



# 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)*

## OCTOBER 10, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The two handbell settings by Neil Harmon were commissioned for the ELPC Ringers in honor of the 200th anniversary of East Liberty Presbyterian Church. They were premiered during worship on May 12, 2019. Organist and composer Neil Harmon is a member of the faculty at the Brigham Young University School of Music and a graduate of the Eastman School of Music.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**  
As you cause the sun to rise, O God, bring the light of Christ to dawn in our souls and dispel all darkness. Give us grace to reflect Christ's glory; and let his love show in our deeds, his peace shine in our words, and his healing in our touch, that all may give Christ praise, now and forever.  
Amen.

### TIME OF PREPARATION

"It is idle to talk of good will until there is first justice, and idle to talk of justice until the people who make the world possess the work of their own hands."

— Upton Sinclair

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Fantasia in G, BWV 572"

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach

ELPC Ringers

"Morning Has Broken"

arr. Neil Harmon

### 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 (from Psalm 15)

Lenore Williams

Leader: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

People: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right; and speak the truth from the heart.

Leader: Those who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends.

People: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Leader: Let us worship God in the spirit of holiness!

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #305

DARWALL'S 148TH

"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

The path that you choose for us, O God, is to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, to share our bread with the hungry, to bring the homeless into our homes, to cover the naked, and not to hide ourselves from our own kin and humanity. Break forth the light of dawn to dispel our darkness when we place our selfish desires above the needs of others, when we turn a blind eye to the suffering of others, and when we fail to live peaceably with others. Gracious God, when we disobey you, let your Spirit guide us back to the right path; and when we cry out for your help we trust **that you will answer, "Here, I am." Now, Lord God, receive our silent prayers of confession.**

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

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:  
Eleanor Roosevelt was born in NYC (1844); The Panama Canal opened (1911); American pianist, composer, and among the first creators of modern jazz, Thelonious Monk, was born (1917); The Second Vatican Council, announced by Pope John XXIII in 1959, opened (1962); and John Lennon's song *Imagine* was released as a single (an iconic song of hope and peace, it is arguably the best-known work of his solo career, 1971).

Let us not act out of fear and misunderstanding, but out of the values of inclusion, diversity, and regard for all that make our country great.  
(Loretta Lynch, U.S. Attorney General, 2015-2017)

## TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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!

### HANDBELL ANTHEM

"Cwm Rhondda"

arr. Neil Harmon

### GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 6:20-26

Kathryn Ophardt

### 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:*

Makaylah Christine Bloss, daughter of Christopher Bloss

Marian Clarissa Croyle, daughter of Ryan and Kathleen Croyle

*Presentation:* Philip Kaufholz

*Profession of Faith*

*Act of Baptizing*

*Welcome*

### \* HYMN #486

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

KINGDOM

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 6:6-8

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

### SERMON

"In the Meantime"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

## TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

### COMMISSIONING OF THE FACING SYSTEMIC RACISM COMMITTEE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (Native American version in unison)

The Rev. Woodworth

O Great Spirit, Creator of the universe, you are our Shepherd Chief in the most high place. Whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever you want done, let it also be done everywhere. Give us your gift of bread day by day. Forgive us our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil. For everything belongs to you. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.

— Written by Hattie Corbett Enos, Nez Perce, great grandmother of Rev. Irvin Porter  
*Gifts of Many Cultures*, 1995, Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy  
United Church Press, Cleveland, OH

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

Dolly Parton (b. 1946) wrote the words and music to *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* and recorded it in 1977. The song came out of the pain of her breakup with longtime musical partner Porter Wagoner. Composer and conductor Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962) arranged the song for his chamber chorus, *Conspirare*, in 2010.

# OFFERING INVITATION

*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.*

The Rev. Woodworth



# OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Dolly Parton/Craig Hella Johnson

## "Light of a Clear Blue Morning"

*It's been a long dark night, and I've been a waiting for the morning.  
It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand new day a dawning.  
I've been looking for the sunshine 'cause I ain't seen it in so long.  
Everything's gonna work out fine. Everything's gonna be all right, it's gonna be okay.  
I can see the light of a clear blue morning. I can see the light of a brand new day.  
I can see the light of a clear blue morning. Everything's gonna be all right, it's gonna be okay.  
I can see the light...brand new day. I can see the light...blue, blue morning blue.*

# \* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



# \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush  
The Rev. Schoenewolf

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:	We give, loving God, because of your generosity to us. We share because this is your will for us. In faithfulness to your call, we seek to manage the resources you provide for the greatest benefit to humankind. May they bring a bit closer an awareness of your intentions for us and your rule among us. We worship and serve you with all we have. Amen.	

# \* RECESSIONAL HYMN #379 "We Shall Overcome"

WE SHALL OVERCOME

# \* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

# POSTLUDE

"Improvisation on We Shall Overcome"

Carl Haywood

Composer Carl Haywood is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia. Dr. Haywood served as director of choral activities at Norfolk State University and for twenty-six years he served as organist/choir director at Grace Episcopal Church, Norfolk. *Improvisation on We Shall Overcome* was composed for the MLK service at St. James' Church, Richmond, Virginia.

*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. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
The Rev. BJ Woodworth  
Kathryn Ophardt  
Lenore Williams  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Robin Schmeider, *Soloist*  
Andrew Wilkinson, *Recorder*  
ELPC Ringers  
Beadle: Liz Hopkins  
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

Today's flowers are sponsored by the ELPC Mission Board in recognition and celebration of the commissioning of the ELPC Facing Systemic Racism Committee.

◆ 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 17 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

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 17 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

◆ 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Commissioning the Facing Systemic Racism Committee

In 2017, the Mission Board established the Facing Systemic Racism Task Force. For the past four years, volunteers studied, researched, and presented opportunities for congregants to sit at the table and ask hard questions about how we as a country, city, body of believers, and individuals participate in and support racist structures that maintain the status quo of white supremacy, implicit bias, and white privilege.

A task force is generally short lived. Goals are achieved and the task force disbands. As we well know, eradicating racism within ourselves and our structures is a life-long journey of self reflection and examination. After prayerful consideration and conversation, the Mission Board, under the auspice of church leadership, has elected to transform the Facing Systemic Racism Task Force to a standing committee of ELPC. This may seem like word play to some, but establishing a standing committee acknowledges that facing systemic racism is critical to the life and well being of our congregation, to who we profess to be, and to our commitment to being a diverse, equitable and inclusive body.

### Outdoor Livestreaming Space for Sanctuary Service

We have set up an outdoor streaming area for our Sanctuary worship service on Sundays at 11 am. If your family is not yet comfortable attending worship indoors, join us in the Courtyard. Parents and guardians must remain with their kids.



### 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 services.

The *Journey* service DOD is Sharla Yates.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Elaine Phillips.

### Café Justo Sales

Following today's *Journey* and *Sanctuary* worship services, purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee, in ground and whole bean bags, for \$10. The coffee will be sold in the Narthex after the 11 am service; see Ryan Booher after the 8:45 am *Journey* service in the Social Hall to purchase coffee after the early service. Please contact Ryan Booher (rabooherco@gmail.com) for more info.



### International Luncheon

The Board of Deacons did not sponsor the *International Luncheon* on Worldwide Communion Sunday out of an abundance of caution because of COVID. They will be presenting *ELPC Cooks International*, so please look for additional info soon!

### Intermediate SSL Class — Thursdays

Our intermediate Spanish as a Second Language class meets on Thursdays at 4 pm. You are welcome to join us as we learn about ourselves, our neighbors, and God through the Spanish language! Join us on Zoom at [tiny.cc/elpc-ssl-class](https://tiny.cc/elpc-ssl-class).

### A Conversation on Critical Race Theory — Oct 17

On Sunday, Oct 17 at 12:30 pm, we will present a conversation on Critical Race Theory (CRT), which has come to the forefront of the racial issues in our country. We will welcome keynote speaker Dr. James Phillip Huguley, associate dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and associate professor at the School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh, and a panel of our own ELPC educators who represent early childhood through higher education.



### Confirmation Class Meeting — Oct 17

Our Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday, Oct 17 from 12:30–3:30 pm. Contact Rev. Heather Schoenewolf (HeatherS@coh.net) or Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) for more info.

### Need Yardwork Help? — Oct 23

Need some help with yard work this fall? Know someone who could use some extra hands outside? ELPC youth would love to be of service on Saturday, Oct 23. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

### LGBTQ Ministry — Oct 23

Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks are invited to attend our LGBTQ Ministry's *Spiritual Gathering* on Saturday, Oct 23 at 9 am to share food and fellowship. Contact Wil Forrest to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net).

### Connections Group to Visit Asian Lantern Festival — Oct 24

Would you like to reunite with some old friends, or make some new ones? Our Connections Group will meet at the Pittsburgh Zoo on Sunday, Oct 24 at 6:30 pm to explore the Asian Lantern Festival. Tickets are \$20 (\$17 for Zoo members), and may be purchased online (specify Oct 24 at 6:30 pm) or at the gate. Bring your mask. Please RSVP to [connectelpc@gmail.com](mailto:connectelpc@gmail.com).





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

Linda Benedict's cousin Rhonda,  
Bill Buchanan, Leisher's family friend Sydney,  
Karen Overfield, and Ginny Seybold.

*Condolences to Peta Harrigan Cole and family  
on the passing of two of her cousins.*

*Condolences to the family of  
Stuart "Buzz" Hutchison on his passing.*

*Condolences to the family of  
David Johnston on his passing.*

*Condolences to the family of  
Jean Kennedy on her passing.*

Special Acknowledgements During Worship — Oct 24 and 31  
On Sunday, Oct 24 at the 11 am worship service, we will acknowledge the couples who were joined in matrimony during the past 20 months, and offer a chance for all those in committed, loving relationships to renew their vows.

As part of our All Saints' Day service at 11 am on Sunday, Oct 31, we will remember those in our congregation and larger church family who have passed away since January 2020. Please join us for these special services!

Role of Educators in Affirming Racial Identity — Oct 31

The topics of race and education are—and have always been—inextricably intertwined. So, let's talk about it! Join the Facing Systemic Racism Committee during the Church School hour on Sunday, Oct 31 for an intergenerational conversation through story with Dr. Beverly Harris-Schenz and Dr. Linda Lane. If interested in learning more about racial identity in the classroom from the lived perspective of Dr. Beverly Harris-Schenz, please join us!

**YAM "Champing" Fall Retreat — Nov 5 to 7**

You may have heard of "glamping," but this year's Young Adult Ministry's retreat is unique in that it is *champing*—camping at a church that is no longer used for services. We will travel outside of Pittsburgh from Friday, Nov 5 to Sunday, Nov 7 to a historic church built in 1903. We will have access to the main sanctuary, balcony, kitchen, and yes, it does have hot showers! Tents, camping mats, and/or cots are provided, but you may bring your own. There is more than 3,000 square feet of space, so plenty of room for us to spread out.



The cost is \$30/person (scholarships are available). Contact Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net) for more details about this retreat. RSVP by Friday, Oct 29.

## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

*Join us for worship on Stewardship Sunday, Nov 7 and come forward with your pledge and food donations.*

How many of us have wished that God would work on our timeline and just do exactly what we ask? How many of us have been awakened by the brilliance of God's glory when it showed up in God's way, in God's time?

It takes faith to go where God leads. This year, we are summoning our faith as we walk with God in re-activating our church and manage the ongoing effects of the pandemic. In order to keep ELPC vital and be prepared to follow God, we are planning a pledge goal of \$760,000, which is a 4% increase over last year.

We also are planning a fall food drive to support our sisters and brothers who are experiencing food insecurity. Requested items include canned fruits, vegetables, and tuna; pastas; instant potatoes; etc.

During this season, *listen for the sounds of God's presence in birds singing, belly laughter, and the choir's anthems. Watch for God's presence in spectacular murals, crunchy leaves, and purple sunrises. Experience God's presence in the courage of civil servants, the tenderness of caregivers, and the deep commitment of our teachers.*

As we attend to all that God has given us and to where God has led us, our hope is that we all can be prayerful and faithful in pledging, so that our church can follow where God is leading us in 2022.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

*Oct 17 • 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 128; Amos 5:18–25; Luke (Q) 6:43–45 (*The Tree is Known by Its Fruit*); Galatians 3:1–5, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

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

Seekers — "Welcoming the Stranger," facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food — We will discuss the Second Commandment with our book *No Other God — The Politics of the Ten Commandments*, led by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.

### ◆ CHILDREN & YOUTH ◆

Pre-school through Grade 5 — Courtyard

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