



SUMMER WORSHIP

SUNDAY
JULY 23, 2023
10 AM



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church



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)

JULY 23, 2023 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

History, too, has a penchant for giving birth to itself over and over again, and those whom it appoints agents of change and progress do not always accept their destinies willingly.

— *Aberjhani, American historian, "Splendid Literarium: A Treasury of Stories, Aphorisms, Poems, and Essays"*

Gracious God, you have searched us and known us. You, indeed, discern our thoughts from afar. You lead us in the way everlasting as we gather to bless you for your bountiful mercy, for the compassion and care you extend to us. You surround us with a mantle that protects us from danger; our breastplate is your righteousness fulfilled in Christ Jesus. You are our shield and defender, our hope, and our comfort. We give you all praise as we assemble in Christ's name. Amen.

GATHERING MUSIC (*music printed in bulletin*)

"This is the Day that the Lord Has Made"
"Glory, Glory, Hallelujah"

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Diaper Drive

Mary Alice Lightle

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Charma Dudley

Leader: God's Spirit gathers us.
People: We are not alone.
Leader: God's Spirit calls us.
People: **We are here to discern together God's will.**
Leader: God's Spirit sends us.
People: We are to shine like the sun, bearing witness to Christ our Savior.
Leader: Let us worship God with our whole hearts, bodies, minds, and spirits!

* OPENING HYMN (*music printed in bulletin*)

"How Great Is Our God"



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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION (1 John 1:8)

Dr. Charma Dudley

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Charma Dudley

God of compassion, love, and mercy, look upon us with forgiveness as we confess our sins. Our faith is weak in the face of crisis. Our hope collapses when we are threatened or maligned. We seek our own safety and abandon those you love. We trust in objects we can create and control. We speak much and risk little. But you, O God, have given your promise that you will never forsake us. Forgive our failure to take you at your word, and forgive our faithlessness to do your will in the world.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Dr. Charma Dudley

Leader: Siblings in Christ, do not fear, for our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and **abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. God's hand shall lead us and hold us fast. So be reconciled with God and at peace with one another.** Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

RESPONSIVE HYMN (*music printed in bulletin*)

"You Can't Beat God Giving"

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 28:10-19a

Dr. Charma Dudley

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.

ELPC GOOD NEWS

Men's Fellowship

David Carl

* HYMN (*music printed in bulletin*)

"Is Your All on the Altar?"

GREEK SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:12-25

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"Adopted"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Member: Brielle Irving

OFFERING INVITATION

Mary Alice Lightle

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

“Imagine Me”

Journey Praise Team

*Imagine me, loving what I see when the mirror looks at me cause I,
I imagine me in a place of no insecurities, and I'm finally happy cause I imagine me.
Letting go of all of the ones who hurt me cause they never did deserve me. Can you imagine me?
Saying "No" to thoughts that try to control me, remembering all you told me. Lord, can you imagine me?
Over what my mama said, and healed from what my daddy did and I wanna live and not read that page again
Imagine me being free, trusting you totally. Finally I can...Imagine me.
I admit it was hard to see you being in love with someone like me, but finally I can...Imagine me.
Being strong and not letting people break me down. You won't get that joy this time around (No no)
Can you imagine me? In a world where nobody has to live afraid; because of your love, fear's gone away.
Can you imagine me?
Letting go of my past and glad I have another chance,
And my heart will dance cause I don't have to read that page again.
Imagine me being free, trusting you totally. Finally I can...Imagine me.
I admit it was hard to see you being in love with someone like me, but finally I can...Imagine me.*

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf
Adrianna Cleveland

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:	Grateful for your radical hospitality and steadfast love, we present these gifts to you, God.	
	Use them to further your will and transform our world into your new, redeemed creation.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN (*music printed in bulletin*)

“I Need You to Survive”

* CHARGE & BLESSING

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
David Carl
Dr. Charma Dudley
Sara Hackett
Mary Alice Lightle
Musicians: Gerald Savage,
Journey Music Director
Journey Praise Team
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME

Water is available in the Highland Lobby.

♦ 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.

♦ 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.
July 30 — The Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee, guest preacher.

♦ 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.

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 see one of the Pastors to attend, or 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.

THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made

I will enter God's gates
With thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter God's courts with praise
I will say this is the day
That the Lord has made
I will rejoice for God has made me glad

God has made me glad
God has made me glad
I will rejoice for God has made me glad
God has made me glad
God has made me glad
I will rejoice for God has made me glad

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made
That the Lord has made
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it

This is the day that the Lord has made
We will rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord has made

*

GLORY, GLORY, HALLELUJAH

Glory, glory, Hallelujah
Since I laid my burdens down
Glory, glory, Hallelujah
Since I laid my burdens down

Friends don't treat me like they used to
Since I laid my burdens down
Friends don't treat me like they used to
Since I laid my burdens down

I feel better, so much better
Since I laid my burdens down
I feel better, so much better
Since I laid my burdens down

Burdens down, Lord, burdens down, Lord
Since I laid my burdens down
Burdens down, Lord, burdens down, Lord
Since I laid my burdens down

Glory, glory, Hallelujah
Since I laid my burdens down
Glory, glory, Hallelujah
Since I laid my burdens down
Since I laid my burdens down
Since I laid my burdens down

*

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD

Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh

Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh
Oh, oh, oh, oh

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
All will see how great
How great is our God

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
All will see how great
How great is our God

I lift my hands
To give you glory
I lift my hands
To give you praise
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
Yeah, yeah

I lift my hands
To give you glory
I lift my hands
To give you praise
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
Yeah, yeah

I lift my hands
To give you glory
I lift my hands
To give you praise
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
Yeah, yeah

I lift my hands
To give you glory
I lift my hands
To give you praise
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
Yeah, yeah

I lift my hands
To give you glory
I lift my hands
To give you praise
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord

I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord
I'll praise you, Lord

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YOU CAN'T BEAT GOD GIVING

You can't beat God giving, no matter how you try
For just as sure as you are living
And the Lord is in heaven on high
The more you give, the more he gives to you
But keep on giving because it's really true
That you can't beat God giving
No matter how you try

*

IS YOUR ALL ON THE ALTAR?

You have longed for sweet peace
And for favor to increase
You have earnestly, so fervently
Oh, oh, you really prayed
Oh, yes you have
But you cannot find rest
Nor be perfectly blessed
Until all on the altar, until it's laid

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice?
Is it laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
Now, you can only, you can only be blessed
And have peace and sweet rest
After you have yielded unto the Lord
Your body and your soul

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice?
Of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
Now, you can only, only, only be blessed
And have peace and sweet rest
After you have yielded him
Yielded him your body and your soul
*

I NEED YOU TO SURVIVE

I need you
You need me
We're all a part of God's body
Stand with me
Agree with me
We're all a part of God's body

It is God's will that ev'ry need
Be supplied
You are important to me
I need you to survive
You are important to me
I need you to survive

I need you
You need me
We're all a part of God's body
Stand with me
Agree with me
We're all a part of God's body

It is God's will
That ev'ry need be supplied
You are important to me
I need you to survive
You are important to me
I need you to survive

I pray for you
You pray for me
I love you

I need you to survive
I won't harm you
With words from my mouth
I love you
I need you to survive

I pray for you
You pray for me
I love you

I need you to survive
I won't harm you
With words from my mouth
I love you
I need you to survive

I pray for you
You pray for me
I love you

I need you to survive
I won't harm you
With words from my mouth
I love you
I need you to survive

It is God's will that ev'ry need
Be supplied
You are important to me
I need you to survive
You are important to me
I need you to survive
*

TODAY AT ELPC

ELPC Matters: The More You Know

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 are fundamental to how we engage our faith in community together.

Our next session in this series will be held today after worship, and will offer more information on our church's 2022 finances, as requested at the February Congregational Meeting. Jim Tinnemeyer, ELPC Director of Administration and Facilities, along with Elder Tiffany Sudar, Chair of the Finance Committee, will present at this session. Join us in the Social Hall or on Zoom (Meeting ID: 188 135 194).

Church Tower Tour

Tim VanFleet will guide a tour of the church tower today after worship. Please wear closed-toe shoes and gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

Today's Deacon-On-Duty (DOD)

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 Hannah Moon.



The Chapel Market Requests Toiletry Items

The Chapel Market is in need of toiletry items, including bar soap, tooth brushes and paste, lotion, shampoo, toilet paper, etc. Donations can left in the baskets in the Highland Lobby.

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. Email Pastors Patrice (PatriceFS@coh.net), Heather (HeatherS@coh.net), or BJ (BJW@coh.net).

Fridays in The Rain Garden

Please join the Environmental Team and Gardening Crew for a morning of weeding and mulching the rain garden from 9 am to Noon on every second Friday through Sept. Contact Don Breitbarth (don.breitbarth@gmail.com).

Guest Preacher The Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee — July 30

We are excited to welcome The Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee as our guest preacher next Sunday at the 10 am service. He currently serves as the president of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He comes to the presidency after seven years of service at Wesley Theological Seminary as vice president for Campus Administration and associate dean for Community Life. He has served on the faculty of Northern Virginia Community College and is often a guest lecturer at workshops and seminars dealing with Christianity in the 21st century; religious difference; and issues affecting church leadership.



Sunday, July 30

Clean diapers are a basic need of every infant and toddler. Yet 1 in 3 families cannot afford enough diapers to keep their child clean, dry and healthy. Three in 5 parents miss work or school because they can't afford the diapers required to leave their baby in childcare.

The Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank (www.wpadiaperbank.org) has been helping families meet diaper need for more than a decade. The Diaper Bank began as an outreach at New Light Temple Baptist Church, serving families in Allegheny County through six partner agencies. Last year, the Diaper Bank provided over 2 million diapers to families in Allegheny, Washington and Westmoreland counties through 53 partner agencies.

Presbyterian Women will host a *Diaper Drive* at the Highland Ave entrance on Sunday, July 30 following our 10 am worship, until 12:30 pm.

Sizes 5 and 6 are most needed.

You can also drop off diaper donations in the laundry basket at the Highland Ave entrance.

For more info, contact PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



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

The Rev. Dr. Randy Bush,
Alysha Carroll,
Todd Hoffman,
Diane Jackson's brother-in-law Dan,
Paul Miller, and Larry Sweeny.

Condolences to the family of Denise Bupp on her passing.

Committee Meeting This Week

Thursday, July 27 @ 6 pm Faith Formation (zoom)

*For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact
Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).*

Environmental Team Book Study — Aug 3

For their next session, the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee has selected two fiction books: *Waste Tide* by Chen Quifan and *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Feel free to read one or both! And plan on joining us to discuss them on Thursday, Aug 3 at 7 pm in the Courtyard. Come at 6:30 pm for some time to socialize. Penn Hackney will lead our discussion of *Waste Tide*, and Sally Jo Snyder will lead our discussion of *Grapes of Wrath*. For more info, please contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Still Thinking About Doing a Mission Trip? — Aug 6 to 11

There's still time to register for our summer Mission Trips! High school youth in grades 8–12 are serving with North Street Mission in Wooster, Ohio from Aug 6–11. Participants in the high school summer mission trip must meet certain requirements, including participating in three service projects with ELPC.

Register online at www.ELPC.church and contact Sara Hackett with questions (SaraH@coh.net).

LGBTQIA+ Ministry — Aug 20

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's next Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, Aug 20 after worship. Join us and share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net).

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!

News From Your PNC

The Pastoral Nominating Committee along with ELPC Session, pastoral staff, and program staff spent June 10 with Michelle Snyder, the consultant ELPC contracted to assist in interpreting and understanding the data received from 301 people (yay for you!) via the CAT Scan (Congregational Assessment Tool). It was fascinating, revealing, and enlightening to begin to learn what many of you are thinking about where we are as a church presently, where we might consider heading to in the future, and what your thoughts are about new pastoral leadership.

In the coming days, ELPC's Session will prepare a summary of the CAT Scan results. The summary will be made available to our congregation to provide an interesting snapshot of the responses given. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to speak with any member of the PNC or with Pastor BJ.

The PNC's next step will be to review the data we received and to determine where we need more information from you. Stay tuned to hear about the possibility of focus groups/listening sessions this summer, and consider your willingness to serve in this way. (These groups will be open to all in our congregation; completing the CAT isn't a pre-requisite for your participation in this important work.) It would be a huge help to the PNC to learn about your views on ELPC as we work our way toward writing the MIF (Ministry Information Form).

After completing the MIF in the fall, we will submit this job/church/congregation/activities description to the Presbytery for dissemination nationally for clergy in all 50 states to see who and what ELPC is and what we are looking for.

Additionally, Jim Eng, Sara Hackett, and Linda Lane talked with some of our youth on June 12 to hear their thoughts about our church. We are working as hard as we can to learn as much as possible from all active participants in the life of ELPC.

So there you have it! Please keep us in your prayers as we continue this important work for OUR church, and also feel free to speak with any of us individually. We feel honored to serve on the PNC and we are committed to doing the very best job we can so that ELPC can continue to move steadily forward in our community.

—Polly McQueen

ELPC Pastor Nominating Committee:

Doug Booth, Bill Buchanan, David Carl, Andrea DeVries, Jim Eng, Linda Lane (*Chair*), Rebecca McGregor (*Secretary*), Polly McQueen, Antwone Wright

ELPC Gratitude Retreat at Villa Maria Retreat Center

Mark your calendars now for Nov 17–19 and plan on joining us for a time of rest, reflection, prayer, conversation, and giving thanks at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Pulaski, Pennsylvania.

Visit us online at

www.ELPC.church

to learn more about our ministries and opportunities

**SAVE
THE DATE!**