



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 8, 2019 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bruce Neswick's *Partita on Winchester New* is based on the hymn tune of the same name. The tune is found twice in our *Glory to God* hymnal, #42, #96. The partita was composed in 2000 for the 90th anniversary of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Once again we come to this time of Advent and await your presence. Give us the patience to seek the meaning of these busy days. Give us the courage to wait in times of pain and trouble. Give us the hope to wait for the Savior even when we cannot hear angels singing. Give us the love that does not wait when it meets Christ in our neighbor. Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

“When I say it's you I like, I'm talking about that part of you that knows that life is far more than anything you can ever see or hear or touch. That deep part of you that allows you to stand for those things without which humankind cannot survive. Love that conquers hate, peace that rises triumphant over war, and justice that proves more powerful than greed.”
— Fred Rogers

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Bruce Neswick
“Partita on Winchester New”
Chorale-Meditation-Bicinium-Aria-Trio

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.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Diana and Makaylah Bloss

Leader: Because of war, because of violence in our communities, because there is still so much unrest in Jerusalem, we light a candle of peace.
People: Because hatred is still so strong, because so many swords have not yet been beaten into plowshares, we light a candle of peace.

Two candles are lit.

Congregation sings vs. 7 of hymn #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” as candles are lit.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;

Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

People: **May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming**
on earth as it is already in heaven.

Leader: Friends, be not afraid. God's peace is at hand!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #87

GENEVAN 42

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

December 8 • Second Sunday of Advent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
For the first time, an English actress played a female lead in a Shakespearean play as Desdemona in *Othello* (1660); Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854); entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. was born (1925); and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics dissolved into the commonwealth of Independent States, led by Russia, Belorussia, and Ukraine (1991).

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that we might be instruments of your peace. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: The reign of God has come near. Be filled with hope, believing in the power of Christ to bring you new life. 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 #149 (vs. 1 and 2)

ROCKPORT

"All Hail to God's Anointed"

All hail to God's anointed, great David's greater Son!

All hail, in time appointed, your reign on earth begun!

You come to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression and rule in equity.

You come with rescue speedy to those who suffer, wrong,
To help the poor and needy and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in your sight.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

Bill Johnson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 15:4-13

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

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 #95

"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

PREPARE THE WAY

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:1-12

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

"The Messiness of Getting Ready"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Bruce Neswick (b. 1956) is Canon for Cathedral Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. Neswick composed a new tune for the familiar text **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**. The tune name is OCONEE PASS, referring to the street where he lived in Atlanta, GA when he was director of music at St. Philip Cathedral there.

PRAYER:
O Root of Jesse,
O Peace, stir up your
power within us, that in
this time we may await
with abundant
expectation the
fulfillment of your eternal
presence in creation, for
you live and reign among
us, Maker, Savior, and
Giver of Life, one God,
now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

Bruce Neswick

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

The text can be found in the Glory to God hymnal #129.

* 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

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:	Reminded once more of the coming of your promised Christ-child, we offer you now these gifts. Bless the offerings of our hearts and hands that we too might embody your love and be, together, instruments of your joy and peace. In Jesus' name we pray.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #96

WINCHESTER NEW

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

"Partita on Winchester New – Toccata"

Bruce Neswick

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.

As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. This notice is to inform you that by being in attendance, you give permission for incidences where you appear within the video. Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Diana and Makaylah Bloss
Bill Johnson
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Acolytes: Annie and Liam Cowan
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire
Crucifer: *Could be you **
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us for our *Fellowship Time* after worship in the 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 Miss H. Cornelia McCombs and Mrs. Anna L. Dickey.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP — 3rd Sunday in Advent

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.
Dec 15 — 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.
Dec 15 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

**Interested in joining the team of adults and youth who help lead worship in this way? Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).*

Extended Session

After the *Moments with our 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 NAMETAG that your child wears 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 38-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.

Mondays, 9 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 also:

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. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info or to register for 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 8, 2019 • 2nd Sunday of Advent

TODAY AT ELPC

Support the Giving Tree

The ELPC Deacon Board organizes the *Christmas Giving Tree* to benefit children and families from East End Cooperative Ministry, ELPC's Mission and Christian Education Ministries, and Casa San José. The *Giving Tree* will be in the Social Hall today during Journey worship, and by the Highland Ave entrance from 9:30 am–12:30 pm. Deacons will be on hand to help you record your name and phone number, along with the information from your tag. Wrapped gifts, with tags attached, are due by noon on Sunday, Dec 15. If you would like to participate by donating money, make your check out to *ELPC Giving Tree* and deliver it to the church office or Pastor Patrice.

Toymakers' Toy Sale

The Toymakers' annual *Toy Sale* will be held following today's Sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship Room.

Café Justo Coffee for Sale

Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale after worship today during *Fellowship Time* for \$10/pound. Check or cash only please.

Underground Tour

Join tour guide Tim VanFleet in the Highland Lobby after today's worship service for an underground basement tour.

Hanging of the Greens

Please stay after today's worship service to help decorate the church for Christmas! Gather in the Chancel.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (*Deacon-on-Duty*) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our worship services. The *Journey* service DOD is **Doug Cooper**.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Linda Harrington**.



CHRISTMAS
in
East Liberty

Friday, Dec 13 • 7:30 pm

The Brass Roots, conductor Lance LaDuke, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and the Chancel Choir will combine, featuring holiday favorites for brass, organ, choir, and audience! Jim Cunningham from WQED is returning to narrate *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. The concert is free; a freewill offering will be received.

Christmas
EVE @ ELPC

5:00 pm
Family Service
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching

10:00 pm
Candlelight Service
The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush preaching
Prelude music begins at 9:30 pm

Book'em Volunteer Night – Dec 9

Volunteers at Book'em read letters from prisoners requesting books and search the shelves of their library. ELPC's Young Adults will sponsor a packing session, covering the cost of packing materials and postage, but we will also meet up to help pack and send the books! Meet at The Thomas Merton Center (5129 Penn Ave) on Monday, Dec 9 by 6 pm.

Middle School Mission Project – Dec 14

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to go shopping on Saturday, Dec 14 from 11:30 am–2:30 pm to help choose gifts for children who are spending the holiday season in foster care. We will have lunch after pageant rehearsal and then walk to Target. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

ELPC to Receive The Christmas Joy Offering – Dec 15

The only perfect gift ever given was the one we received in Jesus Christ, and *The Christmas Joy Offering* celebrates the coming of Jesus Christ, the "perfect gift" from a gracious God. We will receive the *Christmas Joy Offering* on Sunday, Dec 15 at all worship services.

Children's Christmas Pageant of "Why?" – Dec 15

Join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec 15 at 10 am as we consider the reason for the season in terms of our faith and our lives at the annual children's Christmas Pageant. *Notes: Dress rehearsal for all participants is on Saturday, Dec 14 from 9:30–11 am, followed by a Christmas party for the participants. If a student can't attend rehearsal, but will be here for the pageant, they are welcome! Let your Church School teacher know.*

Heretics, Doubters & Other Saints – Dec 15

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to our next *Heretics, Doubters, and Other Saints* gathering. This time, we'll explore what do/don't we think/believe about Christmas. Join us in the 2nd floor Parlor on Sunday, Dec 15 from Noon–3 pm for an open conversation where all ideas and questions will be welcome! Lunch will be provided.



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

David Carl's friend's son Morgan,
Martha DeMarzi's friend,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law,
Agnes Green, Cathie Hajdu,
Lee Lewand, Deborah Marx's friend Sharon,
Polly McQueen's brother Clay,
Carolyn Russ' friend Norman,
Heather Schoenewolf's niece Rose, and Pat Valoon.

*Our condolences to **Todd Farwell** on his mother's passing.*

*Our condolences to the family of
Julianne McAdoo on her passing.
A memorial service will be held on
Wednesday, Dec 18 at 2 pm in the Sanctuary.*



Committee Meetings This Week

Personnel.....Monday, 4:30 pm (Highland Rm)
PW Leadership.....Monday, 7:00 pm (2nd fl Library)
Mission Board.....Thursday, 5:30 pm (2nd fl Library)

YAM Event: Holiday Lights at Kennywood – Dec 15

The Young Adult Ministry will enjoy the Kennywood holiday lights on Sunday, Dec 15 to see performances, light shows, check out the many activities going on, and ride the rides! Ticket costs will be \$17-\$19 (depending on number attending). We will leave from the Highland Ave entrance at 4:30 pm. Please RSVP by Friday, Dec 13 to Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x114).

Blue Christmas Service – Dec 21

To offer comfort and healing in a time of darkness, the ELPC Deacons will host the 3rd annual *Blue Christmas Service* in the Chapel on Saturday, Dec 21 at 6:30 pm. The service will help people hold onto the nativity message of hope. Come and be lifted up. Light refreshments will be served after the service.



Sing in our All-Ages Christmas Eve Choir – Rehearse Dec 22

An all-ages choir will sing a simple anthem at our Christmas Eve *Friends and Family* service on Tuesday, Dec 24 at 5 pm, under the direction of Dr. Ed Moore. We will rehearse after Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Dec 22 for 30–45 minutes. Persons of all ages and experience levels are welcome, but children and youth must be accompanied by an adult. RSVP to Dr. Ed (EdM@coh.net). The musical selection along with a recording will be sent to all singers in advance.

Tour of Sanctuary and Chapel – Dec 22

Join guide Tom Morton on Sunday, Dec 22 after the Sanctuary worship service for an in-depth tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel. All are welcome to join the tour!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Pittsburgh Youth Chorus Winter Concert – TODAY

The talented young singers of Pittsburgh Youth Chorus will present their annual winter concert today at 4 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary. Hear heartwarming music for the holiday season, with an audience sing-along. For info and tickets, visit www.pittsburghyouthchorus.org.

RCC Holiday Concert – Dec 14

The Renaissance City Choir presents its holiday concert *The Many Moods of the Holidays* in the ELPC Sanctuary on Saturday, Dec 14 at 7:30 pm. The concert explores the emotions that this time of year elicits from people. A cookie reception will follow in the Social Hall. The 95 member choir is Western PA's only LGBTQIA+ choir. Tickets are available online at www.rccpittsburgh.org.

No Taizé Sung Prayer Service – Dec 25 and Jan 1

Please note we will not have a Taizé sung prayer service on Wednesdays, Dec 25 and Jan 1.

Club 116 Meals Needed for 2020

Thank you to all who provided meals for our Wednesday night Club 116 this fall! The sign-up sheet for 2020 is now open and we would be grateful for more of you to share your time and talents with our youth. It can be a one-time sign up (or more if you want) on one Wednesday evening for a meal that feeds about 40-50. Stay and serve it to the youth, or drop it off if you are busy that evening. Whatever works for you! For more details, contact Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net), or sign up after today's service in the Highland Ave hallway.

Chapel Market

The *Chapel Market* is in need of men's and boy's (sizes 5-6) winter clothing. Leave donations at the Highland Lobby.

LGBTQ Ministry Events

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Jan 12 at 12:30 pm to share lunch and fellowship. In December, we will be doing our annual Advent retreat and attending the RCC holiday concert together. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks welcomed. Contact Wil to attend (412.441.3800 x118).

New Jail Ministry

ELPC is joining several other churches in supplying magazines, paperback books, dictionaries, Bibles, calendars, and puzzle books to inmates at the county jail. (No spiral bound or books/magazines of a military/weapon nature.) Donations may be left in the box at the Highland Lobby. Contact Judy Mancini (412.299.6160) for info.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

There will be no Church School classes next Sunday so that everyone can attend the Christmas Pageant, nor on Sundays, Dec 29 and Jan 5 for a Christmas holiday break.