



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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)*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

(O)ur task is never to convince someone of the brokenness of this world; it is to convince them of the world's worth in the first place.

— Cole Arthur Riley, *"This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories That Make Us"*

### MUSIC MINISTRY

"Partita on Winchester New"  
"Chorale-Meditation-Bicinium-Aria-Trio"

Bruce Neswick  
based on *Glory to God* hymnal #96  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### \* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.  
People: Y también contigo.

The Rev. Schoenewolf  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: My soul magnifies my God;  
People: My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.  
Leader: The Mighty One has done great things.  
People: **Holy is God's Name!**  
Leader: Let us rise in body and spirit, together singing praises to our God!

Dr. Valire Carr Copeland

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader: Can you hear it? Can you hear the songs creation is starting to sing?  
People: The world shouts in our ears, making it hard to hear anything but its cacophony.  
Leader: It is singing a song of salvation – those with feeble knees and fearful hearts need not be afraid!  
People: **All we hear about is fear, but God's word assures us that we don't need to worry. God is doing something new!**  
Leader: Let us sing songs of salvation to our God!

The Torretti Family

*As three candles are lit:*

People: With delight we light the third candle of Advent as we sing songs of joy!

### SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #85 (vs. 3)

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

TIF IN VELDELE

Light three candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Copeland

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Copeland

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance, and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O God. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow your holy way. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Dr. Copeland

Leader: Now return to God with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption. Let sorrow and sighing be no more. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

EPISTLE LESSON

James 5:7-10

Matt Stuftt

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:2-11

Dr. Copeland

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/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.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Presentation of Child: Eleanora Katelyn Haas-Conrad, daughter of Katie and Alex Haas-Conrad*

*Profession of Faith*

*Act of Baptizing*

\* HYMN #79

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

TEMPLE OF PEACE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

“New Life from Dry Ground”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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 hymnal.*

OFFERING INVITATION

Dr. Copeland

*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.*



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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

arr. Mark Schweizer

*Prepare the way, O Zion, the King is drawing near!  
Amid the hills and valleys a straighter way is clear.  
Behold the King of Glory, foretold in ancient story,  
Blest is the Christ who came, in God's most holy name.*

*The wilderness will blossom, the desert shall rejoice;  
The blind eyes shall be opened, the speechless given voice;  
Before him on the mountains, his mercy flows in fountains,  
Blest is the Christ, who came, in God's most holy name.*

*To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;  
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
He comes to break oppression, to take away transgression,  
Blest is the Christ who came, in God's most holy name.*

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf  
Dr. Copeland

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: Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth – giver of justice, love and  
righteousness. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further  
your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

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.

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #80

“You Shall Go Out with Joy”

THE TREES OF THE FIELD

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Partita on Winchester New – Toccata”

Bruce Neswick  
based on *Glory to God* hymnal #96  
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](http://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. Heather Schoenewolf  
Liturgists: Dr. Valire Carr Copeland  
The Torretti Family  
Matt Stufft  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Beadle: Polly McQueen  
Crucifer: Erich Stein  
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 Miss H. Cornelia McCombs and Mrs. Anna L. Dickey.

*Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade ([www.bloombrigade.com](http://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 18* — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching. Fourth Sunday in Advent.

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

*Dec 18* — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching. Fourth 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* TODAY in the Fellowship Room after worship to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see Pastor Heather after the service or contact Megan for info on future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Holiday Giving Tree

Gifts are due today and 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).

Financial donations can be done by using the “Donate” button on the church’s web site ([ELPC.church/donate](http://ELPC.church/donate)), indicating the donation is for the *Giving Tree*. The suggested donation is \$25, but any amount is appreciated.

Please contact David Cowan ([davidacowan@gmail.com](mailto:davidacowan@gmail.com)) or Pastor Patrice ([PatriceFS@coh.net](mailto: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 Tom Sturgill.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Linda Sanders.

### 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 the Pastor Nominating Committee. We will 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 a committee composed of 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, and submit your nominations by Dec 20.

Please contact Nominating Committee Co-chairs Andrea DeVries ([andrea.devries74@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.devries74@gmail.com)) and Jill Millard ([millardjill@yahoo.com](mailto:millardjill@yahoo.com)).

### 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.



This highly anticipated free concert and East Liberty tradition will feature holiday favorites performed by The Brass Roots, ELPC Chancel Choir, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and conductor Daniel Nesta Curtis.

*Join us in the Sanctuary or virtually on YouTube or Facebook.*

### LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to today’s monthly spiritual gathering at 12:30 pm. For more info or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest ([Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x218).



### 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](mailto:DavidACowan@gmail.com)) or Pastor Patrice ([PatriceFS@coh.net](mailto:PatriceFS@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x230).

### Christmas Pageant: Back to Go Forward - Dec 18

Kids of all ages will guide us in a re-telling of the 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. Once more, our script has been written by the Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt. Join us in the Sanctuary at 10 am next Sunday. There will be a *Hot Chocolate Reception* after the Pageant in the McKelvy Room. Sign up today to bring a breakfast bread to share (*sliced and ready to serve*) in the Narthex, outside the East Transept, or at Journey worship.

### INQUIRERS’ CLASS TODAY!

Attend an *Inquirers’ Class* today after the 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](http://www.Zoom.us); Meeting ID: 833 5024 3700). Please see Pastor Heather Schoenewolf after the service to attend!







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

David Carl's mother Dorothy,  
Shirley Fair's daughter Julia, Joe Kennedy, Judy Menk,  
and Vivienne Selia's friend Sam and brother-in-law Jim.

*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.*

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#### Church Tour — Dec 18

A *Hidden Places Tour* will be held on Sunday, Dec 18 after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

#### Connections Group Gathering — Jan 7

The ELPC Connections Group will be visiting *Phipps' Holiday Magic! Winter Flower Show and Light Garden* on Saturday, Jan 7 at 3:30 pm. After walking through the exhibit, we will go to a nearby restaurant to eat and talk. Please buy your ticket in advance and gather at the front entrance at 3:30 pm. Tickets can be purchased online starting Monday, Dec 12 (\$24 for adults, \$14 for children, **\$22 for seniors and students, and free if you're a member**). We have a few free tickets available for those who would like one. RSVP to [connectelpc@gmail.com](mailto:connectelpc@gmail.com).

#### 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. Our day together will embody a *Sabbath* day of rest. We will collaboratively experiment with a variety of *Sabbath* practices and reflect upon them. There will be time for solitude, being in your body, instruction from Pastor BJ, and personal reflection with the aim of developing a plan for practicing *Sabbath* in your own life. So whether you are retired, parenting young kids, a single young adult or at the height of your career, our time together will aim to help you design a *Sabbath* practice for your season of life. Join us on Saturday, Jan 14 from 9 am-3 pm at ELPC. The \$10 registration fee includes lunch.

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

#### Belle Voci Concert — Today!

Belle Voci will present their final performances of *Forward Into Light: Music Illuminates Our Path* today at 2 pm in the Social Hall. It will be sensory-friendly. General admission tickets are \$20, and can be purchased at [www.bellevocipgh.com](http://www.bellevocipgh.com).

#### PA for Alternatives to Death Penalty Event — Dec 12

On Monday, Dec 12 at 7 pm, *Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty* will host Shane Claiborne, author of *Executing Justice, How the Death Penalty Killed Jesus and How it is Killing Us*. Shane is a Christian activist and author of over 9 books. He is one of the founders of the *Simple Way* in Philadelphia. This will be a virtual program, with a Q&A following the presentation. Please register at [www.EventBrite.com](http://www.EventBrite.com) or on PADP Facebook's page.

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#### Meditation Hour — Begins Jan 17

**Meditation is the practice of "looking deeply."** In silence and withdrawal from the world of everyday concerns, we turn our attention inward and calm our bodies and minds. In this emptiness we may see the world as if for the first time. We may see others as they are and we may find that the Kingdom of Heaven is truly within us; that we are living in God and God in us.

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Prayer Room each Tuesday, starting Jan 17, from 6-7 pm for an hour devoted to meditation. The session will include an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. John is a retired psychologist and a long time student and practitioner of insight meditation. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome!

#### Interested in Being an Usher or Greeter?

If you are interested in being an usher or greeter on Sundays for our worship service, visit <http://tiny.cc/elpcusher> to sign up, or scan this QR code.



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## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Dec 18 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am**

*There will be no Sunday School classes next Sunday, Dec 18 so everyone can attend the Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary.*

Also, no classes will be held on Dec 25 and Jan 1.

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## EMAIL and TEXT SCAM ALERT

An email and text scam with Pastor Heather Schoenewolf's name has circulated. If you receive a text or email with Pastor Heather listed as the "sender" requesting you purchase gift cards, please know it is not valid, and please take no action with such messages. We apologize for the inconvenience.

### *Christmas Eve Services (in-person and virtual)*



4 pm Family Service

10 pm Candlelight Service (music begins at 9:30 pm)