



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)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 26, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

The death of a dream can in fact serve as the vehicle that endows it with new form, with reinvigorated substance, a fresh flow of ideas, and splendidly revitalized color. In short, the power of a certain kind of dream is such that death need not indicate finality at all but rather signify a metaphysical and metaphorical leap forward.
— *Aberjhani, “The River of Winged Dreams”*

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Prelude in C Minor, BWV 546”
“Two Preludes on Slane — Be Thou My Vision”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Johann Sebastian Bach
Healey Willan
David Schelat

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

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

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship God. God, who makes bones dance.
People: God, who calls Lazarus from the grave. God, who forgives us and gives us hope.
Leader: Let us worship our faithful and gracious God in the spirit of holiness.

Antwone and Kyle Wright

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #407

“Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers” NUN DANKET ALL’ UND BRINGET HER’

CALL TO CONFESSION

Antwone and Kyle Wright

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(based on Psalm 130)*

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord. Hear our voices and let your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications. We come into your presence confessing our sins, aware we have behaved in ways that are contrary to your desire for our living. We come into your presence aware that too often we allow lifelessness to gain the upper hand. We come into your presence aware that we put our trust in our own abilities. Forgive us, O God. Infuse us with your life-giving spirit. Breathe into us and make us come alive.

Antwone and Kyle Wright

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Antwone and Kyle Wright

Leader: Hope in the Lord! With the Lord, there is steadfast love. With God, there is great power to redeem. Thanks be to God who redeems us from all our iniquities. 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 #284 (please sing 3 times in either English or Latin as you choose)

“Holy Spirit, Come to Us”

TUI AMORIS IGNEM

Holy Spirit, come to us; kindle in us the fire of your love.

Holy Spirit, come to us. Holy Spirit, come to us.

Veni Sancte Spiritus, tui amoris ignem accende.

Veni Sancte Spiritus. Veni Sancte Spiritus.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:1-6, 17-27

G Confer-Hammond

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Henk Bossers

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 #286

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

TRENTHAM

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Only God Knows”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Jim Tinnemeyer

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. Tinnemeyer

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

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Linda Cable Shute
Text: Claudia Frances Hernaman

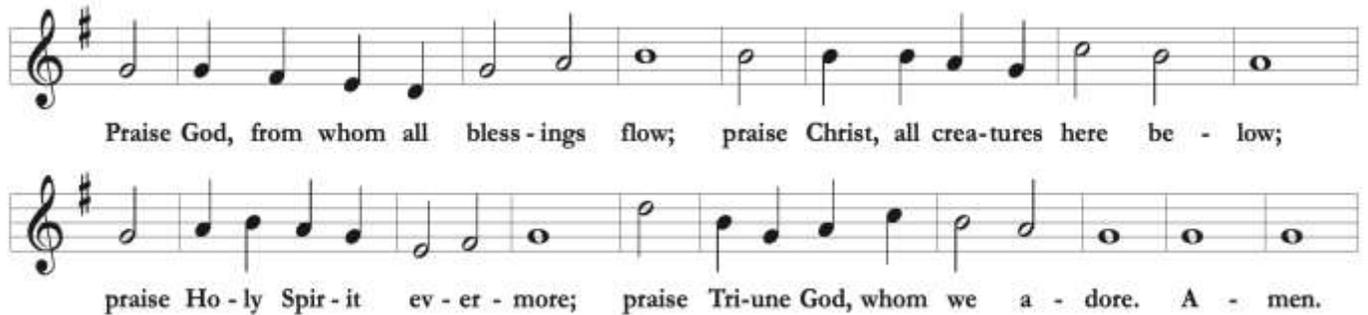
*Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.*

*As you did hunger bear and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and always live by your most holy word.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through your Passion-tide,
Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all crea - tures here be - low;
praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. A - men.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Tinnemeyer
Carla Depperman

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: Good and gracious God, may these gifts be one of the ways your life giving presence is experienced in our community. Use this money and use us to give hope to the hopeless, wholeness to the broken and fullness to the hungry. In Christ's name we pray.

People: Amén.

Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #450

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546”

Dr. Moore, *organ*
Johann Sebastian Bach

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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. Henk Bossers
The Rev. Jim Tinnemeyer
Carla Depperman
G Confer-Hammond
Antwone and Kyle Wright
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Laura Ristau
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
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 \$200.

Order forms for Easter plants are available on the information tables around the church. If you wish to purchase a plant, please submit your complete form and payment to Norma in the church office by next Sunday, April 2.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP — PALM SUNDAY

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.
April 2 — 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.
April 2 — 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*)

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

Celebrating International Transgender Day of Visibility

March 31 is the *International Transgender Day of Visibility*, an annual awareness day celebrated around the world, dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender nonconforming people, while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice. Learn more at www.glsen.org/activity/transgender-day-visibility.

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 Dana Carl.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Drew Simpson.



Chapel Market Has Expanded Hours

The Chapel Market has expanded its hours of operation! It is now open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 5-7 pm, in addition being open every Thursday from 10 am—Noon.

Yoga Retreat — April 1

Attend a yoga retreat from 9 am–2 pm on Saturday, April 1 with Yamuna Morgenstern. The retreat will provide opportunities for yoga; pranayama (breath work for meditation); time for reflection where participants might walk the labyrinth, journal, or draw; a catered lunch together; and experiencing kirtan (an ancient practice of call and response chanting in Sanskrit). It is a meditative and uplifting, lively practice that connects you with your true self and the divine. A special guest and artist of kirtan, Devananda Moreau, will lead us.

People who only wish to experience kirtan are welcome to attend from 1–2 pm, free of charge. Bring your own mat (or two), a yoga block if you have one, your own blanket for savasana and meditation and a water bottle.

Limited to 15 participants. Register online at tiny.cc/yoga-retreat. The suggested donation is \$35–\$70, which includes lunch. Scholarships are available. For details, contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

Free Cathedral Concert: CMU Wind Ensemble — April 1

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* present the Carnegie Mellon University Wind Ensemble for a performance on Saturday, April 1 at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. This performance is free and open to the public, and will also be streamed at www.youtube.com/@CarnegieMellonMusic. Please contact Dr. Ed Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).

ELPC Matters: The More You Know — April 2

As we navigate this season of transition together, ELPC is offering a series of informational sessions to broaden congregational awareness of different aspects of our life together that may seem to be more behind-the-scenes, but which are fundamental to how we engage our faith in community together.

Our first session in this series will be held on Sunday, April 2 from 9:45-10:45 am (during the Church School hour), and will shed light on *Understanding Pastors' Compensation*. The Rev. Brian Wallace, associate minister and acting head of staff at Pittsburgh Presbytery, will present this session, along with the leadership of our Human Resources chairs and director of Administration and Finance. Participants can join in person in the Social Hall or on Zoom.

Church Tours — April 2, 16 and 30

Three church tours will be offered in April:

- April 2 — *Underground* with Tim VanFleet
- April 16 — *Tower* with Steve Evrard
- April 30 — *Stained Glass* with Jo Ellen Aleshire

All tours will begin after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate.

PW Bible Study — April 3 and 4

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study *Sabbath and Justice* on Monday, April 3 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), and on Tuesday, April 4 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). For more info and the Zoom link, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com. Those attending the Tuesday Bible Study can bring a brown bag lunch (beverages provided).

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — April 16

ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry is changing its name to thoughtfully and prayerfully grow and change to meet the needs and interests of its participants. Now in its ninth year, ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry will now be known as the LGBTQIA+ Ministry, as to be more inclusive and reflective of our diversity! All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering at 12:30 pm on Sunday, April 16. For more info or to attend, please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Earth Day Event for Families — April 23

Following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, April 23, families are invited to gather for an Earth Day event sponsored by the Children and Family Ministry Team. The event will be part *fellowship* over lunch, *service* of cleaning and caring for our rain garden and yard, *fun* as we play and appreciate **God's creation**, and *education* as we learn about how we can care for the Earth right here in East Liberty. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).



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

The Rev. Dr. Bob Chesnut,
Kimberly O'Donnell's grandson William,
Joe Kennedy, Barbara Krimmel, Margaret McCaulley,
Vivienne Selia's friends Linda and Paul, and Grace Taylor.

Condolences to Steve Evrard on his brother's passing.

Attaining Resurrection Contemplative
Retreat — RSVP by April 21

Join us for a post-Easter retreat at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Pulaski, Pennsylvania from Friday–Sunday, May 5 to 7, to explore ways we can find resurrection life amid the challenges and sufferings we face each day. Led by facilitator and host The Rev. Jeff Eddings, we will explore this through art, silence and solitude, reading, reflection, prayer, and conversation with one another.

Spots are limited. RSVP by Friday, April 21 at www.tiny.cc/attaining-resurrection, or scan this QR code. Contact The Rev. BJ Woodworth for info (BJW@coh.net).



Mission Opportunity — April 25

ELPC will be supplying food for OHM's TeamWorks dinners four times this year. TeamWorks is the family development program of Open Hand Ministries that is currently working with 23 families to achieve their housing and financial goals. The first dinner will be on Tuesday, April 25. If you are interested in donating a side dish or a dessert, contact Emily Rosenthal (EJR116@gmail.com) or Frank Bauerle (817.705.6856; frbauerle@yahoo.com).



Sunday, April 2 — PALM SUNDAY

8:45 am and 11 am (Led by Pastor Patrice)
The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received

Wednesday, April 5 — TAIZÉ STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7 pm (Led by Pastor BJ)

Thursday, April 6 — MAUNDY THURSDAY (Communion)

7 pm (Led by Pastor Heather)

Friday, April 7 — GOOD FRIDAY

12 pm (Led by Rev. Vincent Kolb)
7 pm (Led by Pastor Patrice)

Saturday, April 8 — EASTER VIGIL (Communion)

7 pm (Led by Pastor BJ)

Sunday, April 9 — EASTER SUNDAY

8:45 am and 11 am (Led by Pastor Heather)

In our

COMMUNITY



RCC Cabaret Show — Today!

The final performance of the Renaissance City Choir's annual *Cabaret* will be held at ELPC at 2 pm today. This year's show is *Flying Free with RCC*, a fun combination of solos, ensembles, and full chorus with bird-themed music! Visit www.RCCpittsburgh.com for tickets and info.

Obama Academy Fundraiser — Today!

There will be a fundraiser in support of Obama Academy's PTSA Student and Teacher Initiatives today at 7 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary. Musicians from the Pittsburgh Symphony and Pittsburgh Opera Orchestras will perform works composed by Mendelssohn, Montgomery and Piazzolla. The suggested donation is \$15.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

April 2 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 22:16–31; Isaiah 49:5–16; Philippians 3:1b–4:1, 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) — “Resurrection Spirituality,” led by Dr. Graham Standish, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A review of *Made for Goodness* and preview our next book *Dancing in the Darkness*, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members

Order a Copy of New Soul Food Book

Dancing in the Darkness — Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times is a new book by Otis Moss III that the Soul Food class will be using soon. It is a powerful book by a renowned Chicago pastor. Cynthia Jackson will be obtaining copies of the book from The Tiny Bookstore, an independent Black-owned bookstore in the North Hills, and is willing to order the book for anyone from our church who would like to read it. Participation in the Soul Food class is not required. The book cost is \$20. Please contact Cynthia to order (cirenej16@gmail.com).

