦ *Sewing Group*—Monday, Jan 28, 2:30–6 pm

Tween Night – Jan 13

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to a night of bowling, pizza, trophies, and fun at *Tween Night* on Sunday, Jan 13 from 4-6 pm. Please bring a beverage or snack to share, and your friends! Contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Ministry Events – January

Contact Kelli Booher, Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (KelliB@coh.net; 405.501.0711) for details about these young adult ministry events:

- ♦ Friday, Jan 4: “REcipe” *First Friday Potluck*, 7 pm
- ♦ Sunday, Jan 6: “RESolution, RESponsibility, or RELuctance” *YAM Sunday School Class*, 9:45 am
- ♦ Tuesday, Jan 15: “REjoice” *Ringling in the New Year with Handbells*, 7 pm
- ♦ Sunday, Jan 27: “REflect” *Stained Glass and Mosaic Class*, 12:30 pm

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 (no clothing at this time).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

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.