



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. 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)

YOUTH SUNDAY MAY 21, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Confront the dark parts of yourself, and work to banish them with illumination and forgiveness.

Your willingness to wrestle with your demons will cause your angels to sing. — August Wilson

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Prelude on Rhosymedre”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Caprice No. 15”

Niccolò Paganini

Cody Conley, *violin*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

Boaz Chapman

Leader: Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.

People: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

Leader: Sing to God, all peoples of the world. Sing praises to God most high.

People: From the sanctuary of heaven, God gives life and renews the face of the earth.

Leader: Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.

People: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

Leader: Let us rise in body and spirit and sing God's praise together.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #26

“Earth and All Stars!”

EARTH AND ALL STARS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Boaz Chapman

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Boaz Chapman

Leader: We are a people who live in a world that is both wondrous and broken.

People: O God, we confess that we have contributed to the brokenness of the world through our actions and inactions.

Leader: We have turned away from your call to love our neighbors as ourselves, and have been indifferent to the suffering of others.

People: Forgive us, Lord, and help us to be agents of compassion and justice.

Continued on next page...

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

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Leader: We have spoken words of hurt and division, and have failed to listen with empathy and understanding.
People: Forgive us, Lord, and help us to be instruments of reconciliation and peace.
Leader: We have focused on our own desires and ambitions, and have neglected the well-being of others and the earth.
People: Forgive us, Lord, and help us to be stewards of your creation, and to live in harmony with all living things.
Leader: But we believe in the God who brings beauty out of brokenness, who transforms our hearts and minds, and who empowers us to contribute to the flourishing of the world.
People: Yes, Lord, we believe in your power to heal and restore, and we ask for your help in contributing to the beauty of the world.
Leader: Let us take a moment of silence to confess our personal sins to God.

Time of Silent Confession

Leader: God of mercy and grace, hear our prayers and forgive us our sins. Help us to live in faith and creativity and call us to participate in the renewal of all things.
People: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Boaz Chapman

Leader: Scripture assures us that Christ came into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:6-14

Matteo Wilburn

VIDEO

Celebrating Our Youth

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Annabel Degenholtz

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 #779

“How Long, O God, Will My Prayers Be in Vain?”

LAND OF MERCY

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 3:8-18

Matteo Wilburn

HOMILY

“Words to Live By”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SENIOR MESSAGES

We celebrate all of the High School Graduates who have been an active part of our family of faith:

David Bellin, Nora Brown, Boaz Chapman, Annabel Degenholtz, Shayla Esquivel Brigido, Dylan Geibel, Otto Gianakas, Julian Herbert, Corinne Krimmel, Ian Kuchera, Devan McNamee, Taylor Reese, Zachary Reese, Oliver Stephany, Patrick Wiskemann

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Shayla and Luz Esquivel Brigido

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

Ian Kuchera

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.

Video

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts Dance Performance

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

“It Is Well with My Soul”

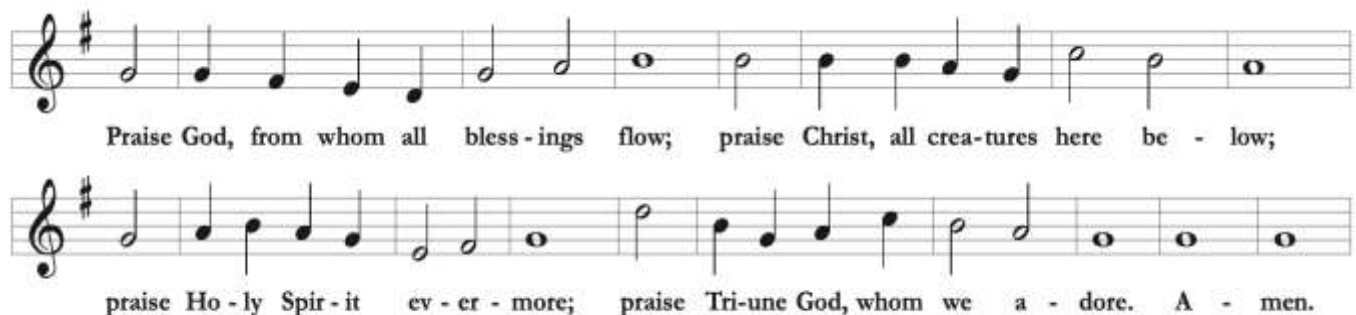
Spafford/Bliss

arr. Sorenson/Becker

text: *Glory to God hymnal* 840, v 1, 3, 4

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

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: Glorious God, everything that is given to us rains forth out of the abundance of your love, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless these gifts and our lives together that all we are and all we offer give glory to you! This we pray in the name of Jesus.

People: Amén.

Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #821

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Ian Kuchera

POSTLUDE

“Psalm 19”

Benedetto Marcello

Dr. Moore, organ

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. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: Boaz Chapman
Annabel Degenholtz
Shayla and Luz Esquivel Brigido
Ian Kuchera
Oliver Stephany
Matteo Wilburn
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Cody Conley, *Violin*
Robin Thompson, *Soloist*
Acolytes: Liam and Annie Cowan
Beadle: James Eng
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Please join us in the McKelvy Room after the *Special Congregational Meeting* for a Fellowship Time celebrating our youth.

◆ 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.
May 28 — 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.
May 28 — 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

Meditation Hour

Join John Benedict, retired psychologist and practitioner of insight meditation, in the Chapel 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*)

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month.

June 16, July 21,

Aug 18, Sept 15.

Oct 20, Nov 17

7-8:30 pm

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

Youth Sunday and a Special Fellowship Time

Today we celebrate Youth Sunday—a service planned and led by the youth of ELPC, and in which we will hear messages from our graduating Seniors.

Following today's *Special Congregational Meeting*, our Fellowship Time will be in celebration of the youth in the McKelvy Room.

Congregational Meeting

The Session of ELPC is calling a *Special Congregational Meeting* immediately after today's Sanctuary worship service. The sole item of business will be to vote upon the Session's recent action that ELPC sell its Manse. An information sheet with details about the rationale regarding this decision is available in the Narthex and Highland Lobby.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

All allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are invited to the next 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 Molly Davidson-Welling.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Todd Hoffman.

Passive House Tours – Today and June 4

Join the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee on a tour of one of the most energy efficient homes in the region — Passive House-certified Squirrel Hill Duplex, located at 2883 Fernwald Rd. Finished in 2017 by ELPC congregants Lucy de Barbaro and Ayres Freitas, this home reduces heating and cooling by 80% compared to traditional construction, manages all rainwater on site, has a small green roof and is fully powered by solar energy. The home holds a gold label from the National Green Building Standard.

There will be something of interest for those well versed in these various environmental initiatives and those new to these topics, and takeaways for your own environmental action at home.

The tours will be offered today at 2 pm and on June 4 at 4 pm. Please text Lucy to indicate your interest and reserve a spot (412.320.0567). Families with children are welcomed.

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.

Today and next Sunday, 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: <https://tinyurl.com/CATsurveyELPC>.

Fridays in The Garden — May 26

The Environmental Team and Gardening Crew are hosting *Workdays in the Rain Garden* on Fridays again this summer. Please join them for a morning of weeding, mulching, and fellowship from 9 am to Noon on every SECOND and FOURTH Friday from May through September. Green thumbs are not required—just bring your energy, curiosity, and commitment to our church and community. Contact Don Breitbarth for more info (don.breitbarth@gmail.com).

Pentecost Sunday — May 28

On May 28, we will celebrate Pentecost—when Christ sent the Holy Spirit to guide and equip the Church universal for **our ministry in Christ's name. Please wear red!**

Sanctuary and Chapel Tour — May 28

Please join guide Jo Ellen Aleshire for a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, May 28. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

Family Church School on Pentecost — May 28

Our third and final Sunday Church School class of the year for the WHOLE family will be on Sunday, May 28 from 9:45-10:45 am. Together, we will learn about the church calendar and the colors of the church year with an emphasis on why we wear red on Pentecost. Come explore together how the Holy Spirit is on the move at Pentecost and throughout the year!

Our summer worship schedule begins on

Sunday, June 4

with one Sunday service at 10 am in the Courtyard
(weather permitting).





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

Kate Carlson's sister Sue,
Carol Chontos' family member Jonathan,
Carla Depperman's friend Misael,
Dan Eash, Peta Harrigan Cole's friends Robert and Tracey,
Joe Kennedy, Jon Nelson's cousin's grandson Wilder, and
Vivienne Selia's friends Richard and Linda.

"Pride Then and Now" Presentation — May 28

Jason Van Ness, MSW, will present *Pride Then and Now: a Critical Examination of Fighting for LGBTQIA+ Rights* at 12:30 pm next Sunday, May 28 in the Garth Overlook Room. A panel discussion will take place after the presentation. Attend in person or via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85609058578>). This event is sponsored by the Justice Committee and the LGBTQIA+ Ministry. Contact Wil Forrest for more info (Wil@coh.net).

Tending Our Neighborhood Trees — June 3

ELPC's Environmental Team of the Justice Committee and Tree Pittsburgh invite you to help us weed and mulch street trees along Penn Ave in East Liberty on Saturday, June 3 from 9 am–12 pm.

This year, in coordination with Sara Hackett, we plan to include young people. The minimum age is 10; anyone under 18 needs to have a parent or chaperone. We'll learn about trees and tree care from our Tree Pittsburgh expert, Jake Milofsky.

We will meet at the Whitfield side of ELPC. Dress for the weather in clothes you don't mind getting dirty, and don't forget sunscreen. Equipment, mulch, and work gloves will be provided, as well as drinking water and snacks. Please RSVP by Monday, May 29 to Mary Barr (empirephobic@gmail.com).

Summer Solstice Forest Bathing — June 17

Join us in celebration of the Summer Solstice as we take in all the light on one of the longest days of the year. On this 2-hour *Forest Bathing* walk on Saturday, June 17 at Penn Hills Community Park (Colorado St, Verona; park at pavilion) from 9-11 am, you'll be guided on a gentle, mindful stroll. *Forest Bathing* is more than just hiking, it is an immersive sensory experience that allows you to look at the forest differently than before, combining concepts of meditation and mindfulness through a series of guided invitations to allow you to relax and enjoy the moment. The walk ends with wildcrafted tea and light snacks.

Camp stools to sit on will be provided, or you may bring your own chair. In case of rain, please bring an umbrella. *Forest Bathing* in the rain is absolutely lovely. However, the walk will be canceled if thunderstorms are predicted.

If you're curious about what *Forest Bathing* is, check out this short 5-minute documentary: <http://tiny.cc/forest-bathing>. RSVP by June 15 to Norma (412.441.3800 x211).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

LAMP and ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry Events — June 3 and 25
ELPC is a proud participant in LAMP – LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh. We are excited to again celebrate Pride in Pittsburgh this summer. While there are many Pride events sponsored by different groups and in different neighborhoods around the area, the two Pride events LAMP will be participating in this year are: *Pittsburgh Pride March and Parade* on Saturday, June 3 in Downtown and the North Shore.

We will also participate in *People's Pride PGH March and Festival* on Sunday, June 25 in Swissvale. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed and encouraged to attend. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

RCC Pride Concert — June 10 and 11

Support the Renaissance City Choir by attending their annual Pride Concert *We Dream A World*. Every June, all eyes turn toward the LGBTQIA+ community. Corporations change their branding to incorporate rainbows as queer people march, demonstrate, and party in celebration of our community. Join the RCC as they sing **for justice and stand up in pride**. This year's **Pride Concert** features selections from *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Kinky Boots*, the 2019 feature film *Harriet*, *Considering Matthew Shepard*, and the *Social Justice Songbook*. The performances will be on June 10 and 11 at 4 pm here at ELPC. Tickets are available at www.rccpittsburgh.com. Sunday's performance also has ticketing for live-stream and a *Pay-What-You-Can* option.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Next Sunday is the last Sunday for classes until Rally Day in September.

May 28 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — The May 28 class is cancelled. Today, May 21 will be the last class until Rally Day on September 10.

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) — "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening Our Souls (Part 1)" video by Dr. John Philip Newell, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A concluding 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