



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)

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933) was a famed German organist and composer. The tune of *Now Thank We All Our God* is used more as a structural device in this piece, never being easily recognizable to the listener.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Lord of life, help me to recognize your witness in truth that challenges convenience, in decisions that stretch my heart, in forgiveness freely offered, and a spirit that follows where you lead. Grant me the gift of life in community, guided by your grace.
Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

The biggest thing for me, both as a pastor and as an incoming seminary president, is to understand what God is doing in the midst of the lives of people and to figure out how the church can participate with that. How are we shaping and molding and allowing people to explore what God is doing in their lives for the betterment of the world and for the ushering in of God's loving justice in the world?

— The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

“Galliard Battaglia”

Samuel Scheidt

The Brass Roots

“Now Thank We All Our God (*Marche Triomphale*)” Sigfrid Karg-Elert

The Brass Roots

Ethan LaPlaca, organ

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: We gather to worship the Creator God who established the world from of old.

People: We come to worship Christ, the risen Savior, whose reign shall never end.

Leader: We open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, who leads us in freedom and truth.

People: We rejoice in our triune God, who receives our praise and renews us in the ways of faith, justice and love. Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #645

MIT FREUDEN ZART

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”



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

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Christ the King Sunday is a Roman Catholic Feast first instituted by Pius XI in 1925. Since 1970, it has been celebrated on the last Sunday before Advent. It acknowledges the authority of Christ the Savior whose realm (kingdom) will be marked by peace and justice.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
The famed British composer Henry Purcell died at the age of 36 (1695), Thomas Edison announced the invention of the phonograph (1877), the “Father of the jazz Saxophone” Coleman Hawkins was born (1904), Rebecca Felton of Georgia became the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate (1922), the movie “Rocky” premiered (1976), and Pres. Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe resigned after 37 years in power (2017).

Pilate’s exchange with Jesus is filled with sarcasm from him. Naming Jesus as a “king” was both ironic, since Jesus was under arrest, and a serious accusation, since it would mean Jesus was guilty of treason and sedition. Yet Jesus’ kingship was not about politics but righteousness.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Gracious God, we are bold to profess faith in you even though we yield only a fragment of our lives to you. We claim to serve you but offer only what remains after we have first indulged our desires. We do that which we ought not, and refrain from the things we ought to do on a daily basis. Forgive us our sin and pride, our hesitancy and doubt. In your abundant mercy teach us what it means to follow you, no matter the cost. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: The mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. It cannot be contained, but must be poured out. So open yourself as a vessel of God’s grace, love and mercy. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #647 “Give Thanks”

GIVE THANKS

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PREACHER

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 132:1-12

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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 a family-friendly space in the Garth Overlook Room (where you will be able to see and hear worship on a monitor).

* HYMN #367

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee
President, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

GOSPEL LESSON

John 18:33-37

The Rev. Dr. Lee

SERMON

“Kingdom Purposes”

The Rev. Dr. Lee

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush

VIDEO TRIBUTE: TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

MINUTE FOR MISSION Presbyterian Women Thank Offering

Mary Alice Lightle

OFFERING INVITATION

Mary Alice Lightle

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.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation was originally a Latin hymn, translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) in 1851.

Neale, an Anglican priest, translated many hymn texts in our hymnal, including *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*.

We gather to worship on land originally in the care and protection of the Adena and Hopewell Nations, and the Monongahela Peoples, and shared over time by many Indigenous Nations, including the Delaware, Iroquois, and Shawnee Tribes. We honor their legacy and seek justice for all Indigenous people.

Virgil Fox's (1912-1980) setting of *Now Thank We All Our God* is an arrangement of the third movement of Bach's *Cantata No. 79*. In the original, the chorus is singing the hymn tune.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

Craig Courtney

*Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the Church in one;*

Holy Zion's help forever and our confidence alone.

*To this temple, where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all your loving kindness, hear your people as they pray;
And your fullest benediction shed within these walls today.*

*Grant, we pray, to all your faithful, all the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
And here after in your glory, evermore with you to reign.*

*Praise and honor our Creator, praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
One in might and one in glory, while unending ages run!*

* 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:	Holy God, scripture proclaims that in your realm, all those in need will be satisfied and justice will pour down like a mighty stream. Use these gifts we offer, re-mold our desires, and fill us and all our neighbors with daily bread, that all may be well at last. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #35

LOBE DEN HERREN

"Praise Ye The Lord, The Almighty"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Lee

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

arr. Virgil Fox
Dr. Moore, organ

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. Asa Lee
President, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Mary Alice Lightle
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*
Amanda Willard, *Tuba*
Abby Langhorst, *Timpani*

Beadle: Mario Seneca
Crucifer: Mark Statler
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME SUSPENDED

Please join the Board of Deacons in the Social Hall as they present a video titled *ELPC Cooks International* featuring five recipes prepared by ELPC members, with an updated International Recipe Book.

♦ 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 is also streamed on Zoom.
Nov 28 — Kathryn Ophardt preaching. First Sunday in Advent.

11 am Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. The service is also livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.
Nov 28 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching. First Sunday in Advent.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are sponsored by Tamara Golden in loving memory of her mother, Gail Noden, and grandparents, George and Norma Noden.

♦ 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

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

A Warm Welcome to Today's Special Guests

This morning we welcome The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, the new president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as our guest preacher. The Rev. Dr. Lee is an ordained Baptist minister with degrees in music, theology, and educational leadership.

We also welcome The Brass Roots, and thank them for sharing their musical talents with us.

PW Thank Offering Received

Presbyterian Women invite you to join in making *a special offering to the Lord* in gratitude for your blessings with today's *Thank Offering*. Please make checks payable to "PW in ELPC" and write "Thank Offering" in memo line.

Spiritual Gathering

All LGBTQIA+ folks and allies are welcome to attend the **LGBTQ Ministry's next Spiritual Gathering at 12:30 pm** today. To attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

ELPC Cooks International Hybrid Coffee Hour

Join the **Board of Deacons** after today's 11 am worship service when they will present a video titled *ELPC Cooks International* at a hybrid coffee hour, featuring five recipes prepared by ELPC members. There will also be an updated *International Recipe Book* with ethnic/cultural recipes for you to enjoy at home. Join us in the Social Hall or on Zoom (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID: 854 5639 0917; Passcode: 772883).

Youth Ice Skating

Youth in grades 6–12 will gather for ice skating at The Rink at PPG Place this afternoon. Please bring \$10 (scholarships are available). Fully vaccinated students can ride in the church van. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Giving Tree

Signup Genius will be used this year for gift selection—www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A49ACAA28A57-giving1 Sign up with help from the Deacons at the Highland Ave entrance before and after worship services today and next Sunday, and before and after Taizé Prayer on Wednesday, Dec 1. Gifts are due on Sunday, Dec 5.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

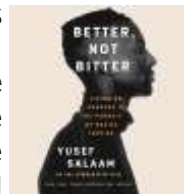
Every Sunday, a DOD (*Deacon-on-Duty*) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our services.

The *Journey* service DOD is Elaine Phillips.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Linda Harrington.

Book Donations in Honor of Judge Justin Johnson

Please check out the beautiful new books donated to our church library by The Revs. Cynthia and Jared Jackson in memory of the beloved Judge Justin Johnson. Books can be found in the Garth Overlook Room and the **Kid's Corners in the Sanctuary and Social Hall**. Titles include *Dreams from my Father* by Barack Obama (adapted for young adults), *Better, not Bitter* by Yusef Salaam, and picture books *My Voice is a Trumpet*, *The ABCs of Black History*, *Islandborn*, *Peace, If Dominican Were a Color*, *Dancing Hands*, and *Change Sings*.



Advent Devotions Available Next Sunday

Waiting: Stories by Members of ELPC, this year's Advent devotional, will be available beginning Nov 28. Stories will be available online, but a printed booklet of the stories along with an advent calendar and Amaryllis plant, can be picked up at the church next Sunday following 11 am worship until 2 pm. Plants are one per family, and can be reserved by contacting Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net). Otherwise, a limited amount will be available next week.

Advent Party — Nov 28

Youth in grades 6–12 are hosting an Advent Party for our church family on Sunday, Nov 28 from 12:30-1:30 pm. We need your help leading crafts, setting up, selecting the best music, and helping others feel welcome. Contact Sara Hackett if you can help (SaraH@coh.net).

AdventUS Retreat Materials — Pick-up Nov 28

Materials for those who registered to participate in the virtual *AdventUS Retreat* can be picked up next week, Sunday, Nov 28 after the 11 am service from Rev. BJ Woodworth.

Sanctuary/ Chapel Tours — Nov 28, Dec 12 and 26

Following the 11 am service on Sundays, Nov 28, Dec 12 and 26, join a tour of ELPC highlighting church history and architectural contrasts of the Chapel and Sanctuary. The Narthex, Trinity Chapel, and Chancel will be included.

Environmental Book Club — Dec 2

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to read *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest* by Suzanne Simard. Learn about the complexity of sustainable forestry and the puzzle of deciding which trees to harvest and which to retain, and how this practice **influences a forest's ability to recover and remain healthy**. And then join the book club on Thursday, Dec 2 at 7 pm for a discussion via Zoom. For details, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).



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

Carol Bonner's aunt Helen,
Rev. Dr. Bob and Jan Chesnut's grandson David,
Steve Evrard's nephew and family,
Peta Harrigan Cole's brother Philip,
Darlene Matta's father,
Alissa Panichella's aunt Linda and uncle Tom,
and Rev. Heather Schoenewolf's father.

Condolences to Steve Evrard on his sister's passing.

Condolences to the family of Justin Johnson on his passing.

Hanging of the Greens — Dec 5

Help decorate ELPC for the Christmas season on Sunday, Dec 5 following the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Any amount of time you can help would be appreciated!

Zoom Inquirers' Class — Dec 5

Are you interested in becoming part of the ELPC faith family? Join Pastor Randy Bush on Sunday, Dec 5 at 2 pm on Zoom to learn about ELPC's ministries and programs and ways to be involved at ELPC and in our community! Zoom info: www.zoom.us; Meeting ID: 811 9583 8813.

PW Bible Study — Dec 6 and 7

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study lesson *Ruth and Loyal Love* on Monday, Dec 6 from 7-8:30 pm and/or Tuesday, Dec 7 from 10 am-Noon. Both sessions will meet on Zoom. For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

The Perspective Christmas Pageant — Dec 12

Through narration, scripture, costumes, song, and art, the children and youth of ELPC will lead us in a hybrid retelling of the joyful Christmas story at the center of our faith. Some narrators and actors will be leading us "live" in the Sanctuary, while other actors will be joining us virtually. But, it doesn't matter where we are—ALL will tell this important story. You can view this production in person at ELPC or watch the pageant via Zoom on Sunday, Dec 12 at 10 am. Contact Megan (MeganL@coh.net) for Zoom link.

New Yoga and Centering Prayer Offering in December

The ELPC Spiritual Life Committee is excited to offer *Yoga and Centering Prayer* on Mondays and Wednesday from 8–9 am throughout December! Sessions will be led by Katrina Woodworth on Zoom. The suggested donation is \$0-\$15. Register online at tiny.cc/yoga-and-prayer.



ELPC pastors and staff wish you and yours a

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

*The church office will be closed
on Thursday and Friday.*

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering — Nov 23

Join members of Pittsburgh's many different faith communities at the *45th Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering*, hosted by Congregation Beth Shalom, at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Nov 23. This year's theme is *Doing Good Work*. Connect with opportunities to get involved in advocacy, non-profit, and volunteer organizations in our community. Please bring your COVID-19 vaccination card with you and be prepared to show it. Light refreshments will be served. For more info, please contact Rabbi Mark Asher Goodman (mgoodman@bethshalompgh.org) or Rev. Karie Charlton (karianncharlton@gmail.com).

Volunteers Needed

Open Hand Ministries (OHM) needs volunteers for a house rehab on Wednesdays and select Saturdays, Dec 4 and Jan 8. If interested, please contact Cheryl Lowitzer at OHM (clowitz@openhandpittsburgh.org) for details.

EECM needs volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to residents at EECM on Thursday, Dec 2 (5:30 pm) and Sunday, Dec 12 (6:30 am). Please contact Becky Gloninger to help (412.913.6070; rag15@verizon.net).

Kingsley Center's Family Support Resources

East Liberty Family Center at the Kingsley Center is available to help with family support and resources with educational workshops, parenting classes, diaper bank, men and women's programming, and other resources. Contact Joshua McKinley (jmckinley@kingsleyassociation.org).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Nov 28 • 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 119:89–96 ; Amos 9:5–10; Luke (Q) 9:57–62 (*Confronting Potential Followers*); Galatians 4:21–31, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

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

Seekers — "World War II and the Bomb" led by Dr. Ron Stone, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food — We will discuss the Seventh 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 — *There is a hold on in-person classes for this age group until January 2022.*

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