



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 19, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Bruce Neswick's *Partita on Winchester New* is based on the hymn tune of the same name. The tune is found twice in our *Glory to God Hymnal*, #42, 96. The partita was composed in 2000 for the 90th anniversary of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

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

Love of God is the root and love of our neighbor is the fruit of the Tree of Life. Neither can exist without the other, but the one is cause and the other effect.

— Archbishop William Temple (1881-1944)

MUSIC MINISTRY

"Partita on Winchester New"
Chorale-Meditation-Bicinium-Aria-Trio
"Out Under the Sky"

Bruce Neswick

Douglas E. Wagner

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: Not in the mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

People: The Messiah is coming.

Leader: Heralded by a star, but announced prophetically by Mary and Elizabeth, who were the first to know this wondrous news:

People: The Messiah is coming.

Leader: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, love will be found in the child called "Emmanuel: God-with-us."

People: The Messiah is coming. Let us prepare to welcome him here!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #88 (vs. 1, 2, 6 and 7)

VENI EMMANUEL

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Andrew, Molly, Sydney and Calvin Swagler

Leader: Sometimes when we are trying something new, or facing a difficult decision, or just feel lost or uncertain about life, we need a blessing. We may not use that word, but it is what we are seeking as we ask, "Who is with me? Where can I experience love, acceptance, and support for this day and the days to come?"

People: Scripture offers us Advent answers. We remember how Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to her cousin **Elizabeth's for support and a blessing. And the prophet Micah tells** of a blessing for all the world that would emerge from the unexpected little town of Bethlehem. These are blessings of Advent love.

Dec 19 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY:
Benjamin Franklin began publishing *Poor Richard's Almanac* in Philadelphia (1732); Charles Dickens first published *A Christmas Carol* (1843); the musical play *The Music Man* opened on Broadway (1957); and Apollo 17 splashed down in the Pacific, concluding the Apollo program of manned lunar landings (1972). It is also the birthday of African American historian Carter Woodson (1875), conductor Fritz Reiner (1888), actor/actresses Cicely Tyson (1933), Jennifer Beals (1963), and Jake Gyllenhaal (1980).

Were the whole realm
of nature mine,
that were an offering
far too small;
love so amazing,
so divine,
demands my soul,
my life, my all.
(Isaac Watts)

Leader: We are nearing the end of our Advent journey. Scripture and prayer and candlelight have been our companions so far. The blessing is that we are known by God and truly loved as God's own children.

People: We light this fourth candle of love as a sign that, even in our waiting, we are encouraged and upheld by our gracious God. This good news is not just for us, but for all the world. It starts with us. It starts here. It starts now.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #104 (vs. 1 and 2)

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?

Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!

O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

God our Savior, we ask for your mercy this day. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We walk past those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who wait to be filled. We extinguish your light of love and grace. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. As we wait for you, make us messengers of your hope, peace, joy and love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

arr. Anna Laura Page

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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 #107

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

REJOICE, REJOICE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 8:8b-12

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Advent Love: What We Know to be True"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

If there be any lover of
God who is always kept
safe from falling, I know
nothing of it – for it was
not shown me. But this
was shown – that in
falling and rising again
we are always held close
in one love.
(Julian of Norwich)

Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)
is Canon for Cathedral
Music at Trinity
Episcopal Cathedral in
Portland, Oregon.
Neswick composed a
new tune for the familiar
text *Lo, How a Rose E'er*
Blooming. The tune
name is OCONEE PASS,
referring to the street
where he lived in Atlanta,
GA when he was director
of music at St. Philip
Cathedral there.

BLESSING:
May the God of justice be
your path, the Lord of
mercy be your guide, and
the Spirit of love be your
light, this day and
forevermore.

SUNG REFLECTION HYMN #108 (vs. 1 and 5; remain seated)

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

“Of The Father’s Love Begotten”

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

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.*



OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Bruce Neswick

Text: *Glory to God Hymnal* #129

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* 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:	Loving God, we thank you for all that draws us close together in covenants of love and justice. Accept our gifts as signs of our gratitude for what you give us every day and as the means to announce your presence in our world now and always; in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who saves us. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #110

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Partita on Winchester New – Toccata”

Bruce Neswick

Dr. Edward Alan 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
Sara Hackett
Kathryn Ophardt
Andrew, Molly, Sydney, Calvin Swagler
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
ELPC Ringers
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

There is no Journey Worship next Sunday, Dec 26 and Jan 2.

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 26 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.



♦ 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

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

Christmas Joy Offering

This morning we 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

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry 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 to attend (412.441.3800 x118; Wil@coh.net).

Confirmation Class

Our Confirmation Class will meet in the 2nd Floor Parlor from 12:30-3:30 pm 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).

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 Linda Harrington.



Assist Refugee Families

Our efforts in assisting refugees has experienced some twists and turns, but is running in high gear. When our Congolese family's arrival was delayed, we realized we could still be a big help to those already here. 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.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, we are moving two families into their new homes, and could really use some help! Work involves moving furniture into apartments in Carnegie and Crafton. Some work is light duty, some heavy; no prior experience needed! Please contact Eric Jester to volunteer (eric@new-burgh.com).

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.

O Antiphons Taizé Service — Dec 22

Join us for a special Taizé prayer service at 7 pm on Wednesday 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. The O Antiphons are so named because each prayer begins with O. Please join us in the Chapel for this special service!

Christmas Caroling — Dec 23

Youth in grades 6–12 are welcome to join us for Christmas Caroling around the Highland Park neighborhood with the Young Adults on Thursday, Dec 23 from 5-7 pm. RSVP to Sara for details (SaraH@coh.net).

No Journey Worship Service — Dec 26 and Jan 2

We will not offer Journey worship services next Sunday, Dec 26 and Sunday, Jan 2. The service will resume on Winter Rally Day, Jan 9.

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.



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



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,
Debbie Hurrell's sister Beth, Gloria Knopp,
Ralph Lowe from Presbytery,
Tom Morton's friend Kirk,
Patrick Panebianco and Elia Espinosa,
Alissa Panichella's uncle Tom,
Rev. Heather Schoenewolf's father,
Darlene Schwab's father Bob,
Jean Thomas, and
Tom and Gail Whalen's friend Tina and her son Nick.

Condolences to Todd Hoffman on his father's passing.
Condolences to Barbara Krimmel on her brother's passing.
Condolences to Sharla Yates on her grandmother's passing.

No Taizé Service — Dec 29

ELPC will not offer a Taizé prayer service on Wednesday, Dec 29. The service will resume on Wednesday, Jan 5 in the Chapel at 7 pm.

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.



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).

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). *Note: Café Justo will be sold on the second Sunday of the month.*

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>).

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).

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).

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

There will be no Sunday School Classes
on Dec 26 and Jan 2.

*Classes will resume on
Winter Rally Day, Sunday, Jan 9.*

DONATIONS TO ELPC

You are invited to use this QR code if you would like to make a donation in support of ELPC. Collection plates will be circulated during the *Offering*. A donation box is also available near the Sanctuary center aisle.

