



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)

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 12, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

For we are so precious to God that we cannot even comprehend it. No created being can ever know how much and how sweetly and tenderly God loves them. It is only with the help of his grace that we are able to persevere in spiritual contemplation with endless wonder at his high, surpassing, immeasurable love which our Lord in his goodness has for us. — *Julian of Norwich (1343-after 1416)*

English mystic and anchoress, whose writings "Revelations of Divine Love" are the earliest surviving English language works by a woman

MUSIC MINISTRY

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Diane Bish

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

arr. Lloyd Larson

ELPC Ringers

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

Linda Lane

Leader: Friends, God loves each of us with an everlasting love; and has pursued us with unfailing kindness.

People: **God formed us and knit us together; we are precious and honored in God's sight.**

Leader: God longs to gather us together, as a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings.

People: While we were still a long way off, God saw us, was filled with compassion, ran to us, threw arms around us, and kissed us.

Leader: Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus.

People: **Let us make our home in God's love and worship the God who is indeed Love.**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

NETTLETON



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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

God who is Love, we confess that your devoted pursuit of us is sometimes overwhelming, your **persistent kindness, gentleness and mercy is unfamiliar to us and so we keep you at arm's length**. We allow our fears to keep your perfect and true love at a distance. We struggle to love and accept ourselves in the way you do and are therefore often unable to love our neighbors. We keep them at a safe distance, we gossip and complain about them, and we are slow to respond to their cries for mercy and justice. God, forgive us for feebly and faintly loving our neighbors and ourselves. Gather us as your chicks under your motherly wings, hold us in your fatherly embrace that we might soften and open to receive the breadth, height, length, and depth, of your extravagant love and forgiveness.

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!

HANDBELL ANTHEM

"How Can I Keep from Ringing?"

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 49:15-16
Hosea 11:1-4
Song of Songs 8:6-7

Linda Lane

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.

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

HYMN #703

"Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me"

ST. CATHERINE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 15:9

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

"You are LOVED"

The Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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.

* 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

“I Believe This Is Jesus”

Undine Smith Moore

I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.

Oh, come and see.

The Light of God shines in his face, oh, come and see.

He offers all his pardoning grace; come and see, come and see.

Oh, I believe this is Jesus, yes, Lord, come and see, come and see.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

The Rev. Woodworth

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: Loving and Holy God, bless and multiply these gifts we give as tokens of our trust in you. Use them to build up your body – the church universal, to bless the poor in body and spirit, to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and bring peace to all, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

People: Amén.

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.

Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #833

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”

ST. MARGARET

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Allegro, Chorale, and Fugue”

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

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
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sara Hackett
Linda Lane
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
ELPC Ringers
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Erich Stein
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.

◆ 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.

Feb 19 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching.

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

Feb 19 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy 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

Meditation Hour (*through May 2023*)

Join John Benedict, retired psychologist and practitioner of insight meditation, in the Prayer Room for an hour devoted to meditation, which includes an opening reading, silent sitting, and walking. All are welcome!

Tuesdays, 6-7 pm

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm (*before Taizé*)

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 more 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

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

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

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DODs)

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 Peta Harrigan Cole.



Escape Room at Zone 28 — Feb 18

Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to dinner and a team building challenge at Zone 28's Escape Room on Saturday, Feb 18 from 5–9 pm. Bring \$15 towards the cost of the Escape Room. Friends are welcome! A registration form and permission slip can be found at ELPC.church.

Connections Group — Feb 18

The Connections Group will go together to see the play *American Menu* at New Horizons Theater at 3 pm (matinee) on Saturday, Feb 18. Please buy your own ticket (\$25) ahead of time on the theater's website. We will meet at the performance space, which is at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Homewood (7101 Hamilton Ave, 15208). After the performance, we'll go to a nearby restaurant to eat and talk. Please RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

Social Hour — Feb 19

Please join us in the McKelvy Room for a *Social Hour* after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service next Sunday, Feb 19, sponsored by the Membership and Outreach Committee. Please join us! All are welcome!

Church Tour — Feb 19

A *Hidden Places Tour* will be held on Sunday, Feb 19 after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

Bake Dog Treats for Ellie's Pet Pantry — Feb 19

Following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Feb 19, join us in the Good Samaritan Room to help bake and decorate dog treats for Ellie's Pet Pantry, a program at Humane Animal Rescue. We will be using peanut butter in the cookies. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

A Lenten Journey of Embracing the Wisdom of

Our Ancestors, Bodies, and the Earth — Feb 23 to March 30

Decolonizing is a popular buzzword in conversations about spirituality, but what is it? What does it look like? Join other congregants on a Lenten journey focused on understanding the impact of colonization on our spiritual practice.

Together, let's consider ways to deepen our connection to God by learning to embrace the wisdom of our ancestors, our bodies, and the Earth itself.

Each Thursday during Lent (Feb 23 – March 30) from 5:30–7 pm, the Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger will lead us as we explore a particular theme and discuss ways to implement new ideas or strengthen our spiritual practice throughout the week. We cannot change the past, but we can rediscover what we lost and build a fuller, richer sense of the Divine in our midst.

A light dinner will be served. The suggested donation is \$25 for all 6 weeks. Please RSVP to Norma (412.441.3800 x211) by Sunday, Feb 19.

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger — Feb 26

On Sunday, Feb 26, we're pleased to

welcome The Rev. Leeann Shaw

Younger as our guest preacher for

our Journey and Sanctuary services.

Rev. Younger is the lead pastor of

Cityview Church in Pittsburgh's East

Deushtown/Spring Garden

neighborhood. She co-founded the

Evangelical Covenant Church

congregation in 2010 with her husband, Wayne. Leeann has

a breadth of vocational experiences in her background as a

nonprofit executive leader, faith leader, and community

leader for justice for marginalized neighbors.



Ash Wednesday is Feb 22



The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 22, and ELPC will offer two services, both of which will include the imposition of ashes. At noon, the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf will lead a reflective time of word and prayer. Then at 7 pm, the Rev. BJ Woodworth will commemorate the start of Lent through the music and prayers of Taizé. Please join us for this sacred time of ritual and reflection.



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

Kimberly O'Donnell's grandson William,
Joe Kennedy, Rhonda Perroz's brother Gary
and Grace Taylor.

Condolences to Elmer Harkema on his mother's passing.
Condolences to Peta Harrigan Cole on her uncle's passing.

Congregational Meeting — Feb 26

The past year has been one in which we have experienced many transitions, and we are still rebounding from the global pandemic, as are many worshipping communities. And, by God's grace, we are fortunate to have navigated the pandemic, an economic downturn, and transitions in pastoral leadership with strength, patience, and fortitude.

On Sunday, Feb 26 at 12:45 pm, we will convene for our annual Congregational Meeting. This is a time to reflect on the past year, receive reports and budget information, and elect officers to serve on our governing councils. It also is a time to consider the ways in which God is at work in our congregation's programmatic, educational, mission-oriented, and worship lives.

Arrangements are being made for a hybrid event. You are invited to attend the meeting in the Social Hall or on Zoom. If you choose the Zoom option, you must be on camera to vote.

YAM Event: Create and Sip — Feb 26

Join the Young Adult Ministry on Sunday, Feb 26 at 3 pm at the August Wilson Cultural Center for *Create & Sip*, the third event of Beyond the Red Door: a theatrical event series. Grab refreshments and dive into an evening of arts workshops rooted in August Wilson's creative process. Snacks and drinks will be available at 2:30 pm. The cost is \$20 and tickets are required. Contact Derail Holcomb for more info (DerailH@coh.net).

Anthony Brown in Concert — March 5

ELPC's Cathedral Concerts series will present *I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson's Life in Word and Song* by baritone Anthony Brown on Sunday, March 5 at 3 pm. *I Go On Singing* tells Paul Robeson's story in his own words, using many first-hand accounts from his autobiography, *Here I Stand*. The multimedia musical documentary traces his humble beginnings as a preacher's son in Princeton, New Jersey, to his international celebrity as an advocate for peace and justice. The performance will bring music and history alive with equal parts documentary and live concert experience. Musical numbers range from spirituals to Broadway, and include Robeson's original arrangements of favorites like "Wade in the Water," "Ol' Man River," "It Ain't Necessarily So," "Water Boy," and many others. The concert is free, but a freewill offering will be received. Contact Dr. Ed for details (EdM@coh.net).



IN OUR COMMUNITY

Webinar by Author Dr. William Yoo — Feb 13

Presbyterian Women and the Facing Systemic Racism Committee encourage your participation in a webinar with Dr. William Yoo of Columbia Theological Seminary, the author of the book *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*. The live webinar will be on Monday, Feb 13 from 6:30-8:30 pm. It is free, but requires pre-registration at:

signupgenius.com/go/9040b4ba5a82ba0fa7-justice1#/

Books can be purchased at a bookstore or through the PC (USA) store. Please email Michele Bossers if you might be interested in discussing this book later in the spring (michele2285@gmail.com).

Registration is Now Open for VCS

ELPC's 2023 Vacation Church School program will take place June 26–30 from 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is *Changemakers Lab*, a place children will learn that everyone can make a difference in the world! Through five Bible stories, we'll explore examples of people who experienced and brought about change in the world around them.

You can register your child, or sign up to volunteer, using this QR code, or visit <http://tiny.cc/elpc-vcs>.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Feb 19 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 18:20–30; Song of Songs 6:4–13; Mark 8:22–9:1, 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 Faith Of Abraham Lincoln" video of author Stephen Mansfield speaking at First Baptist Church of Orlando about Abraham Lincoln's richly textured spiritual life, and drawing from it a meaning to inspire Americans today, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapter six of *Made for Goodness* by Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho Tutu, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members