



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)

MARCH 31, 2019 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jehan Alain's promising career (1911-1940) as an organist and composer was cut short while serving in the French Army during World War II. His youngest sister, Marie-Claire Alain (1926-2013) went on to champion his music and became one of the foremost organists and teachers of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Gracious God, seeker of the lost: draw your children back to your loving embrace, restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons, and reconcile our hearts to you, that we may become ambassadors of your reconciling, welcoming love to all the world. Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

"To deny the freedom of the will is to make morality impossible." — J.A. Froude

"All theory is against the freedom of the will; all experience is for it."
— Samuel Johnson

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

"Choral Dorian" Jehan Alain

"Thou Shalt Bring Them In" G.F. Handel

Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music/Prelude.

Please use this time to fill out the red Friendship pads and for quiet worship preparation.

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

Gil Hickman

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

People: As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love to all who trust in God.

Leader: God satisfies us with good as long as we live, so our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: We will gather now to worship our God, to attune our ears to the voice of the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God together!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #643

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

"Now Thank We All Our God"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Gil Hickman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gil Hickman

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to a beloved community, but we break your laws and forsake your love. Forgive us your sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:

The following people were born: philosopher René Descartes (1596), composer Franz Joseph Haydn (1732), and heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson (1871); the following people died: poet John Donne (1630) and author Charlotte Brontë (1855); the following works were premiered: *Oklahoma!* (1943) and *The Glass Menagerie* (1945); and the Eiffel Tower was officially opened, despite criticism that it was not suitably French (1889).

[Humans] are born free, yet are everywhere in chains.
(Jean Jacques Rousseau)

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it.
(Thomas Paine)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Gil Hickman

Leader: As a parent welcomes home a wayward child, so God embraces all who seek God's grace and desire to love God and our neighbors. 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 #358 (*remain seated*)

STEAL AWAY

"Steal Away"

Congregation sings refrain only.

Refrain: **Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus!**
Steal away, steal away home; I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me; he calls me by the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here. (*refrain*)

Green trees are bending; poor sinners stand a trembling.

The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here. (*refrain*)

My Lord, he calls me; he calls me by the lightning.

The trumpet sounds within my soul; I ain't got long to stay here. (*refrain*)

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE READING

Laura Ristau

Psalm 32

Leader: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

People: **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

Leader: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

People: **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

People: **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Leader: Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

People: **You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

Leader: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

People: **Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."**

Leader: Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

People: **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-10

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

In Joshua 5:10-12, the Israelites keep the Passover, the meal that not only commemorates their deliverance from Egypt but that makes the power of that event present to each new generation. By eating the meal, they commit themselves to embody that life of covenant with God and others.

Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380-1741) is best known as the author of *The Imitation of Christ*. Apart from the Bible, no book has been translated into more languages than this work.

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either. (Mark Twain)

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

Children of any age are welcome to come forward 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 #509

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

HOLY MANNA

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joshua 5:9-12

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“Faith + Free Will”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Write Your Blessed Name”

K. Lee Scott

text: Thomas à Kempis

Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly engraved that no prosperity, that no adversity shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, and a faithful Guide to the courts of heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. O Jesu, my only Savior! Write your blessed name... Amen.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Christ, all creatures here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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: You continually seek for us, that we might find our way back to you and your merciful ways. With these offerings, we extend a portion of our lives to you, O God, that it may serve those in need and prosper your goals of justice, healing and peace on earth. By your grace, may it be so, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #69

“Here I Am, Lord”

HERE I AM

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

“Little Prelude and Fugue in F Major, BWV 556”

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
 Sara Hackett
 Gil Hickman
 Laura Ristau
 Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
 ELPC Chancel Choir
 Rev. Dr. Randy Bush, *Piano*
 Acolytes: Kevin Lee and Emmy Thompson
 Beadle: Erich Stein
 Crucifer: David Bellin
 Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after worship for our *Fellowship Time*. All are welcome to attend.

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 worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please call Norma (412.441.3800 x111). The cost is \$150 a Sunday.

♦ 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.
April 7 — 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.
April 7 — 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* on **Sundays, April 7 and 14** to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register (GloriaK@coh.net).

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



TODAY AT ELPC

Tour the Holy Land Info Meeting

ELPC and Temple Sinai are working together on a shared study mission to Israel, taking place Nov 10–18, led by Pastor Randy and Rabbi Jamie Gibson. Join us for an information session in the 2nd floor Parlor after the 11 am worship service today.

Sponsor Youth Participating in the 30-Hour Famine

Sponsor youth in grades 6-12 before and after worship today for the *30-Hour Famine*. Money raised will support ELPC's sister church, Balaka CCAP, in Malawi, as well as our youth team traveling there this summer. To RSVP or for more info, contact Sara Hackett or Anthony Williams.

Earth Care Challenge Pledge

Take the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee's *Earth Care Challenge Pledge* in the Garth Overlook Room after today's 11 am service, and in the Fellowship Room before the 11 am service. You can record your pledge today and next Sunday.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

The *Journey* service DOD is **Doug Cooper**.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Kathy Kiewra**.

Church Photo Directory

Have your photo taken for the new church directory today in the McKelvy Room after the 11 am service.



PW Bible Study – April 1 and 2

All women at ELPC are welcome to join Presbyterian Women for their Bible study on Monday, April 1 at 7 pm in the Harambe Room and/or Tuesday, April 2 at 10 am in the 2nd floor Parlor (followed by a potluck lunch; soup provided, but please bring a side or salad to share).

Facing Systemic Racism Lenten Series – April 3

Our six-week Lenten study of *The Belhar Confession* continues to meet on Wednesdays from 5–7 pm. This series provides a theological grounding for our congregation's anti-racism work. Study materials are included and a light meal of soup will be served. This week's lesson materials can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/ELPCBelharLent>.

YAM First Friday Game Night – April 5

Join young adults at the Pittsburgh Friends Meeting House (4836 Ellsworth Ave) for game night on Friday, April 5 at 7 pm! Feel free to bring a game to play with others. Food will be snack-potluck style, so bring a snack to share. Contact Kelli Booher if you need a ride or for more info (kellib@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x114).

Women's Retreat – April 5 and 6

Susan Spangler will lead the *Presbyterian Women's Retreat* in Christian meditation practice at Camp Crestfield from Friday to Saturday, April 5-6. Get to know each other better, enjoy good food, and spend time relaxing or hiking in the countryside. The retreat is open to all. Please RSVP to Kay Shissler (kshissler@juno.com).

Youth Ministry Events – April 6 and 7

• **DG2!** — *Sunday, April 7, 12 from 4 pm*

Youth in grades 4–12 will partner with youth from Rodef Shalom to show acts of loving kindness by playing Bingo with residents at Charles Morris Nursing and Rehab Center. Meet in the Harambe Room for lunch following worship. We will return to ELPC by 4 pm.

• **30-Hour Famine** — *Saturday, April 6 at 3:30 pm to Sunday, April 7 at 10:45 am*

Youth in grades 6–12 will explore our faith and what it means to be part of the global church through fasting, service, prayer, and games. We will break our fast with communion during Journey worship and then have breakfast together. Money raised will support ELPC's sister church, Balaka CCAP, in Malawi, as well as our youth team traveling there this summer. A permission slip is required. To RSVP or for more details, contact Sara Hackett or Anthony Williams.

Young Children's Ministry – April 7

Families with children age 3 and under are invited to a special intergenerational church school class in the nursery from 9:45-10:45 am on Sunday, April 7. We will talk about the sacrament of Communion together, and explore how we can begin to teach our young children about its importance. We will explore this together through hands-on activities, and conversation together. Please RSVP to Pastor Heather (HeatherS@coh.net).

Psychology of Religion – April 7

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to explore the *Psychology of Religion* with Kevin Seybold on Sunday, April 7 after the 11 am service in the 2nd floor Parlor. An ELPC member, Kevin is Professor of Psychology at Grove City College, and author of *Explorations in Neuroscience, Psychology and Religion* and *Questions in the Psychology of Religion*. A light lunch will be served.

Rescheduled: Justice Committee Meeting – April 14

The Justice Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Sunday, April 14 at 12:30 pm. There will be no committee meeting on April 7. For more info, please contact Carol Chonoska (carolchonoska@gmail.com; 724.272.9722).



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

Joseph Adjaye, Diana Bloss, Jack Burley,
Carla Depperman's friend Dorothy,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law Andrea,
Nancy Harlan's co-worker,
Jan Herzer's friend Jake, Liz Hopkins' mother Margery,
Morris Jordan, Gloria Knopp's mother Dorothy,
Nancy Leshner, Lee Lewand, Clay and Kathy McQueen,
Emily Mohn-Slate's mother-in-law Karena, Ashley Parker,
Jan Pressman's friend Nate, Cassandra Sawtelle's son Elias,
Heather Schoenewolf's uncle Jim and friend Tony,
Tim Sergi's sister Kimberly, and Pat Valoon.

Condolences to Denise Sheffey-Powell on her mother's passing.

Heretics, Doubters and Other Saints – April 14

The Spiritual Life Committee is offering a new opportunity for dialogue: *Heretics, Doubters and Other Saints*. Do you secretly think that if everyone actually knew what you believe (and do not believe) that you would not be welcome in church? Come together with others who have also been carrying around their secret doubts and questions, to talk about the wide breadth of theology within the Presbyterian church, and to explore how your personal faith might be more complete after worship on Sunday, April 14. A light lunch will be provided.

The Arsenal Duo to Perform – April 14

The eighth season of ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series continues on Sunday, April 14 at 3 pm with a performance by the *Arsenal Duo*. Comprised of organist Edward Alan Moore and pianist Nathan Carterette, the *Arsenal Duo* will offer a captivating performance, uniting their respective instruments in a unique and spectacular fashion. Featured on the program will be the first movement of Tchaikovsky's piano concerto and George Gershwin's iconic *Rhapsody in Blue*. A freewill offering will be received.



Please visit our webpage
for current volunteer
opportunities!



CATHEDRAL CONCERTS CAPTAINS

This role is best for 2 or more people who will lead the other concert volunteers in their tasks during the concert events here at ELPC.

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION HOSTS

Volunteers are needed to be hosts for our neighbors on May 10 from 5-7 pm! Join us as we invite the community to tour the church, learn more about our history and programs, and more.

For more info or if you are interested in volunteering for either of these opportunities, please contact Jim DiGiorgio (JimD@coh.net).

www.cathedralofhope.org/programs/iserve-2

Committee Meetings This Week

Mission Board.....Monday, 5:30 pm (2nd fl Library)
Property.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (2nd fl Library)

Middle School Mission Trip Meeting – April 14

Youth in grades 6–8 who are interested in attending *Mission Possible* at Crestfield Camp from July 7-12 are asked to attend an informational meeting following worship on Sunday, April 14. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net). Parents are invited also.

ELPC Tours – April 14 and 28

Throughout the year, ELPC offers a variety of tours for members, friends, and visitors following Sanctuary worship on Sundays.

- **Tower Tour** — Sunday, April 14
The climb requires a bit of stamina; comfortable shoes and pants are suggested. The tour is not recommended for small children.
- **Sanctuary and Chapel Tour** — Sunday, April 28

Tween Night – April 26

Tweens in grades 4–6 will get together for dinner and messy games at *Tween Night* on Friday, April 26 from 6-8 pm. We will be outdoors so dress for the weather and for a mess!

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – April 28

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's *LGBTQ Ministry* on Sunday, April 28 at 12:30 pm when they continue the discussion of Matthew Vine's *God and the Gay Christian* (chapters 4-6). Previous reading or attendance is not required to participate. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed. Contact Wil Forrest for info or to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

Sponsor Flowers for Easter

You are invited to help provide flowers for our Easter services on April 21, or to make a monetary donation to the EECM Food Pantry. Forms are available around the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

April 7 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm) — “Letter from Birmingham Jail” led by Pastor Randy Bush

Journey with Scripture (2nd floor Library) — Isaiah 43:16–21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b–14; John 12:1–8 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “The Violent-Religious Conflicts and International Organizations of the 20th Century” led by ELPC Elder Ron Stone

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of selections from *Spiritual Ecology—The Cry of the Earth* led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Steve Evrard, and Michelle Bard