



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)

CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25, 2022 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

It is not over, this birthing.
There are always newer skies into which God can throw stars.
When we begin to think that we can predict the Advent of God,
that we can box the Christ in a stable in Bethlehem,
that's just the time that God will be born
in a place we can't imagine and won't believe.
Those who wait for God watch with their hearts and not their eyes,
listening, always listening for angel words.

— *"It's Not Over"* by Ann Weems

MUSIC MINISTRY

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ayres Freitas and Lucyna de Barbaro

Leader: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
People: Hallelujah, Hallelujah!
Leader: Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Lord:
People: Glory to God in the highest.
Leader: Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:
People: O Earth, sing to the Lord.
Leader: Jesus, friend of all, protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:
People: O you nations, praise him in joy.
Leader: Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our way, truth, and our life:
People: Christ is now on Earth! Let us exalt him!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELIS

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

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

December 25 • Christmas Day

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. Even on this Christmas morning, we confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to your glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the way of Jesus the Christ.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Jan Herzer

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/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.

* HYMN #136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“Illuminating Christmas Wonder”

The Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

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

Dr. Moore, organ

Verse 1 of the following hymns:

#140

“Once in Royal David's City”

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

#144

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

December 25 • Christmas Day

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

#143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth; you, who sang creation’s story,
now proclaim Messiah’s birth: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!*

#123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

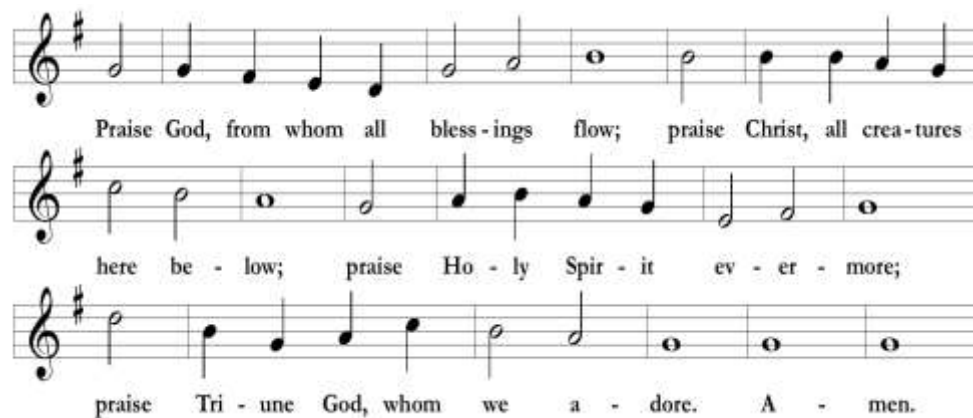
#113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Woodworth
Jan Herzer

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:	Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ’s gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

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. BJ Woodworth
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Ayres Freitas and Lucyna de Barbaro
Sara Hackett
Jan Herzer
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Director
Cantors: Jacob Berger
Adrianna Cleveland
Todd Farwell
Pamela M. Kimmel
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our weekly worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, contact Frances Wilson (wilson.franr@gmail.com). The cost is \$175.

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.
This service will resume on Jan 8, 2023.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Jan 1 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

◆ 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

resumes on Jan 9

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 on future classes (MeganL@coh.net), or speak to one of the Pastors.

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



TODAY AT ELPC

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 Deacon-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (*Deacon-on-Duty*) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our services. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Yodit Betru.



PW Bible Study — Jan 3 and 9

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Tuesday, Jan 3 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid), or on Monday, Jan 9 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only). The Tuesday Bible Study at ELPC will be followed by a brown bag lunch. For more info and the Zoom link, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



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. 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 a member). We have a few free tickets available. RSVP to connectelc@gmail.com.

Club One Sixteen — Resumes Jan 11

Kids in grade 1–12 are invited to club one sixteen, ELPC's mid-week program for youth. We gather each Wednesday, 4:30–6:30 pm, for Bible Study, recreation, relaxation, and dinner together. We will resume on Wednesday, Jan 11. To register a child or update a registration, please visit ELPC.church.

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. Please RSVP to Norma by Jan 10 (412.441.3800 x211).

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Jan 15

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering on Sunday, Jan 15 at 12:30 pm. For more info or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).



Tween Bowling — Jan 15

Following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Jan 15, youth in grades 4–6 will gather for lunch and bowling in the Bowling Alley. Friends are always welcome! Contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

Study the Enneagram — Jan 16 (3rd Monday of the Month)

Join us on the third Monday of each month from 12:15–1:30 pm, at www.tiny.cc/enneagram. Enter Meeting ID: 966 6904 5127; and Passcode: 9types. Participants will need a copy of *The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Path to Spiritual Growth* by Christopher L. Heuertz. Our group will be led by Lynn Holden, a licensed professional counselor, trained spiritual director, and certified Enneagram practitioner. *Please note the group will meet on Jan 16, Feb 20 and March 20.*





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

Ray Anthony, Linda Benedict,
David Carl's mother Dorothy, Shirley Fair's daughter Julia,
Joe Kennedy, Judy Menk,
Vivienne Selia's friend Sam and brother-in-law Jim,
and Herma Stewart's sister, Edris.

Condolences to Adrianna Cleveland on her friend's passing.

Condolences to Crystal Gilroy on her mother's passing.

Condolences to the family of Charles Struthers on his passing.

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!

How to Reduce Energy Bills and

Take Advantage of New Incentives — Jan 22

Energy prices have gone up sharply within the last half year, and are impacting many households this winter. At the same time, legislators and the Biden Administration are to release \$369 billion for “Energy Security and Climate Change,” part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), offering rebates, tax incentives, and other programs to help households conserve energy and to electrify. What is in the programs and how can you take advantage of them?

Join the Environmental Team of Justice Committee following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Jan 22 in the Social Hall or on Zoom to learn about the actions households can take right away or plan to take in the later part of 2023, when the remaining regulations are finalized.

A light lunch will be offered. Contact Nancy Heastings with any questions (n.heastings@comcast.net).

CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURE

The church building will be closed on Monday, Dec 26 and Tuesday, Dec 27 for the Christmas holiday.

The History and Persistence of Racism Within the Christian Church — Jan 29

The Facing Systemic Racism Committee invites the congregation to join us on Sunday, Jan 29 (via zoom or in person) for the second part of our series, *The History and Persistence of Racism within the Christian Church*, led by University of Pittsburgh professor and lecturer, Dr. Brock Bahler. Comments following the first presentation included:

- I've been Christian all my life. Why didn't I know this history?
- What else don't I know about my faith in general as well as the Presbyterian denomination?
- How is ELPC implicated in that history? What now?

Dr. Bahler will speak to the intentional codification of racism within the church and how the church continues to perpetuate — and benefits from — white supremacy. His lecture will be followed by a small group discussion of the content, as well as consideration of next steps for ELPC.

The presentation will be held during the Church School hour, immediately following Journey worship in the Social Hall. *Zoom details to follow in January.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Jan 8 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

There will be no Sunday School classes next Sunday, Jan 1.

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 14; Song of Songs 3:1–11; Mark 6:30–44, 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) — “That They May All Be One: Working for Christian Unity in Southwest Pennsylvania,” led by The Rev. Liddy Barlow, executive minister of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania (in-person), facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of *Made for Goodness* by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu, starting with the Preface and the first three chapters, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

Nursery (under 3) — Nursery Suite, Room 110a

Preschool — Nursery Suite, Room 110b

K-3rd grade — Room 206

4th-6th grade — Room 211

7th-12th grade — Second Floor Parlor