



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 IN LENT FEBRUARY 26, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. That unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation, that through the working of God's Spirit it is a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain.

— *Belhar Confession, article 2*

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Audi, benigne conditor”

*O Kind Creator, bow thine ear to mark the cry, to know the tear,
Before thy throne of mercy spent in this thy holy fast of Lent.*

“Amazing Grace”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Gerald Near

George Shearing

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Woodworth

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

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

Leader: As we gather on this first Sunday in Lent, we declare our desire to a fast not just with ashes but actions, not just with sackcloth but in sharing, not just in thoughts but in deeds.

People: We desire to give up our abundance, to share our food with the hungry; to give up comfort and provide homes for the destitute and give up our fashions to see the naked clothed.

Leader: We desire to share where others hoard; to free where others oppress and to heal where others harm, for we know this is the kind of worship you desire.

People: As we seek you in this way, may your light break out upon us and your healing quickly appear.

Leader: May you guide us, and your righteousness go before us. May we find our joy in you and may you make us like a well-watered garden.

People: May we be known as people who are repairers of broken walls and welcome all to feast at your banquet table.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #320

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

WAREHAM

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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(from the PCUSA's Matthew 25 Worship Resources)* The Rev. Schoenewolf

Merciful God, we confess that we have wandered from your way of truth and life. You call us to share all that we have and work together for the common good, but we hoard up treasures for ourselves and deny others their daily bread. You call us to set the captives free and seek justice for the oppressed, but we live in fear of our neighbors and hide ourselves from our own kin. You call us to walk in newness of life and to be witnesses to the resurrection, but we dwell in the valley of dry bones and keep silent about your saving love. Forgive us, God of grace. Set us free from sin, death and fear so that we may serve you with gladness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #658

"God Is So Good"

GOD IS SO GOOD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 25:31-46

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

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 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 #799

"I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry"

I LOVE THE LORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-10

The Rev. Shaw Younger

SERMON

"Missing the Point"

The Rev. Shaw Younger

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

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.

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.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

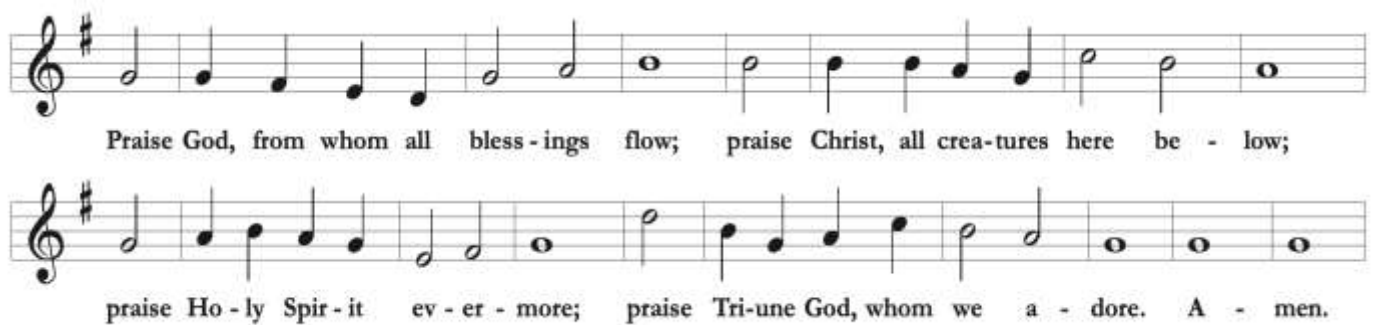
“Christ Hath a Garden”

Gerald Near
text: Robert Bridges/Isaac Watts

*Christ hath a garden walled around, a paradise of fruitful ground,
Chosen by love and fenced by grace from out the world's wide wilderness.
Like trees of spice his servants stand, they're planted by his mighty hand;
By Eden's gracious streams that flow to feed their beauty where they grow.
Awake, O wind of heaven, and bear their sweetest perfume through the air.
Stir up, O south, the boughs that bloom, till the beloved master come.
That he may come and linger yet among the trees that he hath set;
That he may evermore be seen to walk amid the springing green.*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
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:	Gracious and generous God, thank you for food that sustains us on our journey, for times of companionship that lift our spirits, for moments of quiet reflection that remind us of your ever-present love. Use these gifts for food, companionship, and comfort for others. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #766 “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”

MCKEE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Shaw Younger

*And now, even as you step out into this empire, be not of this structure, but be:
the light that liberates, the salt that savors,
the hand that heals, the water that washes,
until all have access to God's great and beautiful creation. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare on the Hymn Tune McKee”

Charles Callahan
based on Glory to God hymnal #766
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. Leeann Shaw Younger
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Mark Statler
Crucifer: Karen Walker
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

The Congregational Meeting will be held in the Social Hall after the service.

◆ 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.
March 5 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
March 5 — 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

Meditation Hour (*through May*)

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

Welcome to Guest Preacher The Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger

We're pleased to welcome The Rev. Leeann Shaw Younger as our guest preacher for our Journey and Sanctuary services today. Rev. Younger is the lead pastor of Cityview Church in Pittsburgh's East Deutschtown/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. We thank her for sharing her message with us.

Congregational Meeting

Today at 12:45 pm we will convene for our annual Congregational Meeting in the Social Hall. 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. Copies of the *Annual Report* are available in the Narthex and Highland Lobby.

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 Yodit Betru.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Peta Harrigan Cole.

YAM Event: Create and Sip

Join the Young Adult Ministry at 3 pm today 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).



Spring Overnight Retreat — March 4 to 5

Hey, youth in grades 6–12! Did you love the 30–Hour Famine? Then you will LOVE our *Spring Overnight Retreat* from March 4 to 5. This year's theme is *Treasure Hunt*, and we'll meet Saturday at 5 pm until Sunday at 10:45 am. Join us for a treasure hunt at ELPC where games, food, Bible Study, worship, and service are all a part of the adventure! Register online at ELPC.church, or contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

Church Tours — March 5 and 19

Tom Morton will lead a *Sanctuary and Chapel* tour on Sunday, March 5. Steve Evrard will guide a *Tower* tour on Sunday, March 19. Both tours will be after the 11 am Sanctuary service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

Celebrating Gifts of Women Sunday — March 5

March 8 is *International Women's Day*—a day to celebrate the gifts of women and to name the inequities experienced by women across the globe. We will join this celebration and observance in worship on Sunday, March 5. Pastor Heather will be preaching, and our worship will both celebrate the gifts of women in our church and beyond, and speak to our need to continue our work of gender justice.

PW Bible Study — March 6 and 7

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study *Sabbath* on Monday, March 6 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), and Tuesday, March 7 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). Those attending on Tuesday at ELPC are invited to bring a brown bag lunch; beverages will be provided. For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Connections Group — March 11

ELPC's Connections Group invites you to Gretchen Chapman's house to play board games from 7-9 pm on Saturday, March 11. You are welcome to bring a game or a snack to share! Email connectelc@gmail.com to RSVP.

Sunday, March 5 • 3 pm

Anthony Brown in concert

ELPC's Cathedral Concerts series will present *I Go On Singing: Paul Robeson's Life in Word and Song* by baritone Anthony Brown. *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 multi-media 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. A freewill offering will be received. Contact Dr. Ed for details (EdM@coh.net).



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

Jo Ellen Aleshire's sister Betty,
Kimberly O'Donnell's grandson William,
Joe Kennedy, Barbara Krimmel, and Grace Taylor.

Condolences to Jo Ellen Aleshire on her brother-in-law's passing.
Condolences to Peta Harrigan Cole on her uncle's passing.
Condolences to Megan Leisher on her nephew's passing.

Worshipping with the Rev. Brian Wallace — March 12

On Sunday, March 12, we're pleased to welcome the Rev. Brian Wallace as our guest preacher for our Journey and Sanctuary services. Brian has served in ministry since 2003 and currently serves as Associate Minister and Acting Head of Staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery. In this role, he resources and supports leaders and congregations throughout the Pittsburgh area.

LGBTQ Spiritual Gathering — March 12

All are invited to the LGBTQ Ministry's next monthly Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, March 12 at 12:30 pm to share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed. Please contact Wil Forrest for more info or to RSVP (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Spring Solstice Forest Bathing — March 18

Join us at Dark Hollow Woods Park in Verona on Saturday, March 18 from 12–2 pm for a peaceful *Forest Bathing* walk as we enjoy the magic at the beginning of spring. Limited to 10 participants. Please RSVP to Sandi Miller (samellaannmiller@gmail.com) by Sunday, March 12. Dress appropriately for the weather and bring an umbrella if rain is expected. Parking is limited, so please carpool.

Taking Action on Soot Pollution Standards — March 19

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently proposing to tighten regulations on soot—a mix of metals, organic chemicals, and acidic substances in particles that are so small, they can be inhaled deeply into our lungs and enter our bloodstreams. Emitted by power plants and the tailpipes of cars and trucks, soot's health burden falls most heavily on communities of color and the poor. Children, the elderly, and people with asthma and other health conditions are particularly vulnerable.

We need to tell the EPA to develop the strongest possible soot standard to ensure clean air. Interfaith Power and Light, a faith-based environmental group, has a letter on soot that you can send to the EPA at tiny.cc/epa-letter.

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to act to protect our climate and our health, and advance environmental justice. Join us in the Garth Overlook Room following worship on Sunday, March 19 to learn more and sign a petition. Assistance also will be available to help you submit a comment through the EPA website. Comments to the EPA are due by March 28.

In our

COMMUNITY



Reparations: A Conversation with Bethel AME — March 12
Join Bethel AME Church from the Hill District in the ELPC Social Hall following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, March 12 to hear about Bethel's ongoing journey toward restitution for the theft of their land and wealth. Following a presentation by Bethel and partner churches, we will discuss the theological and ethical call to reparations, drawing from the book *Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair* by Duke L. Kwon and Gregory Thompson. A light lunch will be served, and the conversation will begin at 1 pm.

You may also join online via Zoom at tiny.cc/d7l4vz. Enter meeting ID 834 5725 3071 and passcode 257920.

Open Hand Ministries (OHM) and the Pittsburgh Marathon are Back

The Neighbors Committee invites runners and fast walkers to support Open Hand Ministries' 2023 Pittsburgh Marathon fundraiser on Sunday, May 7. OHM is one of our mission partners and a Silver Charity in the *Run For A Reason* program. We are looking for 10+ runners/walkers from ELPC. There will be workouts, practice walks, and an encouraging presence as all of us walk, talk, and run ourselves into fitness and “doing something good” for our community.

Register for the Marathon, Half-Marathon, or Relay Team (5 people), and choose Open Hand Ministries as your *Run for a Reason* Charity. Registration closes March 31. Contact Laura Ristau (marathon@openhandpittsburgh.org; 412.780.5588) for more info!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

March 5 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 19; Song of Songs 7:10–8:4; Philippians 1:12–26, 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 Way of Humility (Isaiah 42:1–9)” led by the Rev. Dr. Steven S. Tuell, facilitated by Gwen Puza

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