



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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 4, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Peace is not simply the absence of violence; it is the cultivation of understanding, insight, and compassion, combined with action.
— *Thich Nhat Hanh, "Creating True Peace"*

MUSIC MINISTRY

"Adagio in A" César Franck
"My Lord, What a Morning" arr. Richard Billingham
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

The Rev. Henk and Michele Bossers

Leader: **God's vision of peace is a realm where all live together in harmony:**
People: Enemies become friends, fear gives way to understanding.
Leader: God calls us to be this community in this time and in this place.
People: Let us gather together to worship our sovereign God. Hallelujah and Amen!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #683

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

COURTNEY

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

Leader: We look out and see the devastation. We see a lowly stump.
People: But look, someone is growing out its deep roots!
Leader: The Spirit rests upon this King and he is righteous and faithful.
People: He is our glorious sign and beacon of the Kingdom to come.
Leader: Relationships will be reformed. Words like hurt and destroy will be no more.

Two candles are lit.

People: O Church of God, we light the second candle of Advent remembering peace, that surpasses all understanding, has come!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #85 (vs. 2)

TIF IN VELDELE

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

Light two candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Henk and Michele Bossers

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Henk and Michele Bossers

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess our lack of preparedness and our tendency to wander away from you and your path. You call us to venture outside our comfortable spaces, yet we hunker down and excuse ourselves from faithful action. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we in turn hurt others, and destroy what you have called good. God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. Sometimes our hope wavers and is unsteady, and your faithfulness and grace are steadfast and sure. In your mercy, forgive us, God, for we confess and repent our ways that are not pleasing to you, and we seek your power to heal us and raise us up so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Now hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Henk and Michele Bossers

Leader: Christ comes into our world to forgive and restore. Christ comes into our lives to purify and give us another chance. We rejoice in the hope Christ offers us! 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 3:1-12

Ray Anthony

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/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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 1:1-10

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Out of a Dead Stump — Peace”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The creeds of the church reflect a particular stance within the living history of God's people. They are not to be barriers that separate us, but words that strengthen the life and witness of the whole community of believers.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. (*Nicene Creed*)

Dec 4 • Second Sunday of Advent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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. Schoenewolf



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Gustav Holst

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING BREAD & CUP

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles to partake of the elements. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN #530

“One Bread, One Body”

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #383

“Dream On, Dream On”

DREAM ON

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“The King Shall Come”

arr. David N. Johnson

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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Ray Anthony
The Rev. Henk and Michele Bossers
Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadles: Mario Seneca
Cody Bincowski
Crucifer: Zulas Lissner
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 Mr. and Mrs. Chester G. Hall, mother and father of Mrs. Daniel E. Yates.

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 11 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching. Third Sunday in Advent.

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

Dec 11 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching. Third 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

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.

Please contact David Cowan (davidacowan@gmail.com) or Pastor Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net) with questions.

The Chapel Market Needs Your Help

The Chapel Market is sponsoring a December Clothing Drive. Requested donations include winter-weight outer and inner wear, sweat pants, gloves, coats, socks for all ages and genders, especially for men. Thanks for your generosity!

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 Molly Davidson-Welling.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is George Clark.



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 are now available.

Church Tour

An *Underground Tour* will be offered after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

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.



PW Bible Study: Sabbath and Surrender — Dec 5 and 6

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, Dec 5 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, Dec 6 at 10 am (hybrid). The Tuesday Bible Study at ELPC will be followed by a brown bag lunch. For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

YAMs Progressive Dinner — Dec 8

All YAMs are welcome to join us for a progressive dinner on Thursday, Dec 8 at 6 pm. We'll have dinner at the church and then use the church van to drive to the homes of different volunteers. Contact Derail (DerailH@coh.net).

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 appreciated. Please contact Yamuna for more info (412.728.8645).



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

**Shirley Fair's daughter Julia,
Joe Kennedy, Judy Menk,
and Vivienne Selia's friend Linda.**

Condolences to Adrianna Cleveland on her friend's passing.

Condolences to Alex Hornezes on his cousin's passing.

Condolences to Stephen Simpson-Hunt on his aunt's passing.

Condolences to Tim Tenbrink on his father's passing.

Winter Youth Retreat — Dec 9 to 11

Youth in grades 6–12 are going on retreat to Crestfield Camp in Slippery Rock for our Winter Youth Retreat from Friday-Sunday, Dec 9–11. Contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

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).

Christmas Pageant: Back to Go Forward — Dec 18

During the Christmas season we hold together a past story of God's love incarnate with the present moment of our day – and our call to follow the Prince of Peace. Kids of all ages will guide us in a re-telling of this special story that transcends time and space so that we might see that the Babe born in a Bethlehem manger is also God-with-US, too. Once more, our script has been written by the Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt. Join us in the Sanctuary at 10 am on Sunday, Dec 18 for this inspiring annual event. *Note: Pageant rehearsal will be held on Sat, Dec 17 from 9:30-11 am.*

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Candlelight Vigil Honoring Club Q Victims — Dec 7

First United Methodist Church and the Pittsburgh Equality Center invite you to honor the victims of the Club Q shooting at a *Candlelight Vigil* on Wednesday, Dec 7 at 6 pm outdoors at the corner of Centre Ave and South Aiken St (Pittsburgh, 15232). For more info, please email info@pghequalitycenter.org.

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.

Advent Hymns and Carols — Dec 8

The Rev. Dr. Jim Morgan will present a piano concert on Thursday, Dec 8 at 6:30 pm at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, with a freewill offering to benefit Garfield Community Farm. A light reception will follow.

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.

Save the Date: Sabbath Day Workshop — Jan 14

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to a day of rest, reflection, and conversation about how to faithfully practice Sabbath in our fast paced, production oriented, consumer culture on Saturday, Jan 14 from 9 am-3 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Dec 11 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 13; Song of Songs 2:8–17; Mark 6:6b–29, 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) — “Explore how to nurture an incarnational spirituality,” led by The Rev. Dr. Graham Standish, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of Advent and Christmas themes using narratives from the four gospels, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members