



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)

DECEMBER 12, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Chicago organist and composer Richard Billingham (b. 1934) was for a time organist at the Chicago Temple (Methodist), the oldest church congregation in the city of Chicago.

Christ, the One who was, and is, and is to come, welcomes you to this place. As one body, with one voice, we honor and glorify the giver of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, and joy.

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.

TIME OF PREPARATION

The year's at the spring and day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven, the hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing, the snail's on the thorn:
God's in his heaven – All's right with the world.

— Robert Browning

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Adagio in A”
“My Lord, What a Morning”

César Franck
Richard Billingham

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 Isaiah 12)

Barbara Griffin and Kira Mukogosi

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the holy name of the most high God;
People: For God is our strength and our salvation now and always.
Leader: Trust and do not be afraid; with joy you will draw water from the wells of peace.
People: We will proclaim the good news of our God, who gives us glad tidings of great joy.
Leader: Let us worship God together!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #82

HYFRYDOL

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Allison and Miles McLaren

Leader: The Advent and Christmas seasons often involve reunions - coming together as families and friends, connecting through cards and calls and video chats. It can be wonderful, yet at times stressful. We wonder, “Who is with me? Who will light the way forward so that I may know hope, peace and joy?”
People: Scripture offers us Advent answers. The prophet Zephaniah tells us to imagine being set free, unburdened, released to live in the grace and wonder of life itself. John the Baptist, though, reminds us that it takes choices to live in this new way. We choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and care for others. This is the path that leads to Advent joy.
Leader: We walk forward by faith with a skip in our step because we can see the destination and we trust that it is where we are meant to be.

Dec 12 • Third Sunday of Advent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:

Pennsylvania became the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution (1787); the Bijou Theater in Boston became the first American stage lit by electric lamps (1882); poet Robert Browning died in Venice (1889); African American George Grant received the patent for the wooden golf tee (1899); and the first true motor-inn (The Motel Inn) opened in San Luis Obispo, CA (1925).

I Thessalonians is the **earliest of Paul's letters** and therefore is the earliest written evidence of Christianity. It opens with words of gratitude for how this congregation not only received the message of Christ delivered by Paul, Timothy and Silvanus, but how they also become bearers of that same message in their own lives.

There is no such thing as the pursuit of happiness, there is only the discovery of joy.
(Joyce Grenfell)

People: We light this third candle of joy as we make new our earthly homes and look forward to our heavenly home where we will be made new. It starts with us. It starts here. It starts now. Thanks be to Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #137 "He Came Down"

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light...

He came down that we may have peace...

He came down that we may have joy...

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come, Thou Dear Redeemer"

César Franck

Text: Charles Wesley
Anthony Brown, *soloist*

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 #80 (sing 2x)

"You Shall Go Out With Joy"

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Advent Joy: Recipients of Joy"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME FOR SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

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.



Dec 12 • Third Sunday of Advent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Gustav Holst (1874-1934) composed the tune CRANHAM for *The English Hymnal* in 1906 to accompany the text by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Rossetti's poem was first published in 1872 under the title *A Christmas Carol*.

BLESSING:
May the Spirit and Joy of the Lord surround you as you walk and wait for Christ's coming.

The Advent hymn *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns* is based on the hymn tune CONSOLATION, which dates from 1812. The tune is referred to by the name MORNING SONG in some hymnals. David Johnson (1922-1987) was an American organist who taught at several colleges and universities, including St. Olaf College, Syracuse University, and Arizona State University.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Gustav Holst

Text: Christina Rossetti

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;

Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;

But his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Kathryn Ophardt

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

People: Y también contigo.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor
nuestro Dios.

People: Es justo dar gracias y
alabanzas a Dios.

Leader: Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our
tithes, offerings, and labor to help nourish a world hungry for healing,
hope, peace and joy. May these gifts be our song of faithful joy today and
always. In Christ's name. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.

It is right to give God
thanks and praise.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #135 “There’s a Star in the East”

FOLLOW

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“The King Shall Come”

arr. David N. Johnson

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. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Allison and Miles McLaren
Kathryn Ophardt
Barbara Griffin and Kira Mukogosi
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Cody Conley, *Violin*
Anthony Brown, *Soloist*
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire
Crucifer: Mark Statler
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 amJourney 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 19— The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching. Fourth Sunday in Advent.
11 amSanctuary 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 19— The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching. Fourth 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

Yoga and Centering Prayer Offering in December
The ELPC Spiritual Life Committee is excited to offer Yoga and Centering Prayer 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.

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8-9 am

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

Purchase Café Justo Coffee

Stop by the Narthex 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, contact Ryan Booher (rabooherco@gmail.com). *Note: Café Justo will be sold on the second Sunday of the month.*

Sanctuary/Chapel Tour

Join Carla Depperman following today's 11 am service for 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 in the Highland Lobby.

Shop for Gifts with Ten Thousand Villages

Join us for a fundraising sale in partnership with Ten Thousand Villages today in the Garth Overlook Room after worship. Browse this year's catalog online at www.Ten-Thousand-Villages-Pittsburgh.Square.Site.

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 Tom Sturgill. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Drew Simpson.



Christmas Eve Services

(in-person and virtual)



5 PM

Family Service

Pastor Heather

COMMUNION
SING-A-LONG

10 PM

Candlelight
Music at 9:30 pm

Pastor Randy

COMMUNION
SPECIAL MUSIC

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

CHRISTMAS IN EAST LIBERTY CONCERT

Friday, Dec 17 • 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 by Mary Beth Bennett and Marcus Grant.

Join us in the Sanctuary or virtually on YouTube or Facebook. The concert is free (freewill offering).

5TH ANNUAL BLUE CHRISTMAS: A TAIZÉ SERVICE

Saturday, Dec 18 • 6:00 pm

Setting aside the lights and other holiday trappings, the Deacons of ELPC invite you to join them in a worship service acknowledging the pain and struggle that can come **alongside the season's joy.** This service in the Chapel will include candlelight, chants, thoughtful readings and meditative silence; and a time for comfort and hope that has us looking toward the promise of Christmas.

O ANTIPHONS TAIZÉ SERVICE

Wednesday, Dec 22 • 7:00 pm

Join us for a special Taizé prayer service that combines scripture readings, singing of the *O Antiphons*, and silence to welcome the Christ Child.

An antiphon is a prayer said or sung during worship, especially in connection with the Psalms and Canticles.



**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church



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

ELPC staff members
Jaszmier Branch and Alex Hornezes,
Carol Bonner's aunt Helen,
Debbie Hurrell's sister Beth, Gloria Knopp,
Ralph Lowe from Presbytery,
Tom Morton's friend Kirk,
Alissa Panichella's uncle Tom,
Rev. Heather Schoenewolf's father,
Darlene Schwab's father Bob,
Tom and Gail Whalen's friend Tina and her son Nick, and
Sharla Yates' mother and grandmother.

Concert Ushers Needed — Dec 17

If you would like to be an usher for the Cathedral Concert *Christmas in East Liberty* on Friday, Dec 17 at 7:30 pm, please contact Dr. Edward Alan Moore (EdM@coh.net).

Christmas Joy Offering — Dec 19

On Sunday, Dec 19, ELPC will receive the *Christmas Joy Offering*. The Mission Board invites you to give generously and continue to pray for our church leaders.

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 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.

Sanctuary/Chapel Tour — Dec 26

Following the 11 am service on Sunday, Dec 26, join a tour with Steve Evrard 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.

The ELPC building
will be closed for Christmas on
Saturday, Dec 25, and Monday, Dec 27.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Volunteers Needed

ELPC is seeking volunteers to help at the Hospitality Desk. Tasks would include answering the phone, receiving deliveries, and welcoming visitors. If you are interested in being *the face of ELPC*, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net) or Pastor Randy Bush (RandyB@coh.net).

EECM needs volunteers to help prepare and serve meals to residents at EECM. Please contact Becky Gloninger to help (412.913.6070; rag15@verizon.net).

CHILDREN & YOUTH DECEMBER EVENTS

- Confirmation Class
Sunday, Dec 19 from 12:30–3:30 pm
Our Confirmation Class will meet in the 2nd Floor Parlor to discuss *Discipleship: Worship and the Word of God*—how participation in worship and exploring scripture helps us follow Jesus. For more details, contact Pastor Heather (HeatherS@coh.net).
- Christmas Caroling
Thursday, Dec 23 from 5–7 pm
Youth in grades 6–12 are welcome to join us for Christmas Caroling around the Highland Park neighborhood with the Young Adults. RSVP to Sara for details (SaraH@coh.net).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Dec 19 • 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 39; Hosea 1:1–11; Luke (Q) 10:10–21 (**Response to a Town's Rejection, Woes against Galilean Towns, Whoever Takes You In Takes Me In**); Galatians 5:13–24, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

Parenting Circle — “**The Sandbox Revolution**” facilitated by Trish Buben

Seekers — “**Discussion on a Tillich Sermon and Q&A Session**” led by Dr. Ron Stone, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food — We will discuss the Tenth 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)