



# 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 22, 2019 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The carol *Once in Royal David's City* traditionally is sung as the first carol at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on **Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge**. David Willcocks (1919-2015) was Director of **Music at King's College** from 1957-1974.

Nothing is small if  
God accepts it.  
(St. Teresa of Avila)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:  
God, our light and  
salvation, let us see the  
world through your eyes.  
May we love the widow,  
migrant and orphan. May  
we work for justice and  
ever bear witness to the  
good news of your  
kingdom near at hand.  
May your love reflected  
through us draw people  
to you and your healing  
mercies of grace.  
Through your Son, Jesus  
Christ, in the power of  
the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### TIME OF PREPARATION

"Holy and loving God, whose Spirit rested on Joseph, calling him to parenthood, and on Mary, preparing her for motherhood and birth — now, by your Spirit, call and prepare us for our relationships, our work, and our ministry that we also may say, 'Your will be done in us,' to the glory of Jesus Christ, now and always."

— Brian Wren

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
"Prelude on *Once in Royal David's City*" David Willcocks  
ELPC Ringers  
"The First Noel/Silent Night" arr. Michael Bedford

### 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.

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY

Molly, Andrew, Sydney and Calvin Swagler

Leader: We light candles because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, afraid and alone.

People: We light candles because too many people in this world are suffering or too busy to notice one another.

Leader: We stop everything and light candles for hope, peace and joy.

*The first three candles are lit.*

Leader: This Sunday we go further and also light a candle for love.

*The fourth candle is lit.*

Leader: May the light from these candles cover the world, illuminate the valley of the shadow of death, and burn away all things that prevent God's power from being born among us.

*Congregation sings vs. 6 of hymn #88 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer,  
Our spirits by thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

**And death's dark shadows put to flight.**

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

Leader: Friends, be not afraid. The light of God's love is at hand!

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

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

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY:  
Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* premiered (1808), composer Claude Debussy completed his *Afternoon of a Faun* (1894), and famous authors George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) and Beatrix Potter died (1880, 1942). Also, on this day President Obama signed the law repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy banning homosexuals from serving openly in the U.S. military (2010).

For the apostle Paul, human beings become God's children by the free grace of God's act of adopting us into God's family. In the community of faith, they receive God's Spirit, enabling them to call out "Abba," God our Father/Mother.

Gustav Holst's (1874-1934) composed the tune CRANHAM for *The English Hymnal* in 1906 to accompany the text by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Rossetti's poem was first published in 1872 under the title *A Christmas Carol*.

- \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN  
"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"
- CALL TO CONFESSION Dr. Kathy Glass
- PRAYER OF CONFESSION Dr. Kathy Glass  
Shepherd of your people, we have turned away from you and strayed from the paths of righteousness. We have neglected the welfare of others, ignored those in need, trampled harshly on this creation, and let discord fester within our families. Forgive us, merciful Savior. Turn us back to you. Let your face shine upon us and we shall be saved. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.
- TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION
- ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS Dr. Kathy Glass  
Leader: Hear the good news of our faith. God calls us home, restores us to lives of justice and righteousness, and walks beside us as we journey toward the coming days of God's realm of mercy and grace. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:  
People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!
- NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Galatians 4:1-7 The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
- HANDBELL ANTHEM arr. Sondra K. Tucker  
"Good Christians All Rejoice (In Dulci Jubilo)"
- 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 #110 "Love Has Come" BRING A TORCH
- GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
- SERMON "Heirs Apparent" The Rev. Dr. Bush
- PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & 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.*
- MINUTE FOR MISSION & SPECIAL MUSIC The Rev. Dr. Bush  
"Gesu Bambino" Pietro Yon  
Lis and Megan Ormsbee
- 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 Gustav Holst  
"In the Bleak Midwinter" Text: Christina Rossetti

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

Cheerful givers do not count the cost of what they give. Their heart is set on pleasing and cheering to whomever the gift is given. (Julian of Norwich)

Prayer of culmination in the "Las Posadas" tradition in which shelter is sought where the Christ child can be born: Enter Mary and Joseph! Enter holy pilgrims! We will gladly give you lodging. There is room in our home and room in our hearts.

The Advent hymn *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* is based on the hymn tune CONSOLATION, which dates from 1812. The tune is referred to with the name MORNING SONG in some hymnals. David Johnson (1922-1987) was an American organist who taught at several colleges and universities, including St. Olaf College, Syracuse University, and Arizona State University.

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



\* 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:	Holy God, you bless us with many gifts. You visit us with surprising proclamations; you intend for us to be vessels of good deeds; you include us in your plans for healing and hope for the world. Use our gifts and offerings in the same way for the sake of all your children here and around the world. In Christ's name. Amen.	

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #140

IRBY

"Once in Royal David's City"

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

"The King Shall Come"

arr. David N. Johnson

*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](http://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  
Dr. Kathy Glass  
Lis and Megan Ormsbee  
Molly, Andrew, Sydney  
and Calvin Swagler  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*  
*Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
ELPC Ringers  
Acolytes: Josh Bellin and Mabel Buben  
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!

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP —

*There is no Journey Worship next Sunday, Dec 29.*

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.  
*Dec 29* — 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](mailto:GloriaK@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x122).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).



# Church Events and Announcements

**December 22, 2019 • 4th Sunday of Advent**

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Tour of Sanctuary and Chapel

Join guide Tom Morton today after the Sanctuary worship service for an in-depth tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel. All are welcome to join the tour! Please gather in the Highland Lobby.

### Sing in our All-Ages Christmas Eve Choir

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 today for 30–45 minutes. Persons of all ages and experience levels are welcome, but children and youth must be accompanied by an adult. Please see Dr. Ed if you'd like to participate.

### Café Justo Coffee for Sale

Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale during today's *Fellowship Time*. 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. This is a great opportunity to stuff a stocking with some Café Justo, and at the same time support this worthy company

### 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. 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. For details, contact Kelli Booher ([KelliB@coh.net](mailto:KelliB@coh.net)), or sign up in the Highland Ave hallway.

### 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 **David Cowan**.



### 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](mailto:SaraH@coh.net)).

### World Healing Day – Dec 31

*World Healing Day* is a global event in hundreds of cities worldwide to share a common vision of hope and healing. Please join us in the Social Hall for a labyrinth prayer walk on Tuesday, Dec 31 from 6:45-8 am. All are welcome to add your love and light to the healing of this world.

### Beadles Meeting – Jan 5

The ELPC Beadles will have a meeting on Sunday, Jan 5 after the 11 am worship service. If you are interested in becoming a Beadle or to find out what it's all about, this would be a great opportunity to come and join our merry band. The meeting will be in the Highland Room, off the Highland Ave Entrance.



**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



*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,  
Lynne Irvin, Lee Lewand,  
Polly McQueen's brother Clay,  
Carolyn Russ' friend Norman,  
Heather Schoenewolf's niece Rose,  
Pam Walaski's niece Kaela and Pat Valoon.

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

---

## No Committee Meetings This Week

*ELPC pastors and staff wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and happy New Year!*

---

### Knitting Group – Resumes Jan 6

Due to the holidays, the evening knitting group is canceled and will resume on Monday, Jan 6, 2020.

### Presbyterian Women Bible Study – Jan 6 and 7

Join PW for their Bible study titled *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the 10 Commandments* on Monday, Jan 6 at 7pm, and Tuesday, Jan 7 at 10:15am. Monday's group will be facilitated by Sherry Anderson and meet in the Trustees Room. Tuesday's group will be led by Michele Bossers in the 2nd floor Parlor, and is followed by a potluck lunch.

### Feeling Crafty? – Jan 7 and 13

Start the new year off with a new knitting project. The *Knitting Group* is working on special pieces for breast cancer survivors. We will meet on Tuesday, Jan 7, following the Presbyterian Women Bible study. The *Sewing Group* will meet on Monday, Jan 13 from 2:30–6 pm to work on projects for the ELPC clothes closet, and for men and women in Guatemala. Call Diane Jackson (412.441.6021) for more info on either group.

### Deborah Marx Retirement Reception – Jan 12

Join us on Sunday, Jan 12 after worship for a retirement reception for Deborah Marx, our financial administrator. Deborah started at ELPC 18 years ago, first as an administrative assistant to our business administrator, then as the church's bookkeeper. This role expanded last year into the broader position of financial administrator. Join us to celebrate her years of service.

### 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.*

### Enjoy Breakfast on Winter Rally Day – Jan 12

Sunday School classes for people of all ages will resume on *Winter Rally Day*, Sunday, Jan 12 at 9:45 am. The Christian Education Committee invites you to a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Room on the first floor beginning at 9:30 am. Please bring holiday breads and fruits to share (ready to serve). Come and grab a bite to eat on your way to class.

### 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).

### Chatham Baroque to Perform – Feb 15

The ninth season of ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series continues on Saturday, Feb 15 at 8 pm with a performance by Chatham Baroque in the Chapel. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ChathamBaroque.org](http://www.ChathamBaroque.org). A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to ELPC members. Contact Dr. Edward Alan Moore for details.

### In the Refuge of One Another Retreat – Feb 28 to March 1

All are invited to our *In the Refuge of One Another* meditation retreat, taking place Friday–Sunday, Feb 28 to March 1, at the Kearns Spirituality Center. The retreat will be led by Susan Spangler and is informed by the teachings of James Finley and Thomas Merton. Engage in meditative and contemplative practices and teachings that bring to life the complementary intersection of Christianity and Buddhism as faithful paths to God. Beginners welcome!

The cost is \$160, which includes meditation instruction, two room nights, dinner on Friday, three meals on Saturday, and brunch on Sunday. Registration forms are available at [ELPC.church](http://ELPC.church) and throughout our church.

### Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is closed for the holidays and will reopen on Monday, Jan 6 at 10 am.

---

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

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

---