



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)

MARCH 27, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

George Shearing (1919-2011), the famed blind jazz pianist, recorded himself improvising several of his favorite hymns at the piano. These recordings were then transcribed from tape to paper and, with the help of organist Dale Wood, arranged and published for the organ.

PRAYER:
Merciful God, if like the Prodigal Son I have strayed from you this day, call me back to your loving embrace. If like the elder son, I have harbored resentment for the grace you give to others, reprove me. Like Christ, help me exhibit compassion and forgiveness to all who lose their way. Amen.

TIME OF PREPARATION

You are *my* way, and *my* truth and *my* life.
I am a dimly burning wick, but you will not quench me.
I will speak again and walk again and you will take my pain,
And the warmth of your hand will dissolve it, and I will clap for you forever.
— Ann Weems, “Lament Psalm 30”

MUSIC MINISTRY

Johann Sebastian Bach
“Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639”
(I call to Thee, Lord Jesus Christ)
“Amazing Grace” George Shearing
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

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 (Psalm 33)

Lynne Chadwick
Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright.
People: Sing to the Lord a new song; for your word is ever right and faithful are all your works.
Leader: God looks down from heaven and sees all humankind. Truly God’s eye is upon those who wait for God’s steadfast love.
People: Let your loving-kindness be upon us, O Lord, even as we place our hope in you.
Leader: Let us worship God together!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #796

LAND OF REST
“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

On this day in history, Ponce de Leon sighted Florida in his search for the Fountain of Youth (1512); the Seattle Metropolitans became the first American winners of hockey's Stanley Cup (1917); jazz legend Sara Vaughan was born (1924); the musical *Singin' in the Rain* premiered at Radio City Music Hall (1952); and Ukraine held its first parliamentary election since the collapse of the Soviet Union (1994).

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. (Psalm 130:3-4)

The difference between mercy and grace? Mercy gave the Prodigal Son a second chance. Grace gave him a feast. (Max Lucado)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Woodworth

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways. Like the Prodigal Child, we have wasted our inheritance. You gave us the earth for our **home, but we squander earth's resources. You gave us neighbors to love, but** we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us commandments that lead to peace, but we remain committed to the rules of war and the weapons of discord. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you; through Christ our Lord hear now our silent prayers.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Woodworth

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!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #649 (verses 4 and 5)

AMAZING GRACE

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Children in preschool through grade 3 are invited to the Chapel for a time of learning together. Children younger than age 3 are welcome to attend, if accompanied by their parents. Parents and caregivers should meet their children in the back of in the Sanctuary during the Doxology, when children will return to the worship service.

The nursery is open to young children who are accompanied by their parents/caregivers during worship (there will be no staff/volunteers present); the service is livestreamed into that space.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Profession of Faith

Presentation of the Children: Jonathan Welty
Davi Welty
Christian Welty
(Jared and Nichole Welty, parents)

Act of Baptizing

* HYMN #418

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 15:11-32

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

"Rest Stops: Coming to Ourselves"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Alice Parker (b. 1925) and Robert Shaw (1916-1999) collaborated many times to produce arrangements of folksongs, hymns and spirituals that have become standards in the choral repertoire. *I Will Arise* is from William Walker's *Southern Harmony*, a shape note hymnbook published in 1835.

The gifts given the Prodigal Son were all important marks of his restoration: the robe was intended for festivities, not work; the ring was a sign of family authority; the sandals showed he was not a slave (who went barefooted) but a restored son; the fattened calf was slaughtered only for a luxurious, special event, not for a common meal.

OFFERING INVITATION

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.

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"I Will Arise"

arr. Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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: O God, all that we have comes from you. Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives, for we return to you a portion of what you have so graciously given. Use us for your purposes now and always, in the name of Christ Jesus.

People: Amén.

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.

Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN #774 "There Is Now a New Creation"

STUTT GART

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

attr. Johann Sebastian Bach

"Little Prelude and Fugue in F Major, BWV 556"

Dr. Moore, organ

Our worship concludes with the postlude. For the benefit of those who wish to listen to the postlude, please refrain from visiting with your neighbors until you have left the sanctuary, or until the postlude has concluded.



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 silence 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
Lynne Chadwick
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Mario Seneca
Crucifer: Mark Statler
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Each Sunday morning, there is coffee available from 9:30 – 10 am in the Whitfield Lobby (lower level) and the Highland Ave Lobby. There will also be coffee available in the Narthex following the 11 am worship service.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The congregation is invited to sponsor an Easter plant or contribute to the EECM Food Pantry. Order forms are available in the Narthex and Highland Ave Lobby. You can pick up your plant/s after the 11 am Easter Sunday worship service.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The service is also streamed on Zoom.
April 3 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching. Communion will be served.
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.
April 3 — The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching. Communion will be served.

◆ 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 and Centering Prayer for Lent
During the season of Lent, Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead Contemplative Prayer on Zoom. It will involve the reading of a Psalm and Centering Prayer (20 minutes of silence), in community with one another.
Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am
Meeting ID #959 8065 3992
Passcode: bestill

Spring Yoga and Creation Contemplation Classes
In March and April, Katrina Woodworth will teach one class on Wednesdays from 8-9 am. Winter is waning and Spring is around the corner. Seasonally and spiritually, we are entering into Lent, Easter and Spring. What better way to transition than to get on our mat and be in touch with our bodies! Inspired by the PC(USA) *Lent Daily Reflection Calendar*, our yoga practice, readings and meditations will focus in on **caring for creation in solidarity with Christ's sacrifice and resurrection!** *Please register in advance at:*
<http://tiny.cc/spring-yoga>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

Join us at our **LGBTQ Ministry's** next *Spiritual Gathering* in person at the church or online via Zoom at 12:30 pm today. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome — in fact we will be focusing on our wonderful allies during this time together! For more details or to attend, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).

Letter Writing Event

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee will offer an in-person letter-writing and advocacy time following today's Sunday Church School classes and Sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship Room. Topics address environmental and social justice components of the Build Back Better Act, as well as the Hopes for Homes Act.

Please join and contribute your voice to advocate for these issues. Legislators need to know that their constituents care about and want solutions to the climate crisis. If unable to join in person, sample letters, fact sheets and your representative addresses are available on our website at ELPC.church.

ELPC Health Ministry is Reorganizing

The ELPC Health Ministry, under the leadership of the Board of Deacons is reorganizing and is extending an invitation to church members or friends who have healthcare experience or an interest in whole health to join them. The first meeting will be held following the 11 am worship service today in the Highland Room.

Tread Lightly for Lent: Daily Reflection/Action Calendar

This Lenten Devotional is being co-sponsored by the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee and the Faith Formation Board. It is available to download at www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent.



Contemplative Prayer — Mondays

Join Rev. BJ Woodworth on Zoom (Meeting ID 959 8065 3992, Passcode bestill) during the season of Lent for Contemplative Prayer, involving the reading of a Psalm and Centering Prayer (20 minutes of silence), in community with one another. All are welcome to join us on Mondays from 7:30-8 am.

Yoga and Creation Contemplation Classes — Wednesdays

In March and April, Katrina Woodworth will teach one class on Wednesdays from 8-9 am on Zoom. Inspired by the PC(USA) *Lenten Daily Reflection Calendar*, our yoga practice, readings and meditations will focus on caring for **creation in solidarity with Christ's sacrifice and resurrection!** Please register in advance at <http://tiny.cc/spring-yoga>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with info about joining the meeting.

Pickleball Tournament — April 3

Youth in grades 6–12 are getting together from 12:15-3 pm on Sunday, April 3 for lunch and pickleball. There will be trophies, but no experience is needed. Meet at ELPC at 12:15 pm. We will be back for pick up at 3 pm. RSVP by completing the online permission slip at ELPC.church, or contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Church Tour — April 24

All are invited to join a tour of the majestic ELPC tower on Sunday, April 24. Please wear comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes for this tour. Gather in the Highland Lobby following the 11 am Sanctuary worship service to join the tour guide if interested.



Holy Week & Easter Services

Wednesday, April 13: 7 pm

Taizé Stations of the Cross (Pastor BJ)

Thursday, April 14: 7 pm

Maundy Thursday (Pastor Heather)

Friday, April 15: 7 pm

Good Friday (Pastor Randy)

Saturday, April 16: 7 pm

Easter Vigil (Pastors BJ and Randy)

Sunday, April 17

Easter at 8:45 am (Pastor Patrice)

Easter at 11 am (Pastor Randy)

On Palm Sunday, April 10, the *One Great Hour of Sharing* offering will be received.

Sponsor an Easter plant or contribute to the EECM Food Pantry. Order forms are at the entrances. Pick up your plant/s after the Easter Sunday service.





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

Kathy Callahan's parents Dave and Ginny,
Pat Frick's sister Kathi Johnston,
Cathie Hajdu and Joe and Cathie Hajdu's son Jeremy,
Joe Kennedy, and
Rev. Heather Schoenewolf's mother and father.

Condolences to Jan Pressman on her sister's passing.

Condolences to Betty Rieley and Laura Ristau on the passing of family member The Rev. Jon Rieley-Goddard.

Send your prayer requests to Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net).

Sewing Group — April 4

The Sewing Group plans to meet on the first Monday of each month (April 4) from 1:30-4:30 pm in Room G02. All are welcome! Please contact Diane Jackson (dnjcks44@gmail.com) for more info.

Presbyterian Women PW Bible Study — April 4 and 5

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study lesson *Mary in the Faith and Tradition of the Church* on Monday, April 4 from 7-8:30 pm or Tuesday, April 5 from 10 am-Noon. Both sessions will meet on Zoom. For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Tween Clay Night — April 8

Youth in grades 4–6 are taking a trip to the clay studio at the Union Project on Friday, April 8 from 5-7 pm. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Lenten JourneyDance — April 8

Experience Lent in a unique way this year. Join Yamuna for her Lenten *JourneyDance* in the Chapel on Friday, April 8 from 6:30-7:45 pm. Take a musical, dancing journey as we approach the end of Lent, with songs from *Godspell* among other songs including *Guide Me, God*, *Song of the Pharaohs*, *Joyful, Joyful*, and *Prayer of St. Francis*. All ages and body types welcome. Wear comfortable clothes and come with an open heart to dance your Lenten journey. A donation from the heart is appreciated. Call/text Yamuna (412.728.8645).

Are We a Social Club or Justice Seekers? — April 9

In his prophetic *Letter From Birmingham Jail*, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., expressed frustration with white moderates, including clergy who were critical of civil rights efforts. Dr. King asserted that the white church needed to take a principled stand or risk being “dismissed as an irrelevant social club.”

Let us continue the conversation on Zoom (Meeting ID 846 9026 2039, Passcode 950626) on Saturday, April 9 at 6 pm, with the third and final deep dive into King's letter. We will be led by the Rev. Paul Roberts, co-pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church, and members of the ELPC Facing Systemic Racism Committee.



In our

COMMUNITY



Chatham Baroque in Concert at ELPC — April 2 and 3

Pittsburgh's own Chatham Baroque will be presenting two concerts in the Sanctuary at 8 pm on Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3 at 2:30 pm. A limited number of tickets for both performances are available to ELPC members. Please contact Dr. Ed Moore for more info about these tickets (EdM@coh.net).

Family Fun at Liberty Green Playground — April 10

Families with kids of all ages are invited to gather at the Liberty Green playground following our Sanctuary worship service on Sunday, April 10. Cheese pizza, drinks, and snacks will be provided. Let us know that you're coming so that we have enough. RSVP to Megan (MeganL@coh.net).

Yoga, Pranayama, and Meditation Retreat — April 30

On April 30 from 9am-4pm, join Yamuna Morgenstern and Katrina Woodworth for a day of enjoying practicing yoga in the Sanctuary and learning pranayama (yogic breathing techniques) to facilitate meditation, relaxation and good health in your daily life. Take time for intentional rest and develop practices that nurture the opportunity to commune with the Divine. The day will include 2 yoga classes, pranayama instruction, time for reflection and group activity, meditation practices, and lunch. Class will be limited to 15 people. The first yoga retreat filled up fast, so don't wait to reserve your space! Suggested donation is \$35-\$60 (lunch included). Register and donate on Eventbrite (tinyurl.com/April-Yoga-Retreat). Contact Pastor BJ with questions (BJW@coh.net).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

April 3 • 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 — Micah 4:6–5:1; Qumran (Cave 4) Commentary on Nahum; Romans 8:1–39; Luke (Q) 13:28–14:23, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Lyle Irvin

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

Seekers — “A Deep Dive into Jesus and the Disinherited,” presented by The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, and facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food — A discussion of *Wholehearted Faith* by the late Rachel Held Evans and Jeff Chu, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members.