



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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 8, 2020 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) composed two *Romances* for violin and orchestra. The *Romance in G Major*, Opus 40 was composed four years after the *Romance in F Major*, Opus 50, but is designated as his first *Romance* because it was published two years before the earlier composition.

**PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION:**  
You keep your eye upon us, O God; you protect us as a shield. You give us hope despite the disquiet that lingers within us. You lift our spirits and make us glad. All creation sings your praise; we your people laud your name. Hear us as we worship and speak to us as we gather. For we seek to be filled with your Spirit and made alive by your abiding Word. Amen.

### TIME OF PREPARATION

"Life is a hard battle anyway. If we laugh and sing a little as we fight the good fight of freedom, it makes it all go easier. I will not allow my life's light to be determined by the darkness around me."  
— Sojourner Truth

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Cody Conley, *violin*  
Betty Riele, *piano*

"Romance No. 1 in G Major, Op. 40"

Ludwig van Beethoven

### 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.

### CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 121*)

Barbara Griffin

Leader: We lift our eyes to the hills — from where does our help come?

People: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: The Lord is our keeper; God protects us, heart and soul.

People: **Whether coming or going, we are safe in God's keeping.**

Leader: Our journeys have brought us here to lift our voices in praise.

People: We will worship our Creator all the days of our lives.

Leader: Hallelujah! Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #49

LEONI

"The God of Abraham Praise"

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Terri Pennybaker

### LITANY OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Pennybaker

Leader: Sending God, you speak to souls both calm and chaotic and summon us to follow.

People: But your call threatens to uproot our lives, so we disregard your voice and cling to the soils of safe, familiar places.

Leader: Guiding Spirit, your wind whips through communities both settled and stirring and urges us toward new expressions of faith.

People: But your call threatens to blow us off course, so we ignore your dynamic Spirit and shelter within protected harbors.

Leader: Saving Christ, you enter into hearts both trusting and skeptical and plant within us the seed of faith.

*Continued on next page*

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

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## March 8 • International Women's Day

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

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:  
Henry VIII was recognized as supreme head of Church in England by the Convocation of Canterbury (1531); the Gnadenhütten Massacre - Ohio militia kill 90 Indians (1782); Susan B. Anthony addressed the U.S. House Judiciary Committee arguing for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote, 16 years after legislators first introduced a federal women's suffrage amendment (1884); Phyllis M. Daley was the first black nurse sworn in as U.S. Navy ensign (1945); the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *McCullum v. Board of Education* that religious instruction in public schools is unconstitutional (1948); Malcolm X resigned from the Nation of Islam (1964); and Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 with 239 people lost contact and disappeared, prompting the most expensive search effort in history and one of the most enduring aviation mysteries (2014).

People: Forgive us when we ignore your summons to grow as disciples.  
**Immerse us in your Spirit's sustaining waters so that we might**  
respond to your call with faith and faithfulness.

### TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Pennybaker

Leader: "For the sake of joy that was set before him, Jesus endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." Our faith depends on him from start to finish, and he increasingly intercedes on our behalf. Therein abides our hope and our assurance. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

#### RESPONSIVE HYMN #634 (verse 1 and refrain)

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

##### "To God Be the Glory"

To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

##### Refrain:

Praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give him the glory; great things he has done!

#### EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Samantha Coggins

#### RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT: Kate Carlson, Administrative Assistant

#### MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Samantha Coggins

*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 #700

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

I'M GONNA LIVE

#### GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-15

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

#### SERMON

"Under the Cloak of Darkness"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Rev. James Davidson

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Davidson

*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. Davidson

*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.*

## March 8 • International Women's Day

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

The well-known setting of *God So Loved the World* is from John Stainer's (1840-1901) oratorio *The Crucifixion*. As a boy, Stainer was a chorister at **St. Paul's Cathedral** in London, and was organist of the cathedral later in his life before retiring due to poor eyesight.

THOSE WHO DIED ON THIS DAY:  
Wentworth Cheswell, American auditor, teacher, Revolutionary War messenger, 1st African American elected to public office, died of typhus fever at 70 (1817); Edward John Dent, British clockmaker to Queen Victoria and commissioned to make Big Ben, London (completed after his death by his son Frederick Dent), died at 62 (1853); Millard Fillmore, 13th President of the United States (Whig; 1850-53), died at 74 (1874); Henry Ward Beecher, American clergyman (1813 1887); and Billy Eckstine, American jazz singer (*Tenderly*, *A Fool in Love*), died at 78 of a stroke (1993).

Arthur Foote (1853-1937) was a composer and organist at First Unitarian Church in Boston. Along with John Knowles Paine, he was a founder of the American Guild of Organists.

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"God So Loved the World"

John Stainer

*text from John 3:16-17*

### \* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



### \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy  
Aura S. Jirau Arroyo

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:	O God, you have sent your Son into the world, that we may have life. As we go forth from your sanctuary, may we offer that life in Christ's name to our neighbor. Use our talents to build up Christ's body. Use the money we give to bring healing for his sake. All that we give is in response to your benevolent grace, love and care. Amen.	

### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN #215

WONDROUS LOVE

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

### \* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

### POSTLUDE

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
Arthur Foote

"Postlude in C Major"

*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.*



## March 8 • International Women's Day

*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.*

*Portions of the liturgy are reprinted by permission of the publishers from When We Gather by James G. Kirk. © 2001 James G. Kirk. Published by Geneva Press.*

### ♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
Liturgists: The Rev. James Davidson  
Samantha Coggins  
Barbara Griffin  
Aura S. Jirau Arroyo  
The Rev. Terri Pennybaker  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*  
*Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Cody Conley, *Violin*  
Betty Rieley, *Piano*  
Acolytes: Mabel Buben and Annie Cowan  
Beadle: Mark Statler  
Crucifer: Volunteer  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

### ♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after worship for a retirement reception for Kate Carlson. All are welcome to attend!

### ♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers are to the glory of God and in appreciation of Kate Carlson's years of dedication and service to ELPC.

### ♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am ..... Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.  
*March 15* — Ralph Lowe, Director of Justice Ministries at Pittsburgh Presbytery preaching.

11 am ..... Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.  
*March 15* — Ralph Lowe, Director of Justice Ministries at Pittsburgh Presbytery 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 a retirement reception for Kate Carlson in the 1st floor 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 19 and 26 from 9:45-10:45 am to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Kate Carlson (KateC@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x116) for info.

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



**As we gather at ELPC to worship and for other activities, we want to follow the best practices to prevent the spread of illness.** Please feel free to wave during the passing of the peace instead of shaking hands especially if you are not feeling well. There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent the spread of respiratory diseases is to follow preventative actions including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick. **ELPC audio streams the Wednesday Taizé service, and live streams the 11 am Sanctuary service on our Facebook page and on YouTube.** Please feel free to watch the service from home if you are not feeling well.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. **ELPC has hand sanitizers near entrances of the church.**

*For more information, please check the CDC guidelines at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html)*

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Retirement Reception for Kate Carlson

A reception to honor and thank Kate Carlson for her 13 years of faithful service to ELPC will be held following today's worship service in the Fellowship Room. She will be retiring on March 31. Come celebrate Kate's time with us and wish her well.

### Lenten Book Study

As part of our focus on Facing System Racism, the Mission Board encourages ELPC members and friends to embrace all aspects of Lent by engaging in an intentional read and weekly discussion of Pastor Daniel Hill's book *White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to be White* today after Kate Carlson's reception in the Good Samaritan Room. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and a light lunch will be served. Childcare is available with reservation. Contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

### Lenten Devotionals Now Available

Once more, the Children and Family Ministries Team has purchased devotional materials to encourage you along your Lenten journey. *Treasures in Jars of Clay* is a devotional created for families of all ages and configurations, but also can be engaged by individuals looking for a personal prayer practice. Materials will be available outside of each worship service and on the second floor table. There will be additional "supplies" in the Kids Corner for those who may need assistance gathering the hands-on materials that are a part of the devotional exercises. We ask that you take one booklet per family unit.

### Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

The *Journey* service DOD is **Doug Cooper**.  
The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Trish Buben**.

### Café Justo Coffee for Sale

Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale during today's retirement reception for Kate Carlson in the Fellowship Room. For just \$10/pound, your purchase will support this fair trade cooperative. Check or cash only please.

### Spring Retreat Brochures Distributed Today

Presbyterian Women are distributing their annual spring retreat *Fragrant Wisdom* brochure this morning. Please contact Kay Shissler for more info (kshissler@juno.com).

### Sanctuary and Chapel Tour

Join us today after the 11 am service for an architectural tour of Sanctuary and Romanesque Chapel to learn these architectural styles, as well as the history and symbolism of these unique spaces. Please gather in the Highland Lobby.



### Staff Changes

We are pleased to welcome Megan Leisher as the Administrative Assistant for Pastors who just started this past week. In this newly enhanced role, Megan will assist Pastors Randy, Heather and Patrice.

We also recently welcomed Rachelle Calfee in a temporary position as our bookkeeper. Please welcome these two new additions to our staff family.

### Environmental Book Club – March 12

The Environment Team of the Justice Committee invites you to read *The Story of Stuff: How Our Obsession with Stuff is Trashing the Planet, Our Communities, and Our Health – and a Vision for Change* by Annie Leonard (2010, 352 pages). In her sweeping, groundbreaking book, Leonard tracks the life of the stuff we use every day. We hope you'll read the book and join us for discussion in the Trustees' Room on Thursday, March 12 at 7 pm. For more info, please contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).





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

Dorothy Autore, Randy and Beth Bush,  
David Carl's friend's son Morgan,  
Kate Carlson's brother Ray,  
Carol Chontos' nephew Justin,  
Agnes Green, Lee Lewand,  
Molinaro/Karaczun friends Jacob and Jo,  
Dave Phillips' sister-in-law Maureen,  
Tony Richardson-Eckes, Vivienne Selia's daughter Emily,  
Heather Schoenewolf and family,  
Tiffany Sudar's cousin Justin,  
Pat Valoon, and Michelle Yamada's mother MaryAnne.

*Condolences to Molly Dimond-Stephany on her sister-in-law's passing.*

*Condolences to Heather Schoenewolf on her uncle's passing.*

### Committee Meetings This Week

Deacons .....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Garth Overlook)  
Facing Systemic Racism... Wednesday, 5:30 pm (Highland Rm)

### Tween Retreat at Crestfield – March 14 and 15

The *Tween Retreat* at Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock is a time to join other youth in grades 4–6 from around Pittsburgh to learn about God's Word and how it relates to everyday life. More details including cost, scholarship information, and permission slip can be found online at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

### LGBTQ Ministry – March 15

All are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, March 15 at 12:30pm to share lunch and fellowship. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks are welcome. For info or to attend, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118.)

### Meatless Monday Spaghetti Dinner – March 23

Everyone is invited to a spaghetti dinner hosted by the Justice Committee Environmental Team at 6 pm on March 23. Meatless spaghetti will be provided. People are asked to bring salads, sides, or dessert (without meat) as they are able.

### CMU Wind Ensemble to Perform – March 28

The ninth season of ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series continues on Saturday, March 28 at 4 pm with a performance by the Carnegie Mellon University



Wind Ensemble and organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore in the Sanctuary. Featured on the program will be a new composition for wind ensemble and organ by Pittsburgh-based composer Nancy Galbraith. Get free tickets at the door or register in advance at [tiny.cc/ELPCCMU](http://tiny.cc/ELPCCMU). View the full slate of concerts at [tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts](http://tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts).

IN OUR

COMMUNITY



### RCC Cabaret Concert – Today!

The Renaissance City Choir will present the final performance of its Cabaret concert *Villains & Heroes* today at 3 pm in the Social Hall. The choir is western PA's only LGBTQIA+ choir, and rehearses and performs at ELPC. This Sunday matinee has *pay as you can* pricing. Purchase tickets online at [www.rccpittsburgh.com](http://www.rccpittsburgh.com).

### Belle Voci's "Diamond Memories" Concert – March 14

Join Belle Voci for a 90-minute musical montage celebrating six decades of classic R&B music by artists from the Motor City, featuring the Belle Voci Choirs and soloists Denise Sheffey-Powell and Franklin Mosley. The concert will be held on Saturday, March 14 at 7:30 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary, and features the celebrated Motown cover band "Horizon" from Mechanicsville, VA. Tickets are \$20. Visit [www.bellevocipgh.com](http://www.bellevocipgh.com) for more info or to purchase tickets.

### "Drawn to Home" Release Party – March 26

Homelessness and the lack of affordable housing is a problem in cities around the country. *Drawn to Home* is a comic book which depicts the stories of nine different individuals who are experiencing or have experienced homelessness. Each story is captured by a different comic artist. An opening reception celebrating this new comic book as a tool to combat housing insecurity will be held on Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 pm at the Main Branch of the Carnegie Library in Oakland. To learn more about the comic book, visit [www.drawntohomecomic.com](http://www.drawntohomecomic.com).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

March 15 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

### ♦ ADULTS ♦

**Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm)** – "Being a Church that Recognizes and Comforts People in Deep Pain" led by Susan Spangler, LCSW

**Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm)** — Isaiah 45:5–7, 18–25; Psalm 39; Revelation 3:1–6; Mark 9:9–13 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

**Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm)** – "The Foundations for a Mystical Life" led by Rev. Dr. Graham Standish

**Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm)** – A Lenten session on prayer with the *Spiritual Pathways* program, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Nathaniel Stephens, and Mike Chang

**Parenting Circle (Harambe Rm)** – "Prayer" facilitated by the Parenting Circle Leadership Team

### ♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

**Located in the 1st floor nursery suite and 2nd floor** – Find rooms, teachers and curriculum at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)