



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. 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)*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 16, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

Resurrection is “rebirth out of impotence and indolence to the ‘living hope’ [which] means a passion for life and a lived protest against death... It lives from something different — from the superabundance of God’s future.”  
— Jurgen Moltmann

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Heut Triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630”  
(Today the Son of God Triumphs)

“Jesus Christus, Unser Heiland, Der Den Tod Überwand, BWV 626”  
(Jesus Christ Our Savior, Who Overcame Death)

“Christ Lag In Todesbanden, BWV 625”  
(Christ Lay In Death’s Fetters)

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

### 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

Coleman and Linda Lane

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: The whole creation rejoices; the birds sing from every tree.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is in our midst!

People: Babies babble with sounds of joy; words cannot express our overflowing hearts.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is our light forever!

People: Breathing peace on us in this moment; filling us with hope, power, and imagination.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #245

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!”

LLANFAIR

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you gave us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from sin and death and to renew the creation. We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We continue to cling to self-centered ways and doubt the Spirit’s power at work in us to make all things new. We hold on to the things of the past that entangle us and keep us from straining toward what is ahead and attaining the new risen life in front of us. Forgive our lack of faith. Have mercy on our weakness. Raise us from our tombs of death that we may live with Christ in the joy of resurrection, now and forever.

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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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 #654 (please sing 3 times)

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;**

In the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-24

Coleman and Linda Lane

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 #450

"Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 3:10-14

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

"Seize, Strain and Attain"

The Rev. Woodworth

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.*



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"The Storm Is Passing Over"

Charles Albert Tindley  
arr. Barbara Baker

*Have courage, my soul, and let us journey on. Though the night is dark and I am far from home.*

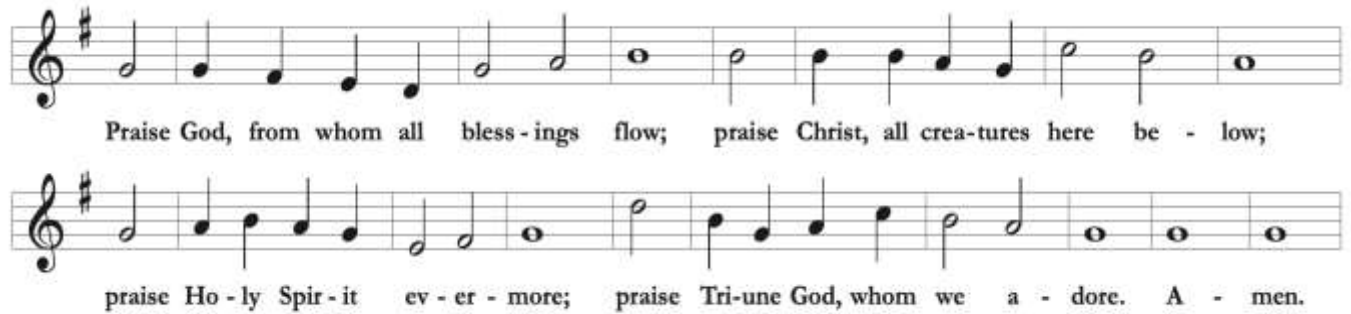
*Thanks be to God, the morning light appears. The storm is passing over, Hallelujah!*

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah! The storm is passing over, Hallelu.*

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

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Schoenewolf

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: Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for those who despair, courage for the anxious, and faith for the disillusioned. Transform us as well that we may be your faithful witness to the good news of your resurrection. In Christ's name we pray.

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 #238

“Thine Is the Glory”

DEO GRACIAS

\* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Carillon-Sortie”

Dr. Moore, *organ*  
Henri Mulet

*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. BJ Woodworth  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Coleman and Linda Lane  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Beadle: Tim Engelhardt  
Crucifer: Mario Seneca  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

#### ◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to a *Social Hour* following the 11 am worship service today in the McKelvy Room. It is sponsored by the Deacons. Come, enjoy, and talk with members of our faith family.

#### ◆ 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](mailto:wilson.franr@gmail.com)). The cost is \$200. *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.  
*April 23* — 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 23* — 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* TODAY after the 11 am worship to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the Pastors after worship to attend, or contact Megan Leisher for more info on future classes ([MeganL@coh.net](mailto: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

### Inquirers' Class

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* after today's 11 am worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the Pastors to attend, or contact Megan Leisher for more info on future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

### Fellowship Time Today

You are invited to a Social Hour following the 11 am worship service today in the McKelvy Room. It is sponsored by the Deacons. Come, enjoy, and talk with our faith family!

### LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks 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).

### Church Tour

Please join guide Steve Evrard for a tour of the tower after today's 11 am worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

### 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 Molly Davidson-Welling. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is George Clark.



### 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](http://www.tiny.cc/attaining-resurrection), or scan this QR code. Contact The Rev. BJ Woodworth for info (BJW@coh.net).



### Youth Mission Overnight — April 21 to 22

Youth in grades 8–12 are invited to participate in our *Mission Overnight* from Friday, April 21 to Saturday, April 22. Friday night we will explore the “why?” and “how?” of serving others as an expression of our values, beliefs, and faith. Then on Saturday, we will serve at World Vision and make plans for our summer mission trip. Register online at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

### 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).

### 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).

### ELPC Matters...The More You Know about Times,

### Cycles and Seasons of Transition — April 30

As we journey through this time of transition at ELPC, it is important to know that the changes and transitions we are going through are normal and even good and healthy. In fact, all organisms and organizations go through periods and cycles of life and death, fruitfulness and dormancy and even Jesus says death and letting go are necessary for new life to come. This is often difficult for humans and organizations who operate out of a more mechanistic mindset. So how can we navigate these seasons with energy, intelligence, imagination and love amidst the change and feelings of instability? It is our hope and belief that this transition can propel us to revitalize, renew and redevelop for the hopeful and vibrant future at ELPC.

Join Pastor BJ Woodworth on Sunday, April 30 from 9:45-10:45 am in the Social Hall for a time of teaching, reflection and conversation as we seek to navigate this time at ELPC together.

Due to the route of the Pittsburgh Marathon,  
ELPC will not hold worship services on Sunday, May 7.



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

Kate Carlson's sister Sue,  
Dan Eash,  
Joe Kennedy, and

Vivienne Selia's friends Linda and Paul.

*Condolences to the family of Ruth Henderson on her passing.*

#### Church Tour — April 30

Please join guide Jo Ellen Aleshire for a tour of the stained glass windows after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, April 30. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

#### Environmental Team Selects New Book — May 4

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is reading *Pathways to Our Sustainable Future: A Global Perspective from Pittsburgh* by Patricia DeMarco. The book examines the experience of a single city, allowing for a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities inherent in adapting to a changing world. Consider reading the book and joining us for a discussion on Thursday, May 4 at 7 pm. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

#### Chapel Market: Expanded Hours and Donation Request

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.

The Chapel Market is also seeking donations of spring and summer clothing, especially children's clothes. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market during hours of operation.

#### Meditation Hour — Tuesdays

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. The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Prayer Room each Tuesday 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!

#### Volunteers Needed to be Beadles and Crucifers

There are many ways to participate in our worship services! We are currently seeking volunteers to be a Beadle or Crucifer at our 11 am Sanctuary worship service. The duties of the Beadle include processing at the beginning of the service with the Bible, and the Crucifer also processes while carrying the cross. If you would like to help, or have questions about these roles, please speak to one of today's Beadles, or email Mario Seneca (seneca459@hotmail.com).

In our

COMMUNITY



#### ARTT Reparations Discussion — April 23 and 30

Please join the Presbytery Anti-Racism Transformation Team in-person at 3 pm on Sunday, April 23 at the Pittsburgh Presbytery office (901 Allegheny Ave, 15233), or on Zoom on Sunday, April 30 at 3 pm for a prayerful, wide-ranging conversation on all that the word *reparations* holds for us.

The particulars of the Bethel AME Church — the oldest Black church in Pittsburgh — and their *Reparations Campaign* will help us explore the review, repentance, restoration, reconciliation, rehabilitation and more that gets packed into *reparations*.

*You must pre-register online to attend at:*

<https://form.jotform.com/231014083719046>

When registering for the April 30 session, a zoom link will be sent to you in a confirmation email.

#### Hear Organist Alan Morrison — April 30

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series and the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh will present organist Alan Morrison in concert on Sunday, April 30 at 3 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary. Morrison currently serves as chair of the Organ Department at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. ELPC members can contact Dr. Ed Moore for tickets (EdM@coh.net).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**April 23 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am**

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 24; Deuteronomy 5:11–22; Philippians 4:10–23, 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) — "Rescuing Ukrainian Children from Russian Abduction" video, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A beginning discussion of *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times* by Otis Moss III, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu, and other class members

Visit us online at

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)