



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)

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

Every day I feel is a blessing from God. And I consider it a new beginning. Yeah, everything is beautiful.
— Prince

Good morning, Lord! Today's a new day, a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone and with it any regrets, mistakes, or failures I may have experienced. It's a good day to be glad and give thanks, and I do, Lord. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be. Amen.
— Rebecca Barlow Jordan

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen”

Harry Thacker Burleigh

arr. Mike Tomaro

“The Promise”

Eric Susoeff

Mike Tomaro Quartet

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 (Psalm 95)

James Eng

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

People: **Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God**
with songs of praise.

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #267

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

MADRID

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Merciful God, we confess that even though you have called us into a place of hope, love, and justice, we have not always lived into this goal. We confess that we have often fallen short and desperately need your loving grace to bring us back to a place of right relationship with you. Heal our hearts. Mend our brokenness. Engulf our pain. And help us to renew our connection with you.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Hear the good news. God's love is sufficient and calls us daily into deeper relationship. Let us let go of the mindsets, behaviors, and choices that no longer serve us nor glorify God. Forgiveness is abundant. Grace is sufficient. And love is overflowing. Thanks be to God. You are revived and renewed. Friends, believe in 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 #613 (please sing 3 times)

“O Lord, Our Lord”

HOW MAJESTIC

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 138

James Eng

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. 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 the Chapel during the Doxology, when children will return to the worship service.

The nursery is open to young children under the age of 3. Please note that attendance may be limited based on staff to child ratios, so we can only ensure participation on a first-come, first-serve basis. Parents/caregivers must complete a registration form and sign children in and out of the nursery each day.

Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their children to the nursery, and the service will be livestreamed into that space.

SOLO

“Alright”

Ledisi

Anita Brown Levels, soloist

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Shanea D. Leonard

GOSPEL LESSON

Isaiah 43:19

The Rev. Leonard

SERMON

“Becoming”

The Rev. Leonard

ANTHEM

“Welcome to a Prayer”

Pat Martino

Mike Tomaro Quartet

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Leonard

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

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Mark Patterson

*In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, give me Jesus.*

*And when I feel afraid, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, give me Jesus.*

*And when the trumpet sounds, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You can have all this world, give me Jesus.*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
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:	We lean on the everlasting arms of your mercy, O God, and dwell in the hope of your grace fulfilled. Whatever good we do, we owe to your power within us. The work of our hands is a gift of your love. Nourish our endeavors with your sustaining Spirit and accept our efforts, as in Christ we seek to fulfill your all-encompassing will.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Leonard

POSTLUDE

“Sunlight”

Pat Metheny
Mike Tomaro Quartet

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. Shanea D. Leonard
*Coordinator for Gender & Racial Justice
Compassion, Peace & Justice
Presbyterian Mission Agency*

Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
James Eng

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Anita Brown Levels, *Soloist*
David Jennings-Smith, *Soloist*
Mike Tomaro, *Saxophone*
Eric Susoeff, *Guitar*
Paul Thompson, *Bass*
Soojin Park, *Drums*

Sound: Wayne Gaines and Bobby Jarsulic

◆ SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are donated in honor of the wedding ceremony of Abigail Langhorst and David Gardner, held yesterday in the Sanctuary.

◆ 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.
Oct 2 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching. World Communion Sunday will be celebrated.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Oct 2 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching. World Communion Sunday will be celebrated.

◆ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Taizé: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation
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 (Meeting ID 959 8065 3992) to practice a variety of contemplative prayer practices utilizing fixed prayers, scripture, music, silence, art and our bodies.

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID #959 8065 3992

Passcode: bestill

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person at 6 pm 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.

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* TODAY after worship in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Megan Leisher for info on future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.

TODAY AT ELPC

A Warm Welcome to Today's Special Guests

This morning we're excited to welcome the Rev. Shanea Leonard (they/them) as our special guest preacher at our Journey and Sanctuary worship services. The Rev. Leonard is a pastor, teacher, consultant, community activist, and modern-day abolitionist. They currently carry out their justice mandate as the national Coordinator for Gender & Racial Justice for the PC(USA) in the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

We also welcome the return of Mike Tomaro and Combo who will share their musical talents with us.

Inquirers' Class

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* after today's 11 am worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. This will be a hybrid event (www.Zoom.us; Meeting ID: 882 2467 1264; Passcode: 474931).

Call for Volunteers at Worship

Would you like to participate more fully in worship? The Worship, Music & Arts Committee is looking for people to serve in the following roles: Usher/Greeter, Communion Server, Beadle (carry the bible), Crucifer (carry the cross), Liturgist, Flower Arrangement Coordinator, and A/V Assistant. An information/training session will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following today's 11 am service.

Church Tower Tour

There will be a *Tower Tour* offered after today's 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please wear closed-toe shoes and gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

Pizza and Kickball @ PTS for Youth

Youth are invited to an afternoon of pizza and kickball at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary from 12:30–2:30 pm today. We will be walking down Highland Ave from ELPC to PTS following worship. See Sara Hackett for more details or if you'd like to walk with us (SaraH@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 David Cowan.

YAMs Visit Emory Community Senior Housing — Sept 29

The Young Adult Ministry will provide ice cream and play bingo with the seniors at Emory Community Senior Housing on Thursday, Sept 29 from 5-7 pm. For more info and to RSVP, please contact Derail Holcomb, Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries (DerailH@coh.net).

Events on World Communion Sunday — Oct 2

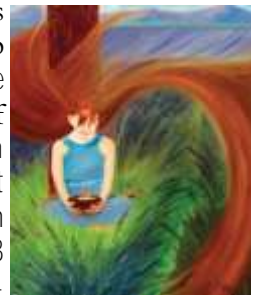
On this day, we'll receive the *Peace & Global Witness Offering* during our worship services. Your support helps cast off anxiety and fear, and embraces God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

You're also invited to participate in the *Presbyterian Women's Offering of Letters* to ask your Senators and Representative to support the *Global Food Security Reauthorization Act* (S 4659/ HR 8446). This legislation will fund global nutrition and agricultural development strategies, such as *Feed the Future*, through 2028.

And the ELPC Board of Deacons will host a sampling of *International Sweets and Treats*. Both events will be held in the McKelvy Room after the 11 am service.

PW Bible Study: Celebrating Sabbath — Oct 3 and 4

Sabbath, "the crown of creation," is God's invitation to intimate friendship with God. Sabbath celebration is the culmination of God's exquisite work of creation (Genesis 1:1–2:3). Admission to this celebration is free, but we must check our work at the door. Please join us on Zoom only on Monday, Oct 3 from 7-8:30 pm, or Tuesday, Oct 4 from 10 am—Noon. For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



Are You Ready to Vote? — Oct 5 and 9

In partnership with the League of Women Voters, the Justice and Facing Systemic Racism Committees are sponsoring three opportunities for citizens to:

- Register as new voter
- Assure registration is still active
- Double check polling location
- Make changes to current voting status (*name, address, affiliation*)
- Obtain website info to apply for electronic voting, etc.
- Develop voting plan

These opportunities will be held on Wednesday, Oct 5 (after Taizé worship), and on Sunday, Oct 9 (after Journey worship in the Whitfield Lobby; and after Sanctuary worship on Penn Ave).



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

Dana Carl, Carol Chonoska's sister Janet,
Stephanie Creasy, Joel Minnigh,
Jon Nelson's cousin Beth, and Alison Schleifer.

*Condolences to Nicole Molinaro-Karaczun
on the passing of her husband, Alex Karaczun.
His funeral service will be held on Tuesday, Sept 27
at 11 am in the Sanctuary. Visitation will be from
5-7 pm on Monday at Beinhauer Family Funeral Home
(2630 W Liberty Ave, 15216, Mt. Lebanon).*

Full Inclusion Sunday — Oct 16

The Renaissance City Choir (RCC) will be with us to provide special music during Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Oct 16 at 11 am. There also will be a *Community Sing* event in the Social Hall at 1:30 pm.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Oct 16

You are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Oct 16 after the Sanctuary worship service. It is Full Inclusion Sunday! This month will be an interactive lunch with friends before attending the *Community Sing* event at 1:30 pm. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Contact Wil Forrest for info or to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Sabbath Retreat — Oct 21 to 23

Join us for a *Sabbath Retreat* from Friday–Sunday, Oct 21–23, at St. Emma's Retreat House in Greensburg. The retreat will be spacious and include times of prayer, rest, solitude, silence, table fellowship, teaching, and reflection. The cost is \$150 (scholarships are available). RSVP to Pastor BJ Woodworth by Sunday, Oct 16 (BJW@coh.net). Spots are limited.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Oct 2 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 4; 2 Samuel 13:1–16, 21–22; Mark 2:18–3:6, facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Parenting Circle (Rm 213) — Reading of *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* by Brené Brown, facilitated by Trish Buben

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “Feed the Future: Local Arm of Bread for the World,” led by Cheri Andes, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A continued discussion of the book *Fierce Love* by the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members

IN OUR COMMUNITY

EECM Hosts Special Speaker from Uganda — Today

Victoria Namuissi runs an agency in Uganda, Africa for orphaned, abandoned and disabled children. Acid attacks are also a form of violence against woman in Uganda, and she creates a safe place for them to recover and get back on their feet through micro loans. Eastminster Presbyterian Church (250 N Highland Ave, 15206) is hosting her today from 1-5 pm as she talks about her work and sells crafts made by the community she serves. Contact Dr. Toya Jones with questions (toyaj@pitt.edu).

World Mission Initiative Conference — Oct 7 to 8

What does it mean to engage in God's mission of love, peace, and justice through the major disruptions of our day? How can we lead in mission in new ways amidst such disruption? Join the conference from Friday–Saturday, Oct 7–8, in person or online, to explore these questions in lectures, workshops and plenary. The Rev Eugene E. Cho, president/CEO of Bread for the World, will be the keynote speaker on Friday evening. The conference is free, thanks to sponsors, including Presbyterian Women in ELPC. Registration is required. For details, visit www.pts.edu/wmi-conference.

Community Sing for Social Justice — Oct 16

Experience the joy of choral singing as we join our voices together for social justice! The Renaissance City Choir together with ELPC's Justice Committee invite singers of all ages and skill levels to attend this *Community Sing* event on Sunday, Oct 16 from 1:30-2:30 pm in the ELPC Social Hall. Guided by RCC Artistic Director Kym Scott, attendees will learn and sing simple yet powerful choral pieces with a focus on social justice, along with some familiar justice songs. Masks are required of all participants regardless of vaccination status. The Renaissance City Choir affirms and celebrates LGBTQIA+ identity through the unifying power of music, and rehearses and performs at ELPC as Artists-in-Residence. Please contact RCC with questions (president@rccpittsburgh.com), or for access concerns, please email accessibility@rccpittsburgh.com.

Evangelism Conference:

Addressing Harm, Embracing Hope — Oct 30 to Nov 1

In order to move into the future with a fresh understanding of the wholistic meaning of evangelism, we must repent of the wrong we have done in the name of evangelism and recognize the harm we have caused people and communities. Join this event online and in-person at Montreat Conference Center (North Carolina) from Oct 30 to Nov 1. Everyone will join together for plenary and worship. The Rev. Shanea Leonard is the keynote speaker!

A discounted conference fee of \$70 is made possible by the *Presbyterian Mission Agency*, and scholarships are available for LGBTQIA+ and POC folks. Visit <https://montreat.org/events/evangelism> to register.