



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 28, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) well-known arrangement of *Sleepers, Wake!* is from the *Schübler Chorales*, a set of six chorale preludes written a few years before his death. It is an arrangement of the tenor aria in his *Cantata 140*.

God doth not need either man's work or his own gifts: Who best bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. They also serve who only stand and wait. (John Milton)

The Advent hymn *Comfort, Comfort, Now My People* is a paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5. It is set to a tune that is tied to John Calvin and his Genevan Psalter, although its earliest roots were likely a French folksong.

TIME OF PREPARATION

Waiting is caring, and caring is creative — naturalists waiting in a hide, lovers waiting for one another, scientists waiting for outcomes, artists waiting on what will emerge from the strokes of their brushes. By waiting we become aware of our needs, and of powers and qualities in the world which otherwise would go unrecognized. As we wait, we invest the world with the possibility and power of meaning - as does our God [who also waits].
— W.H. Vanstone

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645”

J. S. Bach

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

Jan Herzer

Leader: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people.

People: Justice and righteousness will fill the land and all will live in peace and safety.

Leader: When we see these things, we will lift up our heads and know that our redemption is drawing near!

People: With expectant hope and faith, we worship you, O God, the One who is and who is to come.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #87

GENEVAN 42

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Dr. Valire Carr Copeland

Leader: We have endured much these past few years, and there is likely more to face before us. We find ourselves wondering, “Who is with us? Who will light our way forward in the days to come?”

People: Scripture offers us Advent answers. The prophet Jeremiah tells of a branch that will be raised from the stem of Jesse, and Jesus spoke of a Son of Man who will descend. Both point to a hope — an Advent Hope.

Leader: The hope of our faith welcomes all of us. It is shaped around justice, equality, and peace. And it is at the heart of the Advent season.

People: We light this candle as a sign of our strong hope that there is a way forward by faith. It starts with us. It starts here. It starts now. Thanks be to God!

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

On this day in history were born the following poets and writers: William Shakespeare (1582), John Bunyan (1628), and William Blake (1757); Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American straits later named for him (1520); the Grand Old Opry made its radio debut (1925); the rationing of coffee in the U.S. began and lasted throughout WWII (1942); the African republics of Chad, Congo and Mauritania gained independence within the French Union (1958); and Ernie Davis became the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy (1961).

I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage. (Psalm 127:13-14)

Psalm 130 is a "psalm of ascent," part of the group of psalms that were sung as people approached Jerusalem for the major feast days. It moves from individual prayer to the hope of the community's redemption. Martin Luther called it a "doctor of scripture," teaching the core principles of our faith.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #92 (vs. 1 and 2)

WAITING

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Kathryn Ophardt

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kathryn Ophardt

Spirit of God, you open doors that are locked, break the shackles of slavery, erode the pyramids of domination, and tumble tyrants from their thrones. You give us life and remind us that we are your beloved children. Yet we confess that we have locked doors and shackles, built pyramids and erected thrones, forgetting your claim on our lives, body and soul. On this day we pause and pray for forgiveness; we wait for you to bring us fresh healing and hope. Come near to us in mercy and grace. We long to be made whole. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Kathryn Ophardt

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 THE REV. DR. ROBERT A. CHESNUT

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 26:3-8

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather 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 #796 (vs. 1, 4, 5) "We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

LAND OF REST

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 130

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Advent Hope: Watching for the Best"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut
Pastor Emeritus

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.



Nov 28 • First Sunday of Advent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Harry Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949) arranged *My Lord, What a Mornin'* for solo voice and piano in 1918. He arranged it for a cappella SATB chorus in 1924. This morning's arrangement combines Burleigh's original piano accompaniment with the a cappella choral version.

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.

Wayne L. Wold's festive setting of *Sleepers, Wake!* provides a more contemporary contrast to the setting by Bach heard during the prelude this morning. This is the third, and final, movement in a suite based on the tune *Wachet auf*. Wold is college organist at Hood College in Frederick, MD.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "My Lord, What a Mornin'"

H.T. Burleigh
Albert Blackwell

*My Lord, what a mornin', my Lord, what a mornin',
Oh, my Lord, what a mornin', when the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways, joined that heavenly band.
My Lord, what a mornin', my Lord, what a mornin',
Oh, my Lord, what a mornin', when the stars begin to fall.*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Woodworth
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:	Generous God, thank you for this day that we might sing your praise and watch for signs of your kingdom. By your Spirit, bless these gifts and each of us that the offerings of our hands and hearts may ever point to your coming reign. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #719 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

ORA LABORA

"Come, Labor On"

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

"Wachet auf – Finale"

Wayne L. Wold
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. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut
Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Dr. Valire Carr Copeland
Jan Herzer
Kathryn Ophardt
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Erich Stein
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ FELLOWSHIP TIME SUSPENDED

Due to the pandemic, our Fellowship Time is suspended. However, water is available in the Fellowship Room.

◆ 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.

Dec 5 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching. Second 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.

Dec 5 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching. Second Sunday in Advent.

◆ 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). The cost is \$175.

◆ 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 on Zoom to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies.

Mondays, 7:30 am to 8 am
Meeting ID #959 8065 3992
Passcode: bestill

Mindfulness Meditation

Susan Spangler and Ted Cmarada will guide participants on Zoom in mindfulness meditation practices and offer supports for practicing meditation in every day life.

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

A Warm Welcome to Today's Special Guests

This morning we welcome back to ELPC The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut, pastor emeritus, and his wife Jan. Dr. Chesnut was pastor of ELPC from 1988 to 2002.

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 before and after Taizé Prayer on Wednesday, Dec 1. Gifts are due on Sunday, Dec 5.

Advent Devotions Available

Waiting: Stories by Members of ELPC, this year's Advent devotional, will be available today. Stories will be available online, but a printed booklet of the stories along with an advent calendar and Amaryllis plant, can be picked up until 2 pm. Plants are one per family.

Advent Party

Youth in grades 6–12 are hosting an Advent Party for our church family today from 12:30-1:30 pm in the Social Hall. There will be crafts and music. All are welcome!

Sanctuary/Chapel Tour

Following this morning's 11 am service, join Bob Starzynski for a tour of ELPC highlighting church history and architectural contrasts of the Chapel and Sanctuary. The Narthex, Trinity Chapel, and Chancel will also be included. Please gather at the Highland Lobby.

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 Dana Carl.



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. 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).

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 the Zoom link.

Purchase Café Justo Coffee — Dec 12

Stop by the Narthex on Sunday, Dec 12 after the 11 am worship service to purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee. All varieties are available in ground and whole bean bags for \$10 (cash or check only). If you are unable to pick up your coffee in person, please contact Ryan Booher (rabooherco@gmail.com). Note: Café Justo will be sold on the second Sunday of the month.

Sanctuary/Chapel Tours — Dec 12 and 26

Following the 11 am service on Sundays, 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.





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,
Debbie Hurrell's sister Beth, 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.

Condolences to Polly McQueen on her brother's passing.

*Following the 11 am worship service next Sunday, Dec 5,
there will be a short committal service for Sue Bailey.*

Shop for Gifts with Ten Thousand Villages — Dec 12

Join us for a fundraising sale in partnership with Ten Thousand Villages. Browse this year's catalog online at Ten-Thousand-Villages-Pittsburgh.Square.Site. There will be an in-person shopping event at ELPC on Sunday, Dec 12.

Christmas in East Liberty Concert — Dec 17

Cathedral Concerts return with *Christmas in East Liberty* on Friday, Dec 17 at 7:30 pm. This highly anticipated concert and East Liberty tradition will feature The Brass Roots and conductor Daniel Curtis, the ELPC Chancel Choir and conductor Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and organist Ethan LaPlaca. Hear holiday favorites and the premiere of two newly commissioned pieces: *Carol Fantasia* by Mary Beth Bennett and *Spiritual Suite* by Marcus Grant. Join us in the Sanctuary or virtually on YouTube or Facebook. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be accepted. If you'd like to sing in the choir, contact Dr. Ed (EdM@coh.net).

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering—Dec 19

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Dec 19 at 12:30 pm to share food and fellowship. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome! This month we will meet in person and via Zoom. Contact Wil Forrest for more info and/or to attend ([412.441.3800](tel:412.441.3800) x118; Wil@coh.net).

New Yoga and Centering Prayer Offering in December

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

The "O Antiphons" Taizé Service — Dec 22

Join us at our Taizé prayer service on Wednesday, Dec 22 at 7 pm for a special service that combines scripture readings, singing of the "O Antiphons," and silence to welcome the Christ Child. Please join us!

IN OUR COMMUNITY

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](tel: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

Dec 5 • 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 101; Amos 9:11–15; Luke (Q) 10:2–9 (*Workers for the Harvest, Sheep among Wolves, No provisions, What to do in Houses and Towns*); Galatians 5:2–12, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

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

Seekers — "The Ethics in Context of Paul Tillich: Mature Christian Ethics" led by Dr. Ron Stone, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food — We will discuss the Eighth 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)

Christmas Eve Services (in-person and virtual)



5 pm Family Service

10 pm Candlelight Service (music begins at 9:30 pm)