



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)

JUNE 11, 2023 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

The basic fact is that Christianity as it was born in the mind of this Jewish teacher and thinker (Jesus) appears as a technique of survival for the oppressed. That is because, through the intervening years, a religion of the powerful and the dominant, used sometimes as an instrument of oppression, must not tempt us into believing it was thus in the mind and life of Jesus. 'In him was life, and the life was the light of men.' Wherever his spirit appears, the oppressed gather fresh courage, for he announced the good news that fear, hypocrisy, and hatred, the three hounds of hell that track the trail of the disinherited, need have no dominion over them.

— Howard Thurman, *"Jesus and the Disinherited,"* 28-29

GATHERING MUSIC

"Come, Christians, Join to Ring"
"When Ringing Fills the Skies"

ELPC Ringers
Lloyd Larson
Lloyd Larson

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 (*Psalm 33*)

Jim and Heather Eng

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Sing to the Lord a new song.
People: Your word is upright, O God, the earth is full of your steadfast love.
Leader: Let the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of your presence.
People: Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people you have chosen to be your own.
Leader: Let us worship God!

* OPENING HYMN #408 (*music printed in bulletin*)

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jim and Heather Eng



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

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jim and Heather Eng

Gracious God, Jesus tells us that our lives are enriched by loving you and loving our neighbors. We confess that love is hard for us. We are too selfish or too pessimistic, too hollow or too **hardened, or just too tired to give ourselves to love's demands. Forgive our arrogance and our listlessness.** Cleanse our hearts that we might find the strength to do what love requires and the grace to receive what love has to give. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose love has no boundary. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Jim and Heather Eng

Leader: In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus said: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." If we are honest and confess our sin before God, we inherit the righteousness of faith revealed in Jesus Christ. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.
¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

HANDBELL ANTHEM

"Ring to the Lord a New Song"

Cathy Moglebust

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 12:1-9

Jim and Heather Eng

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children.

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.

* HYMN #161

"Woman in the Night"

NEW DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"Touch Matters"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

ELPC GOOD NEWS

Gerald McClendon and Frances Wilson

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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. Schoenewolf

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 Narthex.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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.*

* 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: We come bearing our gifts, O merciful God. They are but a portion of earth's treasure you abundantly give us. With them we also commit our time and energy to be Christ's faithful servants and ambassadors of hope in the world. Bless what we bring and all that we are to your glory. 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.

* CLOSING HYMN #547

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

AR HYDY NOS

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy



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. Heather Schoenewolf
Jim and Heather Eng
Sara Hackett
Gerald McClendon
Frances Wilson
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Summer Choir
ELPC Ringers
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Each Sunday morning, there is coffee available in the Narthex from 9 am to Noon.

◆ 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 \$100 during the summer worship schedule.

Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

10 am.....Summer Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from piano and choir and soloists. The service is also livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. Weather permitting, this service will be held in the Courtyard. Additional seating is available in the Garth Overlook Room if you prefer to sit inside.
June 18 — 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

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.

#161 — WOMAN IN THE NIGHT

1 Wom-an in the night, spent from giv - ing birth,
 2 Wom-an at the well, ques - tion the Mes - siah;
 3 Wom-an in the house, nur - tured to be meek,
 4 Wom-en on the hill, stand when men have fled;

guard our pre - cious light; peace is on the earth.
 find your friends and tell: drink your heart's de - sire!
 leave your sec - ond place, lis - ten, think, and speak!
 Christ needs lov - ing still, though your hope is dead.

Wom-an in the crowd, creep - ing up be - hind,
 Wom-an at the feast, let the righ - teous stare;
 Wom-en on the road, from your sick - ness freed,
 Wom-en in the dawn, care and spic - es bring,

touch - ing is al - lowed: seek and you will find!
 come and go in peace; love him with your hair!
 wit - ness and pro - vide, join - ing word and deed:
 ear - li - est to mourn, ear - li - est to sing!

Refrain Come and join the song, wom - en, chil - dren, men.

Je - sus makes us free to live a - gain!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Beginning with a reference to Mary giving birth to Jesus, this text describes a series of women who had important encounters with his life, ministry, death, and resurrection. The dancelike refrain celebrates how their experiences reveal that the Good News is for all people.

#408 — THERE'S A SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT



1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can-not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres-sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Doris Asare, 1962

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THERE'S A SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
9.17.9.11 w/tyndham

CCLI #689547

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have

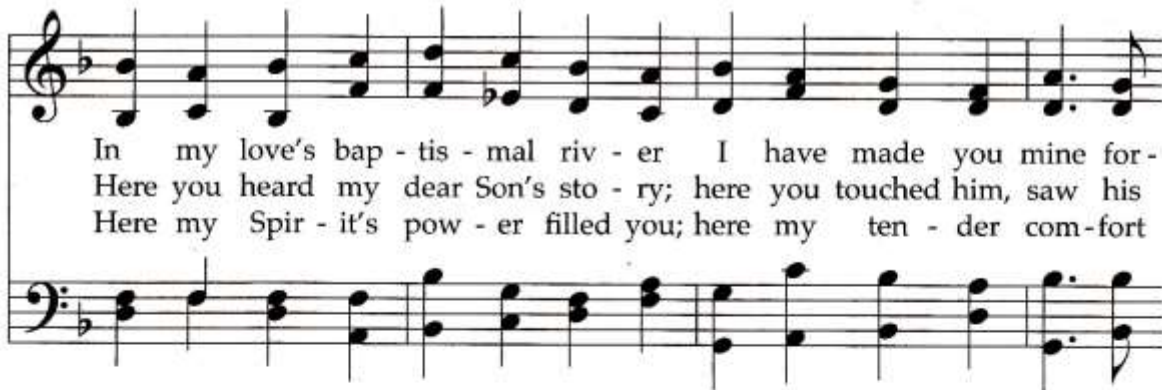
been re - vived when we shall leave this place.



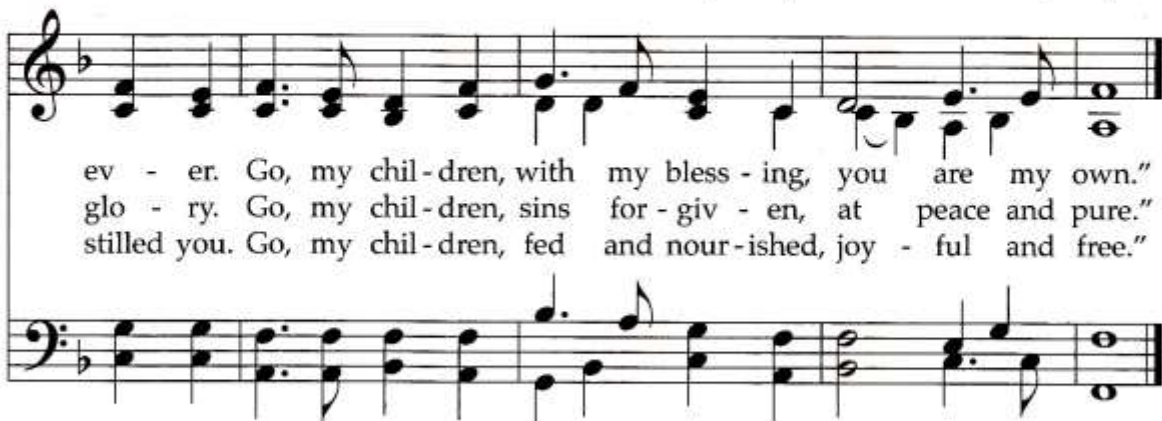
1 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.



Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort



ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

TODAY AT ELPC

Tower Tour

Please join guide Tim VanFleet for a tour of the tower after today's 10 am worship service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate. All are welcome!

Today's Deacon-On-Duty (DODs)

Every Sunday, a DOD (*Deacon-on-Duty*) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our services. The *Summer* service DOD is Linda Sanders.

Purchase Café Justo Coffee

Stop by the back of the Chapel after today's 10 am worship service to purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee. All varieties are available in ground and whole bean bags for \$10 (cash or check only). Jonah Koetke will be selling coffee today. *Note: Café Justo will be sold on the second Sunday of the month.*

Youth Feedback for the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee would like to hear what the teens of ELPC are thinking and feeling about our church because your voices are an important part of the search for our new pastor.

Join us for lunch after worship today to give your insights and ask questions. If you want to be part of the conversation, but can't make it to the meeting, let Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) know; we are happy to plan a second conversation.



Registration is Open for VCS

ELPC's 2023 Vacation Church School program will take place June 26–30 from 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is

Changemakers Lab, a place children will learn that everyone can make a difference in the world! Through five Bible stories, we'll explore examples of people who experienced and brought about change in the world around them.

You can register your child, or sign up to volunteer, using this QR code, or visit <http://tiny.cc/elpc-vcs>.



LGBTQIA+ Ministry Event — June 25

Join our faith family at the *People's Pride PGH March and Festival* on Sunday, June 25 at 11 am in Swissvale. Pride Map fliers are in the Highland Ave hallway. Come out and celebrate while we share God's love with all God's people! Please contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).

What is Juneteenth and Why is it important for ELPC to participate?

Juneteenth is the celebration of the announcement on June 19, 1865, of the release of all black people from slavery. Over two years after President Lincoln declared all enslaved persons were free, Major General Gordon Granger and the Union Army marched into Galveston to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and free the last enslaved black Americans in Texas. This represents our second American Independence Day.

A week of celebration events will take place around Pittsburgh, and the Facing Systemic Racism and the Justice Committees are sponsoring ELPC's participation in the march on Saturday, June 17 from Freedom Corner at Crawford and Center Ave. to Point State Park. We encourage congregation members to join us at 10 am to *March for Voting Rights*. The church van will be available for those who would like to ride from ELPC to Freedom Corner or ride in the parade. If marching isn't your thing, you can cheer on the celebration, beginning at 11 am, by standing along Center Ave. across from PPG Paints Arena at Frankie Pace Park, an outdoor museum/historical monument to the Hill District. You can also join us at Point State Park for the music festival, information booths, items for sale and food vendors. Bring a blanket or folding chair.

We will also be hosting a *poster-making* event on Wednesday, June 14 before the 7 pm Taizé service (which will feature gospel music) and on Friday, June 16 from 6-7:30 pm in the Maker Space at ELPC. Voting rights will be the theme of the night. We encourage families to help make creative posters and learn more about *Juneteenth*. On Friday we will share pizza and salad.

Contact Carol Chonoska (724.272.9722; carolchonoska@gmail.com) to participate in the poster making or the march.



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

Linda Benedict's sister's
husband and his sister,

Carla Depperman's friend Misael, and

Peta Harrigan Cole's friends Robert and Tracey.

Condolences to Doris Dick and family on her aunt's passing.

Sharing ELPC GOOD News

This summer, as part of our Sunday service at 10 am, we will be sharing ELPC GOOD News! Who is someone you've noticed quietly serving, giving, loving, or simply using their gifts and passion as an embodiment of the mission and vision of ELPC? As a person comes to mind, consider "telling" on them so we can see and hear God at work through our siblings as they live out the good news of the gospel, in our church and/or in their daily life. Obviously, we can't share ALL the good news at ELPC but we will do our best to show the breadth of our diverse church body. Email Pastors Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net), Heather (HeatherS@coh.net), or BJ (BJW@coh.net) your ELPC GOOD news.

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.

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).

Fridays in The Rain Garden — June 23

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 through September. Green thumbs are not required—just bring your energy, curiosity, and commitment to our church and community. The next gathering will be on Friday, June 23. Contact Don Breitbarth for more info (don.breitbarth@gmail.com).



IN OUR COMMUNITY

RCC Pride Concert — Today!

Support the Renaissance City Choir by attending their annual Pride Concert *We Dream A World*. Every June, all eyes turn toward the LGBTQIA+ community. Join the RCC as they sing for justice and stand up in pride. The final performance will be today at 4 pm here at ELPC. Tickets are available at www.rccpittsburgh.com, with ticketing for live-stream and a *Pay-What-You-Can* option.

Parking on Whitfield St — Aug 13

An outside group has applied for a permit to close Whitfield St outside ELPC on Sunday, Aug 13 to hold a mental health awareness event. If you typically park on Whitfield St on Sundays, please make alternate plans on that date.

Take Climate Action: Electrify Your Home or Car

Home and transportation electrification—coupled with greening of the electricity supply—is the current best strategy on how we can collectively reduce our climate impact. The Biden Administration's *Inflation Reduction Act* provides many substantial incentives for homeowners and renters to do so. Visit www.Rewiringamerica.org/IRAguide for more info. Prepare by planning now, and don't waste an opportunity when an appliance of yours (or your car) needs to be replaced.

The family of Heather and Jim Eng are eager to do just that. After installing an electric heat pump for their space heating and cooling in 2022, they will tackle converting their electric panel to 200 amps to better support charging EV cars, plan on gas-stove alternatives in the kitchen, and prepare for a heat pump water heater and dryer when their appliances need replacement.

You can keep up to date with their journey by visiting the Environmental Team's bulletin board or view a presentation at tinyurl.com/42x548yj. For more info, 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 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

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Chapel each Tuesday from 6-7 pm for an hour devoted to meditation. John is a retired psychologist and a long time student and practitioner of insight meditation. No experience necessary, and all are welcome!