



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)

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP RALLY DAY SUNDAY

We welcome our resident brass ensemble, The Brass Roots, back to worship this morning for their eighth season with us at ELPC! They will be joining us in worship six times from now through next May as well as for two concerts in December and May. Read more about them at www.thebrassroots.com.

Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out.
(Vaclav Havel)

TIME OF PREPARATION

"If the God who revealed life to us, and whose only desire is to bring us to life, loved us so much that God wanted to experience with us the total absurdity of death, then — yes, there must be hope; there must be something more than death; there must be a promise that is not fulfilled in our short existence in this world; that leaving behind the one you love...cannot be the cruel end of all things. Indeed we have to wait for the third day."
— Henri Nouwen, *A Letter of Consolation*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Fanfare"

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

William Mathias

The Brass Roots

"Canzona per Sonare, No. 4"

Giovanni Gabrieli

Ethan LaPlaca, *organ* and The Brass Roots

"Solemn Entry (Feierlicher Einzug)"

Richard Strauss

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

Kathryn Ophardt

Leader: God calls us together and by God's Holy Spirit makes us into a community of faith.

People: We come together with honesty and humility, with our wounds, our tears, and our steadfast hope.

Leader: Christ abides with us, listening as we pray, comforting as we mourn, encouraging as we seek to walk by faith, not sight.

People: Gracious, righteous, ever-faithful is our God. Let us worship the Lord together this day!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #611

HYMN TO JOY

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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

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Hope is patience with the
lamp lit.
(Tertullian, d. 225 CE)

ON THIS DATE IN
HISTORY:

Composer and organist
Francois Couperin died
in Paris, France (1733);
poets Elizabeth Barrett
and Robert Browning
were secretly married in
London (1846); the
Lusitania arrived in New
York after her maiden
voyage (1907); South
African student leader
Steven Biko died while in
police custody (1977);
and David N. Dinkins
became the first African
American mayor of New
York City (1989).

PRAYER:

Eternal God, help us to
realize that we have a
moral responsibility to be
good and conscientious
but also to be intelligent.
And grant that we will
always reach out for that
which is high, realizing
that we are made for the
stars, created for the
everlasting, born for
eternity. Amen. (Prayer
of Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. – May 5, 1964)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Holy God, in the face of sin, we call to you for help. You know our faults and our needs before we speak. Forgive us for what we have done in opposition to your will. Forgive us for those things we have not undertaken and for which we know our hesitancy. Lead us away from grief and sorrow. Save us so that we may fulfill our vows to you and ever attend to the needs of your people. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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!

INTRODUCTION OF SERMON THEME

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 116:1-10

The Rev. Dr. Bush

COMMISSIONING OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Schoenewolf

*Parents are asked to keep their children with them in the pews during this time.
There is currently no Extended Session program or childcare in the Nursery Suite available.
We have provided an expanded Kid's Corner with individually packaged materials, and family-friendly spaces in the Narthex (just inside the Penn Ave doors) and the Garth Overlook Room (where you will be able to see and hear worship on a monitor).*

* HYMN #799

"I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry"

I LOVE THE LORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 116:12-19

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Intervals of Faith – Minor 3rd: Lament & Hope"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. 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. 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.

You are invited to use the QR code to the right if you would like to make a donation in support of ELPC. A donation box is also available in the Sanctuary.



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of the Child:

Noor Feghali Najjar, son of Yana Najjar and Maisa Feghali

Profession of Faith

Act of Baptizing

Welcome

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Martin Shaw (1875-1958) was an English composer and conductor. This anthem was composed in 1923 for the Annual Festival of the Rochester (England) Diocesan Church Choirs Association and is still a universal favorite 90 years after it was first sung. The ELPC Chancel Choir last sang in Sanctuary worship on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

The text for the hymn, *Jesus Shall Reign* comes from Isaac Watts, the noted hymnwriter. He took the language of Psalm 72 and transferred the Old Testament, messianic kingship language into words of praise for Jesus Christ, the New Testament Messiah. The tune name DUKE STREET comes from the supposed street address of the music's Presbyterian composer (John Hatton).

Louis Vierne (1870-1937), the famed blind organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, composed six symphonies for organ. The first symphony was composed in 1898-1899. Vierne referred to the final movement of this symphony as his own personal *Marseillaise*. (The *Marseillaise* is the national anthem of France.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “With a Voice of Singing” Martin Shaw
With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered the people, Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands.
O sing praises to the honor of God's name, make God's praise to be glorious.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush
 Kathryn Ophardt

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:	Lord, you give us everything we have, and our very best we present back to you. May these offerings, tithes, and gifts be sanctified for the work of your church and the healing of the world. In the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #265 (vs. 1, 4, 5)

DUKE STREET

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

Dr. Moore, organ
 Louis Vierne

“Final from Symphony I”
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. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Kathryn Ophardt
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Ethan LaPlaca, *Organist*
The Brass Roots:
Samuel Eisenhandler, *Trumpet*
Matthew McCormack, *Trumpet*
Rana Jurjus, *Horn*
Morgan Wynn, *Trombone*
John Caughman, *Tuba*
Abby Langhorst, *-Timpani*
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Liz Hopkins
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME SUSPENDED

Out of an abundance of caution, we are not providing coffee or refreshments. However, water is available in the Fellowship Room.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x111).

♦ 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.
Sept 19 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 19 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching. Church Life Sampler after worship on S Whitfield St.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Taizé Sung Prayer
Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France. Rev. BJ Woodworth leads this service in the Chapel.

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.

Available everyday

♦ WEEKLY SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERINGS

Contemplative Prayer
Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies on Zoom (www.Zoom.us).

Mondays, 7:30 am to 8 am

Meeting ID #959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

Mindfulness Meditation
Susan Spangler and Ted Cmarada will guide participants in mindfulness meditation practices and offer supports for practicing meditation in every day life on Zoom (www.Zoom.us).

Thursdays, 8 am to 8:30 am

Meeting ID #959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

Cathedral Yoga
Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are grateful to have you join us for worship this morning and ask you to register your name in our red Friendship Books.

To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to also:

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the *Reaching Out*, either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk near the Highland Avenue doors.

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.



WELCOME BACK!

We are excited to resume our regular (yet adjusted) fall programming and worship schedule with all of you! Please make note of the following information to help you as we adjust to being together safely in the church building, and to help navigate you through some changes:

- ELPC's Wi-Fi info: ELPC Guest, password is Guest116 (no space).
- There is currently no Extended Session program or childcare in the Nursery Suite available.
- We have provided an expanded *Kid's Corner* with individually packaged materials, and family-friendly spaces in the Narthex (just inside the Penn Ave doors) and the Garth Overlook Room.
- You are invited to use this QR code if you would like to make a donation in support of ELPC. Collection plates will be circulated during the *Offering*. A donation box is also available near the Sanctuary center aisle.
- Please inform an ELPC staff member if you should become ill with COVID after being in the church building so the necessary protocol can be implemented.



TODAY AT ELPC

Congratulations!

Rana Jurjus and Samuel Eisenhandler of the Brass Roots were recently married, and still came to share their musical talents with us this morning during our 11 am worship service. We offer them our congratulations and the prayer of many blessings!

Café Justo Sales

Stop by the Highland Ave corridor following Journey or Sanctuary worship today to purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee. All varieties are available in ground and whole bean bags for \$10. If you are unable to pick up your coffee in person, contact Ryan Booher (rabooherco@gmail.com).

Stonewall Jackson Window Updates

Following today's Sanctuary worship, the Peace, Property, and Facing Systemic Racism Committees invite you to a conversation on the future of the stained-glass window depicting General Stonewall Jackson, located in our Sanctuary's East Transept.

The task force will be seeking your input on how ELPC can meaningfully respond—with justice and faithfulness—to the display of this problematic symbol in our church.

Join us via Zoom at tiny.cc/stonewall-jackson. Or you may call 301.715.8592, and enter meeting ID 883 0027 9230 and passcode 444397 when prompted.



Justice Committee to Host Clothing Drive for Allegheny County Jail

We are seeking to provide dignity and clothing to those who are returning to our community from the Allegheny County Jail. You can help by donating sweatshirts and sweatpants for men and women in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL (no solid red or orange, please).

You may purchase items and drop them off following Sanctuary worship today or on Sept 26 at the Highland Avenue entrance, or at the drop box near the security desk during the week. You also may make a monetary donation, designated "Justice Committee-ACJ Sweats," and the Justice Committee will purchase items. For more info, contact Judy Mancini (mancinij@gmail.com).



Presbyterian Women Bible Study – Sept 13

The PW Bible Study will meet tomorrow, Sept 13 on Zoom from 7-8:30 pm. Join us for our first lesson *Family Trees*. For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



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

Families affected by the recent hurricane including family and friends in Louisiana;
Sarah Heppenstall, Diane Jackson's sister and niece;
Barbara McFarland's father; Ginny Seybold and
Herma Stewart's sister Edris.

Condolences to Katie Haas-Conrad on her great aunt's passing.

YAM Fall Series — Sept 14 and 28

All young adults are invited to join us on Tuesdays, Sept 14 and 28 from 6:30–8 pm as we begin our fall series to learn about, discuss, and attend Taizé prayer services. ELPC's Taizé service is based on a style of worship developed at the Taizé community in France in the 1940s by the late Brother Roger. Come explore as we collectively learn and discuss what Taizé is, its roots, and how we can implement it into the ways we practice our faith. We will use a variety of texts, stories, and images, and welcome a few speakers. No prerequisites are needed. Come to one or come to all, just come as you are! Contact Kelli Booher for details (KelliB@coh.net).

Club one sixteen Resumes — Sept 15

This year, kids in grades 1–12 are welcome to join us on Wednesdays from 4:30–6:30 pm. We will meet outside this fall, and so our theme for the year will be *inside out*. Through Bible study, art, recreation, and discussion, we will explore all the ways in which God shows up when our world is turned inside out. Register online or at the church. Masks will be required for all participants.

Join Us for a Garden Workday — Sept 18

If you are inspired by God's beautiful creation and like to play in the dirt, consider joining us for a workday in the Rain Garden on Saturday, Sept 18 from 9 am–12 pm. Green thumbs are not required. Contact Megan Leisher for info (MeganL@coh.net).

Explore Our Church Life — Sept 19

ELPC's annual *Church Life Sampler* will be held following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Sept 19 outdoors on Whitfield St (weather permitting). Stop by to learn more about the various ministries that are a part of our church life together!

Every committee and ministry area at ELPC will be on hand to highlight fall programming and share how you can get involved! And a special treat will be provided by the Children and Family Ministry Team for you to enjoy on your way home.

LGBTQ Ministry — Sept 26

All LGBTQIA+ folks and allies are welcome to attend our next Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, Sept 26 at 12:30 pm. For more info, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Seeking Spanish-Speaking Volunteers

Casa San José volunteers have begun a local chapter of *Grannies Respond/Abuelas Responder*—a national organization of volunteers that meet asylum seekers at bus stations as they travel from the U.S./Mexico border to their sponsors. Volunteers help asylum seekers with their tickets and give them water, snacks, food, diapers, and personal care items.

At the Pittsburgh Greyhound Bus Station, there are five daily busses that could potentially have asylum seekers on board. Most arrive at 12:45 am. They are usually family units consisting of parents and children, or single adults. None are unaccompanied minors. The Greyhound staff appreciates volunteer help as it saves them a lot of time. Volunteers typically meet outside the station from 12:15–1:15 am. This allows them to be available for 3 buses during that time. Volunteers who are fluent in Spanish are especially needed. You could volunteer any day of the week.

Contact Carol Chonoska if you would like to volunteer (carolchonoska@gmail.com; 724.272.9722).

2021 CONSPIRE Conference Simulcast — Sept 24 to 26

Join us in person for a virtual simulcast of the Center for Action and Contemplation's CONSPIRE Conference, *Me/Us/the World: Living Inside God's Great Story* for free at ELPC! Rev. BJ Woodworth will stream the conference in the McKelvy Room. And lunch will be provided. Please register in advance at www.ELPC.church by next Sunday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sept 19 • 9:45 to 10:45 am

◆ ADULTS ◆

Both in-person and on Zoom

Contact Sara Hackett or Rev. Heather Schoenewolf for Zoom links.

Journey with Scripture — Psalm 117; Amos 1:1–5, 2:1–3; Luke 3: 7–22; Galatians 1:1–11, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

Parenting Circle — “The Sandbox Revolution” facilitated by Trish Buben

Seekers — “Discussing COVID and Left to Tell” facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food — “Fellowship Session with Focused Discussion” facilitated by the Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

◆ CHILDREN & YOUTH ◆

Pre-school through Grade 5 — Courtyard

Grades 6 through 12 — Play Yard (facing Baum Boulevard)