



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 15, 2019 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) well-known arrangement of *Sleepers, Wake!* is from the *Schübler Chorales*, a set of six chorale preludes written a few years before his death. It is an arrangement of the tenor aria in his *Cantata 140*.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
I give you thanks for the richness of my hours: for family and friends, for people with whom I work and play, for those who fill this world with music and art, for those whose needs remind me of my blessings and whose skills make me grateful for differences. Keep us in your embrace, O God, until the daylight comes in the morning. Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

"Patience may be defined as that quality of life which makes suffering creative; and impatience as that whereby suffering becomes a destructive force."

— Robert Llewelyn

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

"Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645"

J. S. Bach

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.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Annabelle Javier and Jason Wilburn

Matteo and Sebastian Wilburn

Leader: When I look around, I see shadows of sadness, families in homeless shelters, people in prison, people who have become invisible and forgotten. I long for a different vision.

People: **When we look around, we see shadows of grief and loss, people dreading the holidays because they've lost a loved one or they don't want to spend another Christmas alone. We too long for a different vision.**

Leader: May the light from the candle of hope shine upon us all.

May the light from the candle of peace bring healing to our spirits.

The first two candles are lit.

People: **May the light of the candle of joy open our eyes to a new vision of God's grace, mercy and justice being born in our world.**

The third candle is lit.

Congregation sings vs. 5 of hymn #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

O come, thou Key of David, come,

And open wide our heavenly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

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

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

* 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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Carol of the Bells is a popular carol composed in 1914 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921). The lyrics are by Ukrainian-American author Peter Wilhousky (1902-1978).

Be patient, beloved ones, and let your heart be strong, for the coming of the Lord is near. (James 5:7-8)

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY: The Dutch painter Jan Vermeer died in Delft (1675), the Sioux Chief Sitting Bull was killed in South Dakota (1890), and a plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller disappeared over the English Channel (1944); it is also the date that the U.S. Bill of Rights became effective (1791), Thomas Edison filed a patent for the phonograph (1877), and the movie *Gone With the Wind* premiered (1939).

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Callahan

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Callahan

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

Isaiah 35:3-10

Samantha Coggins

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 10:2-6, 11-15

The Rev. Terri Pennybaker

ANTHEM

"Carol of the Bells"

Mykola Leontovych
Lyrics: Peter J. Wilhousky

*Hark! How the bells, sweet silver bells, all seem to say, "Throw cares away."
Christmas is here bringing good cheer, to young and old, meek and the bold.
Ding, dong, ding, dong, that is their song, with joyful ring, all caroling.
One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere, filling the air.
Oh, how they pound, raising the sound, o'er hill and dale, telling their tale.
Gaily they ring, while people sing, songs of good cheer, Christmas is here!
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!
Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry Christmas!
On, on they send, on without end, their joyful tone to every home.*

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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 #819

"Be Still, My Soul"

FINLANDIA

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

James 5:7-12

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Active Patience"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Members: Alonzo Cotton, Brent House, Alexandra Lynn,
Amy Stabingas, Sharla Yates-Seif

Friends: Alissa Panichella, James Panichella, Julia Resciniti,
Timothy Resciniti, Jo Resciniti

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice 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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

British-born composer Donald Fraser composed *This Christmastide* for soprano Jessye Norman (1945-2019) and it is often referred to simply as *Jessye's Carol*. The text is by British author Jane McCulloch.

They also serve who only stand and wait.
(John Milton)

Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.
(Hebrews 12:1)

Wayne L. Wold's festive setting of *Sleeper's Wake* provides a more contemporary contrast to the setting by Bach heard during the prelude this morning. This is the third, and final, movement in a suite based on the tune *Wachet auf*. Wold is college organist at Hood College in Frederick, MD.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

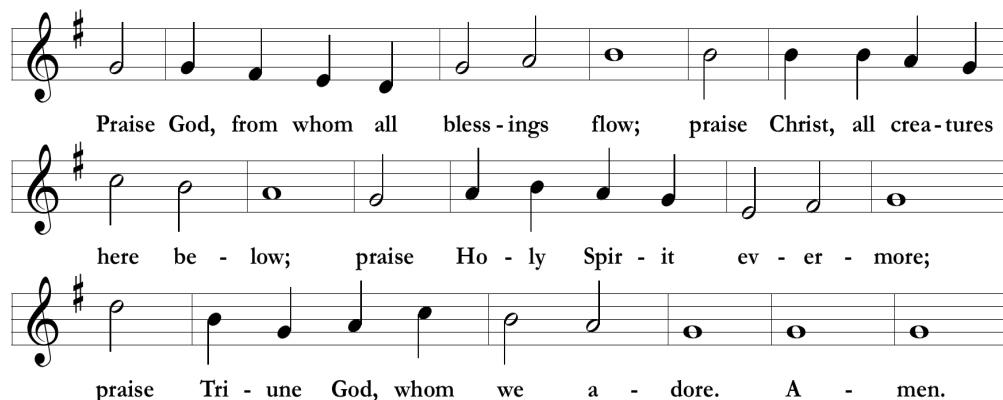
"This Christmastide (Jessye's Carol)"

Donald Fraser
Text: Jane McCulloch

*Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old.
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.
Holly, ivy, mistletoe, and the gently falling snow.
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.
From a simple ox's stall came the greatest gift of all.
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.
Children sing of peace and joy at the birth of one small boy.
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.
Let the bells ring loud and clear, ring out now for all to hear.
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.
Trumpets sound and voices raise in an endless stream of praise.
Truth and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.
Green and silver, red and gold, and a story born of old.
Peace and love and hope abide this Christmastide, this Christmastide.*

* 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

Samantha Coggins

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:	Merciful God, you come into our midst, choosing to become one of us. Break our resistance to life with you; show us the path toward just relations; and use these gifts and offerings as instruments of your lasting peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #106

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

"Wachet auf – Finale"

Wayne L. Wold

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. Dr. Randall K. Bush
 Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
 The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
 The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
 Samantha Coggins
 The Rev. Terri Pennybaker
 Annabelle Javier and Jason Wilburn
 Matteo and Sebastian Wilburn
 Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
 ELPC Chancel Choir
Jessye's Carol Ensemble:
 Jacob Berger, Peter Bianchi
 Carly Noel Black
 Adrianna Cleveland
 David Jennings-Smith
 Michael Painter, Mary Randolph
 Denise Sheffey-Powell
 Acolyte: Amiyah Parker
 Beadle: Mark Statler
 Crucifer: Mike Hellman
 Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join us in the Fellowship Room after worship for a reception to welcome our new members and friends, sponsored by Membership & Outreach Committee.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to purchase flowers for our worship service, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x111).

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP — 4th 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 22 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.
 11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Dec 22 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

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.



TODAY AT ELPC

Support the Giving Tree

Wrapped gifts, with tags attached, are due by noon today. 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.

ELPC to Receive The Christmas Joy Offering

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* this morning at all worship services.

Heretics, Doubters & Other Saints

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to our *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 from Noon-3 pm today for an open conversation where all ideas and questions will be welcome! Lunch will be provided.

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 **Elaine Phillips**.

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



Taizé Procession to the Manger – Dec 18

Join us on Wednesday, Dec 18 at 7 pm for a special *Taizé Procession to the Manger*.



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.

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!

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.

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.

DG2! @ EECM – Dec 26

Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom will gather to make and serve dinner to the residents at EECM at the *Doing Good Together (DG2!)* event on Sunday, Dec 26 from 3-8 pm. We will meet at ELPC, travel to Rodef Shalom to cook, and then go to EECM to serve dinner. Permission slip and RSVP required. Please contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

LGBTQ Ministry – Jan 12

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. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. For more details or to attend, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118). *God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.*

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.



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

Christmas

EVE @ ELPC



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

Kathy Callahan's friend Shane,
David Carl's friend's son Morgan,
Martha DeMarzi's friend,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law,
Agnes Green, Cathie Hajdu,
Lee Lewand,
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.*



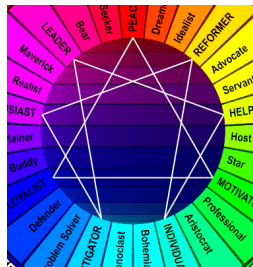
*Our condolences to **Charlotte Smith** on her sister's passing.*

Committee Meeting This Week

Nominating..... Today, 12:15 pm (Highland Rm)

Enneagram Retreat Day – Jan 18

Join the Spiritual Life Committee on Saturday, Jan 18 from 9 am-4 pm for *A Day Retreat on the Enneagram*. Lunch will be provided. There is no fee for the retreat; but we do ask that you let the Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan or Norma know if you plan to attend (412.441.3800 x111).



Play Café – Jan 18

Families with kids of all ages are invited to come together for a time of fellowship and fun on Saturday, Jan 18 from 4-6 pm. At 4:30 pm, Kindermusik educator Christa Beck will lead a family music class where children and their caring grownups can move, play, sing and breathe together. Following music class, there will be a time of free play with stations for kids of all ages, and snacks for all. Just bring yourselves and a snack or appetizer to share. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Pastor Heather Schoenewolf (HeatherS@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x121).

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.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

PASUP December Plastic-Free Potluck – Today!

The PASUP December Plastic-Free Potluck will be held today from 5-7 pm at Temple Sinai (5505 Forbes Ave at Murdoch St, Squirrel Hill). Join them for informal conversation, networking and good food. Bring a plastic or other waste container to find out if it is recyclable. Bring food to share using no or minimal plastic in preparation and serving; save and bring any single-use plastic (SUP) that you did use to the event. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are encouraged (no pork or shellfish allowed due to the venue). This event is free, although small donations to help cover expenses would be appreciated. Please RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080848A5A728ABF49-pasup>, but don't hesitate to come even if you did not sign up in advance!

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.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study Winter Weather Closings

ELPC's Presbyterian Women hold a Bible Study on the first Monday evening and Tuesday morning of each month. During the winter months, they will utilize the following system for canceling the Tuesday morning study in inclement weather: if Pittsburgh Public Schools close, there will be no Tuesday study; if Pittsburgh Public School have a 2-hour delay, the study will still be held. *There is no impact on the Monday evening study.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Dec 22 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm) – “Keeping Christ in Christmas” led by Diana Armstrong and Aura Sofia Jirau

Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm) — Isaiah 7:10–16; Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) – “The Birth of Christ Then and Now” led by the Rev. Dr. Graham Standish

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) – A discussion of *Gospel Stories of Jesus' Origin*, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, David Carl, Tom Whalen, and Linda Lane

*There will be no Church School classes on Sundays,
Dec 29 and Jan 5 for a Christmas holiday break.*

Classes will resume on Winter Rally Day, Sunday, Jan 12.