



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 26, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) was a leading English composer whose music was often influenced by folk music and songs. His prelude on the hymn tune *Rhosymedre* is from a set of three preludes for organ on Welsh hymn tunes.

As we stand and sit here this evening and prepare ourselves for what lies ahead, let us go out with the grim and bold determination that we are going to stick together. We are going **to work together...God** grant that we will do it before it is too late. *(Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prayer after first speech as leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1955)*

TIME OF PREPARATION

“Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb.
Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

— Ruth Duck

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“*Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier*, BWV 731” Johann Sebastian Bach
(*Blessed Jesus, We Are Here*)

“Prelude on *Rhosymedre*” Ralph Vaughan Williams

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 (from Psalm 124)

David Carl

Leader: If it had not been for God, who was on our side, we would have fallen prey to those who want to harm us.

People: We would have been swept away by sadness and fear; a torrent would have washed over us.

Leader: **Blessed be God's holy name, who has protected and preserved us and claimed us in the waters of baptism.**

People: Our help truly is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Leader: Let us worship God together!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #409

ABBOT'S LEIGH

“God Is Here!”

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carl

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

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:

Doctors in New Jersey were required by law to hold a medical degree, except those who pulled teeth, drew blood, or gave free medical advice (1772); British troops occupied Philadelphia during the American Revolution (1777); the following birthdays and opening days happened – poet T.S. Eliot (1888), composer George Gershwin (1898), Bernstein's *West Side Story* opened (1957), *Gilligan's Island* premiered (1964), as did *The Brady Bunch* (1969).

O Lord, baptize our hearts into a sense of the conditions and need of all [people].
(George Fox, founder of the Quaker Society)

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and [Parent] of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Carl

God of unity, we live in a world where our lives move between inclusion and exclusion. We often opt for the latter, trying to oust from our circles those who do not think like us, act like us, or look like us. Forgive our need to reject and instead give us the eyes of our Teacher, who knows unconditional love and compassion for all. Wash us clean by your Spirit and hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

David Carl

Leader: Rejoice! You have been brought back, washed and made new, by the redemption offered by God. 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

The Rev. Dr. Bush

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

I Peter 2: 4-5, 9-10

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather 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 Courtyard and the Garth Overlook Room (where you will be able to see and hear worship on a monitor in both spaces).

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Rev. Dr. Bush
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Schoenewolf

Presentation of the Children:

Eleni Kay Louise Overholt, daughter of Trey and Alanna Overholt

Makaylah Christine Bloss, daughter of Christopher C. Bloss

Profession of Faith

Act of Baptizing

Welcome

* HYMN #485 (vs. 1, 2, 4) "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

ENGELBERG

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:35-45

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Bush

"Intervals of Faith – Minor 7th: Baptism Resolutions"

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kathryn Ophardt

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kathryn Ophardt

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Vaughan Williams originally set this text for a solo voice in his *Five Mystical Songs* published in 1911. The melody has appeared in several hymnals as a unison hymn and this morning for four-part chorus.

George Herbert's (1593-1633) well-known text is from his collection *The Temple*, published in 1633.

Healey Willan (1880-1968) was born in England and emigrated to Canada in 1913. He was known as "the Dean of Canadian composers." From 1921 until his death he served as organist/choirmaster/precentor of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto.

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.

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life" Ralph Vaughan Williams

Text: George Herbert

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in length; such a strength as makes a guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

such a joy as none can move: such a love as none can part; such a heart as joys in love.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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: All blessing, honor, glory and power are yours, God our Creator. Your loving-kindness endures forever. May these offerings and the gifts of our lives be a reflection of your goodness in the world and for the world. Alleluia! Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #482

"Baptized in Water"

BUNESSAN

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

Dr. Moore, organ

"Postlude in D"

Healey Willan

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.

Please turn off all electronic devices before the service begins.

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Kathryn Ophardt
David Carl
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Liz Hopkins
Crucifer: Erich Stein
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. The service will also be streamed on Zoom.
Oct 3 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching. World Communion Sunday.

11 am Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. The service will also be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.
Oct 3 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching. World Communion Sunday.

◆ 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.

TODAY AT ELPC

Baptism Celebration During Worship

This morning during the 11 am Sanctuary worship service we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism and recognize all the children, youth, and adults in our faith family who were baptized over the past two years:

Children and Youth:

Grayson Breisinger
Lily Maria Sue Curtice
Karon Grace Dames
Elena Grace Graham
Tobias Alexander Haas-Conrad
Noor Feghali Najjar
Zander Panichella
Zoe Panichella
Grayson Kingsley Rhodehamel
Isaac Anthony Sebastian
Olivia Rose Sebastian
Russell James Sebastian
Eli Karsten Slagle
William Fitzpatrick Teacoach
Elisabeth Eleanor Wittenstein
Mathilde Clara Wittenstein

Adults:

Stephanie Creasy
David Gardner
Kara Kinne
Matthew Roth



LGBTQ Ministry

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

Want to Show Your ELPC Pride?

Stop by the Balaka Room after Sanctuary worship today to pick up an ELPC tie dye t-shirt from members of the LGBTQ Ministry for just \$10. The front says *East Liberty Presbyterian Church* and the back says *God Created You. God Loves You. Be Yourself.*

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 Dana Carl.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Drew Simpson.

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).

Donations may be dropped off at the Highland Ave 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 (mancinijs@gmail.com).

SSL Information Session

Have you ever considered language learning as a spiritual practice? Are you interested in learning Spanish as a second language (SSL)? Come to our SSL information session today at 12:30 pm on Zoom (www.zoom.us; Meeting ID # 829 1134 1253; or call 1 646 558 8656).

This will be a new beginners class, where we can answer your questions and gather ideas of what you want to study together. Attend this information session and learn more about the unique perspective of the SSL class at ELPC.

Confirmation Class to Begin Meeting

ELPC is offering Confirmation Class for children and youth in grades 8 and up. Students who are interested in learning more about Confirmation Class, as well as their parents/caregivers, are invited to an informational meeting after today's 11 am Sanctuary worship service in the Courtyard to discuss the meaning and purpose of Confirmation, review our schedule, and answer questions.

To RSVP for the initial information session and/or to receive a complete schedule, contact Pastor Heather (HeatherS@coh.net) or Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).



YAM Fall Series — Sept 28

All young adults are invited to join us on Tuesday, Sept 28 from 6:30–8 pm for 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. Contact Kelli Booher for details (KelliB@coh.net).



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

Linda Benedict's cousin Rhonda,
Sarah Heppenstall, Buzz Hutchison,
Diane Jackson's sister and niece;
the Leisher's family friend Sydney,
Karen Overfield, Ginny Seybold and
Herma Stewart's sister Edris.

*Condolences to Linda Benedict on her
friend's passing.*

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

Environmental Book Club Studies *Walden*—Sept 30

The Environmental Team invites you to read Henry David Thoreau's classic nature book *Walden*, and join a discussion on Thursday, Sept 30 at 6:30 pm in the Highland Room. Katherine Hackney will lead our discussion. For more info or to tell us you are coming, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

The Peace & Global Witness Offering — Oct 3

We are grateful for a season of coming together as a diverse worshipping community, mutually seeking peace, justice, and equity for all of God's people. This season culminates on World Communion Sunday, Oct 3, when we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

On World Communion Sunday, we will also recognize those who have been members of ELPC for 50 or more years, as well as remember the ministry and legacy of The Rev. Dr. Robert Hewett, who was pastor of ELPC from 1981–1985.

Creation Spirituality at Garfield Community Farm — Oct 9

The mission of Garfield Community Farm (GCF) is to provide fresh produce and educational opportunities to our community, as well as to demonstrate God's restoration of creation through urban agriculture. GCF also exists as a natural monastery that invites us into a conversation, a dance with creation—the Earth, "the Original Cathedral."



The Spiritual Life Committee and the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invite you to at GCF (509 Wicklow St) on Saturday, Oct 9 from 9–11 am. Stephanie and Kevin Bell (philoxenialife.com) will introduce us to GCF and invite us to encounter the wisdom of the trees, ingest the healing powers of the herbal plants, journey within the Sensory Peace Labyrinth, and engage the inner creative spirit within us and within all creation.

Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, long pants, comfortable clothes and shoes (weather appropriate), and a lawn chair (if uncomfortable standing or sitting on benches).

Spiritual Life Offerings

The Spiritual Life Committee is excited to restart some regular times and spaces to practice together, and live into some unforced rhythms of grace. Read an overview of each offering below and visit ELPC.church for complete details.



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER
Mondays, 7:30–8 am, via Zoom

CATHEDRAL YOGA
Wednesdays, 6–7 pm, in the Sanctuary

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE
Wednesdays, 7 pm, in the Chapel

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION
Thursdays, 8–8:30 am, via Zoom

ENNEAGRAM LUNCH CONVERSATION
Third Mondays, 12:30–1:30 pm, via Zoom

JOURNEY DANCE
Third Fridays of month, 6:30–7:45 pm,
in the Sanctuary

INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTION
Contact Pastor BJ to schedule
an appointment (BJW@coh.net).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Oct 3 • 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 141; Amos 3:12–4:3; Luke (Q) 6:27–36 (*Love Your Enemies; Renouncing One's Own Rights; The Golden Rule; Impartial Love; Being Full of Compassion Like God*); Galatians 2:11–14, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

Parenting Circle — "The Sandbox Revolution" facilitated by Trish Buben

Seekers — "Welcoming Afghan Refugees to Pittsburgh" led by Brenda Lee Green, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food — We will begin discussing our next book, *No Other Gods—The Politics of the Ten Commandments*, by Ana Levy-Lyons. New participants are always welcome at Soul Food. Please contact Rev. Joe Hajdu for more info (hajdu625@comcast.net).

◆ CHILDREN & YOUTH ◆

Pre-school through Grade 5 — Courtyard

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