



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)

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT NOVEMBER 27, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Waiting is caring, and caring is creative – naturalists waiting in a hide, lovers waiting for one another, scientists waiting for outcomes, artists waiting on what will emerge from the strokes of their brushes. By waiting we become aware of our needs, and of powers and qualities in the world which otherwise would go unrecognized. As we wait, we invest the world with the possibility and power of meaning - as does our God [who also waits].
— W.H. Vanstone

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645”

Johann Sebastian Bach
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Woodworth

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 *(written by Christine Sine)*

Timothy VanFleet

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming.

People: We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

Leader: We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world.

People: We wait embracing your love. May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.

Leader: We wait with joy, bubbling us in expectation of your birth.

People: Lord, we wait. Come soon and fill us with your life.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #378

“We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

MERLE'S TUNE

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

The Rev. Cynthia Jackson

Leader: We know the world is not as it should be.

People: **God's Word will spring out of Jerusalem and instruct all.**

Leader: Creation groans for its redemption, for things to be made right.

People: God will decide and settle disputes between the peoples.

Leader: **People make war against each other and denigrate each other's worth.**

The first candle is lit.

People: O Church of God, we light the first candle of Advent in the Hope of Peace!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #85 (vs. 1)

TIF IN VELDELE

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

Light one candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

God of mercy and compassion, you invite us to join you on your holy mountain, to follow you on a new path, yet we prefer another way. We stay close to the ways we know rather than take up something new. We prefer to stake out our own path rather than watching for your way to emerge before us. We place our trust in other guides rather than having confidence that you will show us the way. Our Prince of Peace, forgive us.

Open a new path for us. Show us the way to your holy mountain, that we might know your ways and walk in your paths. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear the new thing you are doing in our midst, and give us hearts of hope and joy that walk in your light every day until you come again.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 24:36-44

Lenore Williams

In observance of Native American Heritage Month, we're offering November's scripture passages in the First Nations Version (FNV), by Terry M. Wildman and the First Nations Version Translation Council. The FNV "recounts the Creator's Story—the Christian Scriptures—following the tradition of Native storytellers' oral cultures" and is one recent example of Indigenous Americans' leadership in the Christian faith. For more information, visit firstnationsversion.com.

As ELPC begins grappling with our complicity with white supremacy, we seek to honor the past, present, and future of our Native members and siblings—not only in November, but year-round; and not only in words, but in action—by deeply reconsidering and repairing our relationships with Native American peoples and cultures. Reading the Bible through one Native lens is merely one beginning of what we hope to be a long, faithful conversation and commitment to substantive change.

But no one knows the day or hour that these things will take place. Not the spirit-messengers from the spirit-world above, not even Creator's own Son, but only the Great Spirit, who is our Father from above, knows.

When the True Human Being comes, it will be like it was in the days before the great flood in the time of One Who Rests (Noah). In those days the people were eating and drinking and getting married until the day that One Who Rests (Noah) entered the great wood canoe. No one knew what was happening until the floodwaters came, washed them away, and drowned them all. It will be the same when the True Human Being appears.

During that time two men will be working in the field. One will be taken away and the other left. Two women will be husking corn. One will be taken away and the other left. So be on the lookout, because you never know when your Honored Chief will arrive.

But know this: If the elder of a family had known at what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and stopped the thief from breaking in. Just like this elder, you must be ready, for the True Human Being will not come at the time you expect him to.
(FNV)

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
(NRSV)

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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.

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|
| * HYMN #107 | “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” | REJOICE, REJOICE |
| PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION | | The Rev. Woodworth |
| SCRIPTURE LESSON | Isaiah 2:1-5 | The Rev. Woodworth |
| SERMON | “Let’s Go to the Mountain” | The Rev. Woodworth |
| TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION | | |
| PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER | | The Rev. Schoenewolf |
| <i>The Lord’s Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (한국어) in the hymnal.</i> | | |
| OFFERING INVITATION | | The Rev. Schoenewolf |
| OFFERTORY ANTHEM | “E’en So, Lord, Jesus, Quickly Come” | Paul Manz |
| * DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION | | OLD HUNDREDTH |



- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| * PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION | | The Rev. Schoenewolf
The Rev. Woodworth |
| 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: | Generous God, thank you for this day that we might sing your praise and watch for signs of your kingdom. By your Spirit, bless these gifts and each of us that the offerings of our hands and hearts may ever point to your coming reign. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen. | |
| * RECESSIONAL HYMN #82 | “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” | HYFRYDOL |
| * CHARGE & BENEDICTION | | The Rev. Woodworth |
| POSTLUDE | “Hyfrydol (Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus)” | arr. Frederick Swann
(July 30, 1931-Nov 13, 2022) |

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. BJ Woodworth
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sara Hackett
The Rev. Cynthia Jackson
Timothy VanFleet
Lenore Williams
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Lenore Williams
Crucifer: Mark Statler
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Henrietta and Marie Held and Emma King Held.

Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).

◆ 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.

Dec 4 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching. Second Sunday in Advent.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.

Dec 4 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching. Second Sunday in Advent.

◆ 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* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Megan Leisher for info or to register for future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC



Declared in 1990, November is National American Indian Heritage Month, during which we celebrate the rich histories and invaluable contributions of American Indians. This month, let us reflect on and honor the incredible resilience of our country's first people.



Holiday Giving Tree

The Deacons are organizing the Christmas *Giving Tree* to benefit children and families from our community. Similar to last year, we are requesting that people use this site (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0b4eaca623a5f49-elpc>) to make a donation(s). We are offering TWO giving options: in addition to purchasing a gift, you also have the option to make a donation to the *Giving Tree* fund. These donations will be used to purchase gift cards. The suggested donation is \$25, but any amount is appreciated.

Gifts **SHOULD NOT** be wrapped, but instead brought in gift bag. Please use string or ribbon to attach a label to the bag handle that includes your name, the item, and the code (this will make it easier to track gifts). Gifts can be dropped off at the front desk of the church and must arrive by Dec 11. Financial donations can be done by:

- Mailing a check to ELPC, indicating “Giving Tree gift cards” in the memo line; or
- Using the “Donate” button on the church's web site (ELPC.church/donate), indicating the donation is for the Giving Tree.

All donations are due at the church by Dec 11. Please contact David Cowan (davidacowan@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net) if you have any questions.

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 Dana Carl.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Peta Harrigan Cole.

Elder and Deacon Nominations

Wanted: Servant-Leaders to help guide our congregation into our next era of ministry! The Officer Nominating Committee needs YOUR suggestions to identify a diverse set of candidates for Elder, Deacon, Centennial Fund, as well as the next Nominating Committee. We are looking to assemble a leadership slate that encompasses a wide mix of talents and perspectives, ensuring continued leadership, renewal, and growth for our congregation. We also want to ensure our committees are composed of both new and long-time members — balancing experience with fresh ideas and energy.

Please prayerfully consider whether you or someone you know can contribute to the leadership of our congregation. Officers will be elected at the *Congregational Meeting* in February, with terms beginning in May 2023.

Submit names to Nominating Committee Co-chairs Andrea DeVries (andrea.devries74@gmail.com) and Jill Millard (millardjill@yahoo.com) by Dec 13.

Advent Devotionals Available

The Faith Formation Board has created an *Advent Calendar* for our church family, rich with opportunities to actively engage persons of all ages in this practice of waiting. Electronic and printed copies of this devotional are now available.





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

Mike and Sherry Anderson's
granddaughter Amber,
Alex Haas-Conrad's dad Karl, Morris Jordan,
Joe Kennedy, Judy Menk,
Jon Nelson's cousin Beth,
and Vivienne Selia's friend Peg and her family.
Condolences to Alex Hornezes on his cousin's passing.
Congratulations to Ryan and Kathleen Croyle
on the birth of their daughter Beatrice.

Church Tours — Dec 4 and 18

An *Underground Tour* will be offered on Sunday, Dec 4, and a *Hidden Places Tour* will be held on Sunday, Dec 18. Both tours will begin after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

Journey Dance — Dec 9

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, divine dancing on the third Friday of every month (with a few exceptions) in the Sanctuary. The group will meet next on Friday, Dec 9 (the second Friday of the month; in the McKelvy Room) from 6:30-7:45 pm. Donations are appreciated. Please contact Yamuna for more info (412.728.8645).

César Franck: The Three Chorales Concert — Dec 10

ELPC organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore will perform works by César Franck on Saturday, Dec 10 at 4 pm, commemorating the 200th anniversary of Franck's birth. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be received. Join us in the Sanctuary or live on YouTube or Facebook.

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Dec 11

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering on Sunday, Dec 11 at 12:30 pm with the YAMs. For more info or to attend, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Christmas in East Liberty — Dec 16

The highly anticipated Cathedral Concert and East Liberty tradition *Christmas in East Liberty* returns on Friday, Dec 16 at 7:30 pm, and will feature The Brass Roots, the ELPC Chancel Choir, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and conductor Daniel Nesta Curtis. Join us in the Sanctuary or virtually on YouTube or Facebook. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be received.

Ten Thousand Villages Shopping — Dec 17 and 18

Help support the Deacons' holiday outreach ministries by shopping at Ten Thousand Villages on Saturday, Dec 17 and Sunday, Dec 18. You can come to ELPC to shop, or go online to purchase items. Contact Board of Deacons Moderator Dave Cowan (DavidACowan@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x230).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Clergy Holiday Jam Session — Dec 3

On Saturday, Dec 3 from 3-5 pm, a *Clergy Holiday Jam Session* will be held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave, 15206) to benefit the National Black Presbyterian Caucus. The event will feature the talents of the Rev. Dr. Harry Cooper, the Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, and the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge. There will also be special sweets for sale! *Support the Caucus by making a year-end, tax deductible contribution!*

RCC Concert — Dec 3

Join **Renaissance City Choir**, Pittsburgh's LGBTQIA+ chorus, at ELPC for their annual holiday concert *Holiday Greetings and Gay Happy Meetings* on Saturday, Dec 3 at 7:30 pm. In addition to fun holiday favorites with RCC's signature twist, they will be joined by special guests *Vocal Confluence*, Pittsburgh's all-voice barbershop chorus. Live stream tickets are also available. For access concerns, please email accessibility@rccpittsburgh.com. Purchase tickets at <https://rccpittsburgh.ticketleap.com/rccholiday22>.

Amnesty International Letter Writing Event — Dec 8

Join Amnesty International and other human rights groups and community leaders for a *Write for Human Rights* event on Thursday, Dec 8 from 6:30-8:30 pm at Calvary Episcopal Church (315 Shady Ave, 15206). Letter writing materials and light refreshments will be provided. Face masks are encouraged. Email amnesty39@gmail.com.

Belle Voci Concerts — Dec 9 and 11

Belle Voci will present two performances of *Forward Into Light: Music Illuminates Our Path*. The first will be at Glenshaw Presbyterian Church (300 Glenn Ave, 15116) on Friday, Dec 9 at 8 pm. The second performance will be sensory-friendly on Sunday, Dec 11 at 2 pm at ELPC. General admission tickets are \$20, and can be purchased at www.bellevocipgh.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Dec 4 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 12; Song of Songs 1:7–2:7; Mark 6:1–6a, 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) — “The Birth of Christ Then and Now,” led by The Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A review discussion of *Fierce Love* by The Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis and looking ahead to January sessions, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members