



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 29, 2019 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Lord Christ, at times we are like strangers on this earth, taken aback by all the violence, the harsh oppositions. Like a gentle breeze, you breathe upon us the Spirit of peace. Prepare us to be bearers of reconciliation wherever the New Year takes us, until the day when a hope of peace dawns in our world. Amen.
(Brother Roger of Taizé)

TIME OF PREPARATION

"Don't live the same year 75 times and call it a life." — Robin Sharma

"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are." — J. P. Morgan

"The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul." — G.K. Chesterton

PRELUDE

"Fugue in C"

Michael Painter, organ

"Divinum Mysterium"

Dieterich Buxtehude

Wilbur Held

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

Mark and Barbara DeWitt

Leader: In this Christmas season of great joy, we praise the Lord;

People: **For in mercy and with abundant, steadfast love, God has become our Savior.**

Leader: Whether in times of danger and threat, whether in days of present peace or future uncertainty, we praise God;

People: **For God has set us free from fear and death through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and assurance of our salvation.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

* HYMN #118 (vs. 1, 3, 4 and 6 only)

CHRISTMAS

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"



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

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This day in history is marked by losses – murder of Thomas á Becket in Canterbury Cathedral (1170), the Wounded Knee massacre in South Dakota (1890); marked by new beginnings – Texas admitted as the 28th state (1845), the first Young Men's Christian Association was organized in Boston (1851); and by odd quirks of history – Emma Snodgrass was arrested in Boston for wearing pants (1852).

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. (Bill Vaughan)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Terri Pennybaker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Pennybaker

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you or trusted you as we ought. We grow weary and give up when the way forward is hard. We become complacent and silent in the presence of injustice. Forgive us our sins and shortcomings. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust you and walk with confidence toward the coming days. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood and lives and reigns with you now and always. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Pennybaker

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 LESSONS

Isaiah 63:7-9

Barbara DeWitt

Psalms 146:1-4, 5-7a, 7b-10

Samantha Coggins

Mark DeWitt

The Rev. Pennybaker

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

There is no Extended Session program today. Children are invited to worship with their families.

HYMNS

The congregation is invited to select hymns to sing from the following choices:

- 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*
- 115 *Away in a Manger*
- 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
- 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
- 122 *Silent Night, Holy Night*
- 123 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*
- 124 *Still, Still, Still*
- 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
- 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
- 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*
- 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
- 134 *Joy to the World*
- 136 *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*
- 137 *He Came Down*
- 139 *That Boy-Child of Mary*
- 140 *Once in Royal David's City*
- 143 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*
- 144 *In the Bleak Midwinter*
- 145 *What Child is This*
- 146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*
- 150 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

What the New Year brings you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better person.
(Benjamin Franklin)

PRAYER FOR THE EVENING:
Loving God, I know that you are the Light in every darkness. Shine, then, upon anyone who is troubled this night. Shine, then, upon the troubles I have known. Help me to put my trust in you, for I am your child, and you have come to help me. You help all whom you have drawn close. Praise to you in the name of Jesus Christ, now and always. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:25-40

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“End of an Era”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Samantha Coggins

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.

HYMN

The congregation is invited to select a hymn to sing from the choices listed on the prior page.

OFFERING INVITATION

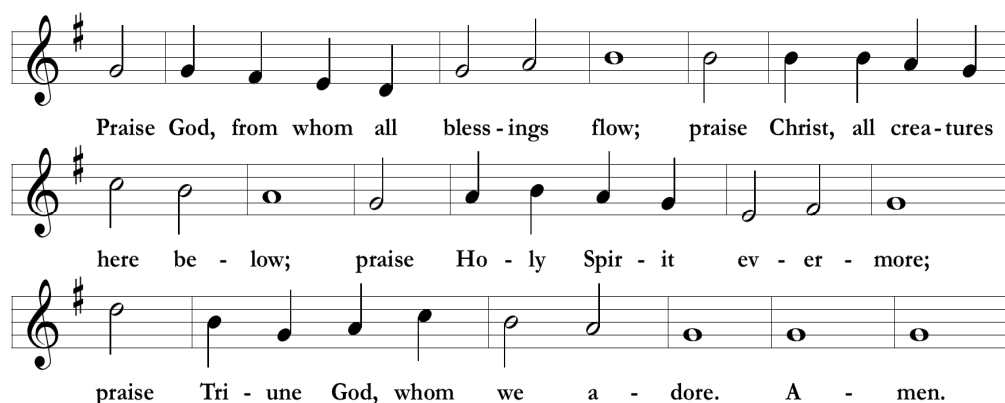
The Rev. Dr. Bush

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

* 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
Samantha Coggins

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

People: Y también contigo.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.

Leader: In this gifting season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive these offerings we bring. May they be used in the service of your grace and truth today and for all days yet to come. In Christ’s name we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

* HYMN #147 (vs. 1, 3 and 6 only)

THE FIRST NOWELL

“The First Nowell”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary in D”

George Dyson

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: Samantha Coggins
Mark and Barbara DeWitt
Sara Hackett
The Rev. Terri Pennybaker
Musicians: Michael Painter, *Organ Accompanist*
Soloists: Carly Black
Adrianna Cleveland
Todd Farwell
Robin Schneider
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 sponsor a Fellowship Time, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

♦ **WORSHIP FLOWERS**

If you would like to purchase flowers for our worship service, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x111). The cost is \$150 per Sunday.

♦ **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

*There is no Journey worship service on Jan 5.
The service will resume on Jan 12.*

11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Jan 5 — The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy preaching.



Extended Session *(not offered today or Jan 5)*

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 on **February 9 and 16** during the Church School Hour (9:45-10:45 am) for an opportunity to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Contact Gloria Knopp for more info (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

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), or sign up in the Highland Ave hallway.

Today's Deacon-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 *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Linda Harrington**.



Art on Display – Stop by, Experience, and Learn

As you walk through the hallways of ELPC, you may notice works of art from various indigenous artists that say “You Are On ____ Land.” These are part of the #HonorNativeLand campaign by the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture. There’s also policy in some places to open events and gatherings by acknowledging the indigenous inhabitants of that land. For example, ELPC is situated on Lenape, Shawnee, and the Six Nations’ tribal lands. Learn more about rewriting the narratives we have been told at www.illuminatives.org.

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.

No Taizé Sung Prayer Service – Jan 1

Please note we will not have a Taizé sung prayer service on Wednesday, Jan 1.

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.

“Un-Hanging” of the Greens – Jan 5

Help remove our holiday decorations on Sunday, Jan 5 after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Even if you can only stay to help for a few minutes, it would be a tremendous help! Thank you!

January Church Tours – Jan 5 and 19

All are welcome to join the following tours offered after the Sanctuary worship services. Please gather in the Highland Lobby.

- Trinity Chapel — Sunday, Jan 5
- Sanctuary & Chapel — Sunday, Jan 19

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. The evening Knitting Group will not meet this week, but will resume on Monday, Jan 6.

Club 116 – Resumes Jan 8

Children and youth in grades 1–12 are welcome to join Club 116 on Wednesdays for fellowship, a nutritious meal, a craft or special activity, and an interactive Bible study. This program resumes on Wednesday, Jan 8 at 3:30 pm.

Young Adult “Last Supper” Potluck & Game Night – Jan 10

Young adults (YAMs) are invited to the first 2020 event—a “Last Supper” potluck at ELPC on Friday, Jan 10 at 6:30 pm. Bring a dish that begins with the first letter of your last name. Example: Mike Smith can bring spaghetti; Joy Brown can bring buffalo wings; Ann Martin can bring mousse. We will eat dinner, play games, and enjoy fellowship. We’ll also discuss our upcoming events! Contact Kelli Booher for info (KelliB@coh.net).

Children & Youth Ministry Events – Jan 12 and 24

- *DG2!* — Sunday, Jan 12 from 12–3:30 pm
Youth in grades 4–12 from ELPC and Rodef Shalom will gather to enjoy lunch and work on service projects together. Permission slip and RSVP required.
- *Tween Night/Ice Cream Social & Game Night* — Friday, Jan 24 6–8 pm
Twins in grades 4–6 are invited to this fun evening. Please contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).



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.

No Committee Meetings This Week

*ELPC pastors and staff wish you and yours a
Happy New Year!*

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.

Join Our New Parenting Circle – Begins Jan 12

Anyone involved in parenting (singles, couples, adoptive parents, step-parents, grandparents, guardians, mentors, etc.) are welcome to join us in the Harambe Room on Sundays during the Church School hour, beginning Jan 12. Gathering time starts at 9:45 am, but our formal discussion won't start until 10 am, so that families have time to drop off their children at their classes. We will share experiences, resources, prayer and scripture. Join us as we learn from one another ways to foster closer family relationships in the context of creating active faith communities.

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).

Thinking About Consciousness – Feb 2

Mark your calendar for a Science and Theology conversation on *Thinking about Consciousness* on Sunday, Feb 2 from Noon-3 pm. Are the "mind" and the "brain" separate? Do we really have free will or are all of our behaviors the result of a pattern of brain function? Is consciousness separate from the brain? Join the Spiritual Life Committee in the 2nd floor Parlor to ponder these topics and more! Lunch will be provided.

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. 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 www.ELPC.church and throughout our church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

There will be no Church School classes on Sunday, Jan 5 for a Christmas holiday break.

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