



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)

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 23, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP



TIME OF PREPARATION

We can't save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed — everything needs to change and it has to start today. — Greta Thunberg

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We hold Mother Earth in prayer, as we hold brothers, sisters, siblings all over the world who suffer from storms and droughts intensified by climate change and instability. We hold all species, created by you, O God, that suffer from our abuse of the land, air, and seas. We hold world leaders delegated to make decisions for life. May their decisions be just, equitable, life giving, and protect all human, animal, and plant life. We pray that the web of life may be mended through courageous actions to limit carbon emissions. We pray for right actions for adaptation and mitigation to help our already suffering earth community. We pray that love and wisdom might inspire my actions and our actions as communities ... so that we may, with integrity, look into the eyes of brothers and sisters and all beings and truthfully say we are doing our part to care for them and the future of the children. May love transform us and our world with new steps toward life. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

Keith Kolander

ELPC Ringers

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Earth Day

Nancy Heastings

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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 (Opening Prayer at 2021 EAD worship service)

Nancy Heastings

Leader: Spirit of God, you establish the dance of creation. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, sunshine and storm, the nest, and the hunt.

People: Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of dust join in the great and mysterious rhythms of your creation.

Leader: Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth and all your people. Give us the vision and the will to see your creation restored.

People: For all these things, O Gracious God, in the name of Jesus Christ, and with the company of the Holy Spirit, we pray.

Leader: People of God, let us worship our Creator, in spirit and in truth! Hallelujah!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #14

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

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

April 23 • 3rd Sunday of Easter

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Kevin Moon

Leader: Today, we offer our prayer in gratitude and humility that we might heed God's call to care for one another through our care of the least, the lowest and the most vulnerable of all of blessed creation. Let us pray together, first in unison and then in silence.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kevin Moon

God of all creation, we pray for the courage to speak on behalf of the soft soil under our feet, the running and still waters, the warmth of the sun on our face, and all the crawling, flying, and swimming creatures you love. We pray for your forgiveness, faithful God, as our overconsumption, our misuse of resources, and the pollution that we produce destroys the land, waters, and air. May our courage to speak translate into actions that protect our planet – so that our children and their children might enjoy the fruits of what we sow. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Kevin Moon

Leader: Followers of Jesus, our Creator God has promised to forgive our sins and to restore the glory of nature. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

HANDBELL ANTHEM

“Joysong”

Kevin McChesney

TESTIMONIAL

Evy Bard

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 7:1-5; 8:14-17, 20-21a

Adrianna Cleveland

TESTIMONIAL

Oliver Stephany

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 (please see music insert)

“The Place Called Planet Earth”

Traditional English Ballad
Lyrics by Sheena Phillips

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 9:1, 8-15

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Never Again”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSIVE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying,

People: God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the church throughout the world, as we celebrate the great fifty days of Easter, may we **renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name;**

People: God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Leader: For our planet Earth, that all people may be good stewards of its resources and share in its abundance;
People: God of resurrection, hear our prayer.
Leader: For the poor and the stranger, that they might receive a place of refuge and hope, and that the church may offer the hospitality and care;
People: God of resurrection, hear our prayer.
Leader: For the sick, those in distress, or grieving, that they might find healing for their pain, comfort, and peace, and be restored to fullness of life;
People: God of resurrection, hear our prayer.
Leader: For our neighbors, that we may live together in peace and share our resources;
People: God of resurrection, hear our prayer.
Leader: Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer, as we join our voices together to pray as Jesus taught us, saying,
People: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION PNC: Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Linda Lane

OFFERING INVITATION

Linda Lane

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

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

John Rutter

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Christ, all creatures here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore.
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

Evy Bard
Kevin Moon

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:	Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offering of our lives. Let us be a sacrifice of thanksgiving in union with our risen Lord, who is making all things new, and who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #36

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

AR HYD Y NOS

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

Dr. Moore, *organ*
William Mathias

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: Evy Bard
Adrianna Cleveland

Sara Hackett

Nancy Heastings

Linda Lane

Kevin Moon

Oliver Stephany

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore

Organist/Music Director

Beth Minnigh, *Pianist*

ELPC Chancel Choir

ELPC Ringers

Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire

Crucifer: Mario Seneca

Sound: Tim Benedict and 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. *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.
April 30 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
April 30 — 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.



Energy use is the most significant contributor to the greenhouse gases that cause climate warming.

Each of us can move our energy use toward zero carbon emissions with deliberate choices.

To learn more on how to approach it, contact the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee.

TODAY AT ELPC

Earth Day Event for Families

Following today's Sanctuary worship service, 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. Please see Sara Hackett immediately after the service if you'd like to participate.

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 Linda Sanders.



Attaining Resurrection Contemplative Retreat — RSVP by April 24

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 tomorrow, April 24 at www.tiny.cc/attaining-resurrection, or scan this QR code. Contact The Rev. BJ Woodworth for info (BJW@coh.net).



Be a Part of the Future of ELPC — We Want to Hear from You! The *Congregational Assessment Tool* (CAT), an on-line survey, is open to the congregation between now and May 31. Your responses will help the Pastor Nominating Committee in the search for new church leadership and will provide information as we work together in setting a course for the future of our congregation.

All members, friends, and active participants in the life of our congregation are asked to take the survey. Your responses are anonymous to allow for candid feedback.

During Sundays in May, (with the exception of May 7) laptops and technical support will be available at the church for individuals who do not have ready access to a computer, have questions, or need assistance in the process. The survey can be accessed using this link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/EASTLIBERTYPCPA

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).

Stained Glass Tour — April 30

Join tour guide Jo Ellen Aleshire in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service on Sunday, April 30 for a *Stained Glass* tour. All are welcome!



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,

Jon Nelson's cousin's grandson Wilder, and
Vivienne Selia's friends Richard, Linda and Paul.

Condolences to the family of Ruth Henderson on her passing.

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 can 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.

PW Bible Study — May 1 and 2

Join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study *Sabbath and Community* on Monday, May 1 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), and on Tuesday, May 2 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). For more information and the Zoom link, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com. Those attending the Tuesday Bible Study can bring a brown bag lunch (beverages provided).

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).

Fridays in the Garden — May 12

On Friday, May 12 from 9 am-Noon, the Environmental Team and Gardening Crew will meet for a workday in the rain garden. Join as you are able for a morning of weeding, mulching, and fellowship. The group plans to meet every second Friday from May-September.



In our

COMMUNITY



ARTT Reparations Discussion — Today and April 30

Please join the Presbytery Anti-Racism Transformation Team in-person at 3 pm today 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

There will be no Sunday School Classes next Sunday, April 30 so everyone can participate in ELPC Matters...The More You Know series in the Social Hall at 9:45 am.

May 14 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Psalm 25; Deuteronomy 28:58–68; Mark 9:2–13, facilitated by Jan Irvin and class members

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) — “Call It Grace: Finding Meaning in a Fractured World” video by The Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, 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