



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 26, 2021 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FIRST 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.

TIME OF PREPARATION

It is not over, this birthing.

There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.

When we begin to think that we can predict the Advent of God,

that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,

that's just the time that God will be born

in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.

Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and not their eyes,

listening, always listening for angel words.

— *"It's Not Over"* by Ann Weems

MUSIC MINISTRY

"Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Edwin C. Johnson

"Divinum Mysterium"

Wilbur Held

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

David Carl

Leader: Praise God from the highest heavens. Praise God in the heights!

People: Praise God, all angels. Praise God, heavenly host!

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon. Praise God, shining stars!

People: Let us, and all of creation, praise the name of God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #133

ADESTE FIDELES

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Kathryn Ophardt

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Kathryn Ophardt

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

Dec 26 • First Sunday of Christmas

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

"The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman

When the song of the
angels is stilled,
when the star in the
sky is gone,
when the kings and
princes are home,
when the shepherds are
back with their flock,
the work of
Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace
among brothers,
To make music
in the heart.

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!

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

David Carl

* HYMN #113

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

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 #135

"There's a Star in the East"

FOLLOW

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:17-21

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

"What Comes Next?"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (한국어) in the Glory to God hymnal.

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Gesù Bambino"

Pietro Yon

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



Loving God: We give you
thanks for Jesus Christ,
the Word made flesh.
Receive the gifts we offer
in union with Christ's gift
for us. Clothe us with
compassion, kindness,
humility, meekness, and
patience, that we may be
Christ for others. In his
name we pray.

Dec 26 • First Sunday of Christmas

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Living God, we gather –
to stand with shepherds,
amazed at your glory; to
sing with angels,
rejoicing in your work; to
wait with Joseph, trusting
in your promise; to sit
with Mary, cradling your
love. May the good news
of this night inspire us to
tell the world of our great
joy: for to us is born a
Savior, the Messiah, the
Lord. Glory and praise to
you forever!

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
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:	Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #136

GO TELL IT

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”


* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Carillon-Joy to the World”

Mary Beth Bennett

A photograph of a church at night. In the foreground, a single lit candle stands on a surface, its flame bright. The background shows the dark silhouette of a church building with several arched windows that are illuminated from within, creating a warm glow. The overall scene is dark, with the candle and the church lights providing the primary sources of illumination.

May the Lord
light your path,
this day and
always.

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. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
David Carl
Sara Hackett
Kathryn Ophardt
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
Cantors: Adrianna Cleveland
Todd Farwell
David Jennings-Smith
Pamela Kimmel
Robin Schneider
Beadle: Liz Hopkins
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

There is no Journey Worship next Sunday, Jan 2.

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 2 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching. Communion will be celebrated.

◆ 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

No service on Wednesday, Dec 29

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

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

Sanctuary/Chapel Tour

Following today's 11 am service, join a tour of ELPC with Jan Irvin 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.



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 *Sanctuary* service DOD is Maureen Davidson-Welling.



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).

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.

No Journey Worship Service — Jan 2

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

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

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).



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 Todd Hoffman on his father's passing.

Condolences to Barbara Krimmel on her brother's passing.

Condolences to the family of Patrick Panebianco on his passing.

Condolences to Sharla Yates on her grandmother's passing.

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).

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 most safely open our Nursery. Our hope is to have it available this spring. Beginning in January, 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. For details, contact Pastor Heather (HeatherS@coh.net).

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).

The ELPC building
will be closed tomorrow,
Monday, Dec 27.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

There will be no Sunday School Classes
next week, Jan 2.

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

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.

