



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)

JANUARY 2, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

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.

This version of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* combines the familiar carol with the African American chorus "We'll Walk in the Light" and was composed in 2000.

TIME OF PREPARATION

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
— *The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

MUSIC MINISTRY

Michael Warren, *piano*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Woodworth

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

Lenore Williams

Leader: God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem,
People: Where the Light of the World is humbly born into the darkness of human night.
Leader: Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world,
People: So that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room.

* HYMN #147 (vs. 1, 2, 6)

THE FIRST NOWELL

"The First Nowell"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #127

WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 31:7-14

Lenore Williams

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Kathryn Ophardt

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).

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

Jan 2 • Second Sunday of Christmas

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On this day in history, two famous operas premiered – *The Flying Dutchman* by Wagner (1843), and *La Boheme* by Puccini (1896); Robert Moton, a child of former slaves, became the second president of **Alabama's Tuskegee Institute**, following Booker T. Washington (1916); and religious services were broadcast for the first time ever, featuring Calvary Episcopal Church on the young KDKA Pittsburgh radio station (1921).

God is the indwelling and not the transient cause of all things. (Spinoza)

I believe that God is in me as the sun is in the color and fragrance of a flower – the light in my darkness, the voice in my silence. (Helen Keller)

ANTHEM

Marvyn Warren/Hallerin Hilton Hill

“Who Would Imagine a King”

GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-19

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“God is NOT Out There”

The Rev. Woodworth

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Rev. Woodworth

The creeds of the church reflect a particular stance within the living history of God's people. They are not to be barriers that separate us, but words that strengthen the life and witness of the whole community of believers.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in **Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit**, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. (*Ecumen. Apostles' Creed*)

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Woodworth

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

“Oh, Holy Night”

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



Jan 2 • Second Sunday of Christmas

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:
Holy God, in all that we
have faithfully
accomplished this day,
your light has illumined
our way. In all that we
have truthfully spoken
this day, your wisdom
has guided our judgment.
In any way we have
strayed, may your light
reveal our fault and your
wisdom correct our folly.
By your grace, may we
begin tomorrow with
renewed strength to live
according to your will.
Amen.

Because of Jesus, we
know that God takes
notice of us, cares about
us, loves us, calls us,
and is always with us.
Sing out this carol of faith
and believe it in your
hearts. For to us Christ
the Savior is born!

BLESSING:
Now may the true light
shine on you. May the
Son sent by God be your
guide and strength.
May you go in peace and
live in hope, in Jesus'
name. Amen.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Woodworth

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Woodworth

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Woodworth

SHARING BREAD & CUP

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles to partake of the elements. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Journey Praise Team
#145

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”
“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Woodworth

God, we thank you that in the gift of Jesus, the Christ child, you came near to us, became one of us and reminded us that all things are sacred, holy, and enchanted. Thank you that in this communion meal of ordinary bread and cup, you are present, and you reconnect and remember us to yourself again and again. Your Christmas incarnation, in the body of Jesus, continues in space and time in ordinary food, and in us. Thank you for feeding us and nourishing us; may we indeed become what we eat – the body of Christ, incarnated in the world. Amen!

* HYMN #136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

Michael Warren, *piano*



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. BJ Woodworth
Liturgists: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Kathryn Ophardt
Lenore Williams
Musicians: Michael Warren
Pianist/Journey Music Director
Journey Praise Team:
Adrianna Cleveland
Delana Flowers
David Jennings-Smith
Robin Schneider
Beadles: Liz Hopkins and Lenore Williams
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
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.

◆ 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.

◆ 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.
Jan 9 — 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 is also livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.
Jan 9 — 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 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

Cathedral Yoga
Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service.
Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

Yoga Retreat
Join Yamuna Morgenstern and Katrina Woodworth for a yoga retreat at ELPC. We will begin the day with yoga, followed by moments for movement, reflection, meditation, and lunch. We hope also to offer the experience of *kirtan* (sacred call and response chanting in Sanskrit). Register by Jan 23 to Norma (412.441.3800 x111). *Suggested donation: \$35-60.*
Saturday, Jan 29, 9 am to 5 pm (*includes lunch*)

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

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.



Assist Refugee Families

Our efforts in assisting refugees has experienced some twists and turns, but is running in high gear. Presently, we are seeking volunteers and donations to help with settling 5 families from South Sudan and Syria. Volunteer efforts involve helping families move into new homes, shopping for basics like home goods and clothing, and helping refugees navigate various aspects of their new life here in Pittsburgh. Please contact Eric Jester to volunteer (eric@new-burgh.com).



Presbyterian Women Bible Study — Jan 3 and 4
Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study lesson *Ruth and Redemption* on Monday, Jan 3 from 7-8:30 pm or Tuesday, Jan 4 from 10 am-Noon. Both sessions will meet on Zoom. For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Taizé Christmas Music —

Jan 5

Please join us immediately after Taizé on Wednesday, Jan 5 (8:15-8:45 pm) for a 30 minute program of Christmas music with Taizé musicians Kathy Whittaker (piano), Charlie Anderson (flute) and guest artist Wendy Webb Kumer (flute). This will be a musical celebration of the final day of the Christmas season.



Winter Rally Day — Jan 9

Join us on Winter Rally Day, Sunday, Jan 9 from 9:45–10:45 am as Church School resumes for students of all ages! A few room locations have changed for the younger children, so please visit our website for details (ELPC.church).

Purchase Café Justo Coffee — Jan 9

Stop by the Narthex after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Jan 9 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).

Sanctuary/Chapel Tours — Jan 9 and 23

Following the 11 am service on Sundays, Jan 9 and 23, 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. Please gather at the Highland Lobby after worship.



Club one sixteen — Resumes Jan 12

Our regular schedule resumes on Wednesday, Jan 12 from 4:30–6 pm. All kids in grade 1 and up are welcome! To register a child (or update a registration), please visit ELPC.church. Students in grades 7–12 will explore our theme *Get Through It*. Using biblical stories, activities, and prayer, students will learn about perseverance, resilience, and hope through the lens of our faith.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Jan 16

You are invited to the next **spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry** on Sunday, Jan 16 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 x118; Wil@coh.net).



Snow Tubing at Boyce Park — Jan 23

Youth in grades 6–12 are going snow tubing at Boyce Park! Students traveling in the church van are required to be vaccinated, but all students are welcome to participate in snow tubing. Those going in the van will meet at ELPC at Noon in the Harambe Room for lunch before leaving. We will return to ELPC for pick up at 3:30 pm. RSVP to Sara Hackett by Sunday, Jan 16 (SaraH@coh.net).

Yoga Retreat — Jan 29

Start your 2022 with a journey within. Treat yourself to the first ever *yoga retreat* at ELPC! Whether you are a regular attendee to Wednesday night Cathedral Yoga or not, consider joining Yamuna Morgenstern and Katrina Woodworth for a yoga retreat from 9 am-5 pm on Saturday, Jan 29. We will begin the day with yoga, followed by moments for movement, reflection, meditation, and lunch. We hope also to offer the experience of "kirtan" (sacred call and response chanting in Sanskrit) and perhaps the labyrinth. We will end the day with a luscious restorative yoga class to send you on your way with a divine sense of renewal. Suggested donation of \$35-\$60 includes lunch. Register by Jan 23 with Norma (412.441.3800 x111).



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

Linda Benedict,
Joe and Cathie Hajdu's son Jeremy,
Tom Morton's friend Kirk,
Alissa Panichella's uncle Tom,
Rev. Heather Schoenewolf's father, and
Darlene Schwab's father Bob.

Condolences to the family of Patrick Panebianco on his passing.

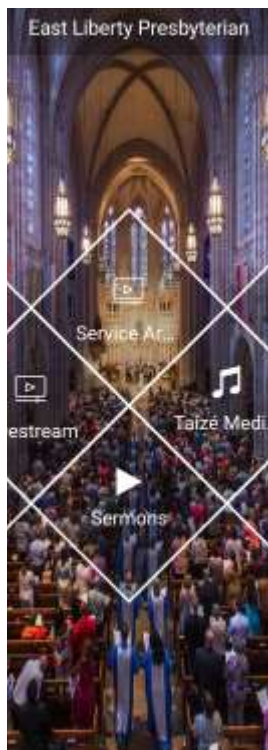
A Letter from the Birmingham Jail — Jan 30

On April 16, 1963, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." That statement is still true today.

During the Church School hour on Sunday, Jan 30, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee and the Faith Formation Board invite all adults and students in grade 6 and up to participate in a discussion of the Rev. Dr. King's Letter from the Birmingham Jail. Join us—either in person or via Zoom (tiny.cc/MLK-letter or call 312.626.6799; enter meeting ID 874 9214 5751 and passcode 651698 when prompted).

Nursery News

ELPC leadership continues to monitor the level of local COVID-19 transmission and vaccination rates as we discern when we can safely open our Nursery. Our hope is to have it available this spring. Beginning this month, families are welcome to accompany their child (birth–age 2) to the Nursery to watch a livestream of our Sanctuary worship service on Sundays at 11 am.



ELPC IS LAUNCHING AN APP

As we enter into a new year and return to semi-normal life and **church programming**, we're launching a mobile app to serve as a hub for all ELPC-related news, events, and digital offerings.

On the app, you'll be able to stream live and archived worship services and concerts, watch sermons, listen to our Taizé podcast, download bulletins, browse events, connect with our social media pages, read up-to-date news, and more.

The app will soon be available to download for free through the Google Play Store and the Apple App Store.

In our

COMMUNITY



Contribute to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

In the early hours of Dec 11, several tornadoes ripped through multiple U.S. states, resulting in extensive damage and significant loss of life. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in touch with affected presbyteries to coordinate resources and assistance. Please visit the PDA website and designate any financial gifts to #DR000015 (<https://pda.pcusa.org>).



USHERS NEEDED

ELPC is seeking volunteers to help usher at our 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Sundays. Usher Captains are also needed. If you are interested in participating in this ministry by greeting people who come to worship at ELPC, distributing worship bulletins and collecting the offering, please contact Pastor Randy Bush (RandyB@coh.net) or Norma (Norma@coh.net).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Jan 9 • 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 151 (11QPs from Cave 11); Hosea 2:1–23; Galatians; Luke (Q)10:22–24 (Knowing God through Jesus, the Beatitude for the Eyes that See), facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

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

Seekers — "Razia Jan and Educating Girls in Afghanistan" led by Razia Jan, facilitated by Gwen Puza

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

◆ CHILDREN & YOUTH ◆

Preschool— Room 205

Kindergarten through Grade 3 — Room 206

Grades 4 and 5 — Room 211

Grades 6 through 12 — 2nd Floor Parlor