



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)

RALLY DAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Gracious God, we come this day seeking courage and hope for the future. Our world is in such peril. Heal these wounds and quiet the words of war, division, and derision. Help us to be those who bring peace in our families and communities. Banish the darkness of doubt and fear; anoint us with your light and love that we may spread the good news of your mercy to everyone. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Fantasia in G, BWV 572”
“I Was Glad”

Johann Sebastian Bach
Sir C. Hubert H. Parry
arr. Craig Garner

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and security within your towers.” (Psalm 122:1-3, 6, 7)

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* 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

James and Heather Eng

Leader: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!
People: **This day is God’s gift to us.**
Leader: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!
People: God has graciously gathered us together in this place.
Leader: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!
People: God is good and faithful. God is our worthy of our praise.
Leader: So, let us worship God in spirit and in truth!
People: Hallelujah and Amen!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #400

“I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say”

ENGLAND

CALL TO CONFESSION

James and Heather Eng

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

James and Heather Eng

Merciful God, deliver us from evil, even when it masquerades as good. Merciful God, deliver us from selfishness and vain desires that ignore the needs of others. Deliver us from irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, jealousy, and deceit that sows seeds of division and derision. Merciful God, deliver us from hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences that divide the body of Christ. Deliver us from complacency, apathy, and indifference that cause us to respond, or not, as people who love you and one another. Merciful God, turn us away from the death sin inflicts. Lead us into the abundant life. Restore the joy of our salvation. Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to forgive, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

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TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

James and Heather Eng

Leader: Relentlessly God seeks us out. With abundant grace and boundless mercy, God seeks us out.
This is good news! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #472

“Kum ba Yah”

KUM BA YAH

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

James and Heather Eng

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather 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 #699

“Fill My Cup”

FILL MY CUP

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 13:8-14

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Outstanding Debt”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. 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. 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

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

arr. Dan Forrest

Text can be found in the Glory to God hymnal, #366, verses 1, 2, 4.

* 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.	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:	Ever-present God, just as Jesus promised to be with us when two or three are gathered in his name, be among us now that these offerings may become instruments of your love and justice. In the name of Jesus, we pray.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #307

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

CWM RHONDDA

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Final from Symphony I”

Louis Vierne

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. 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
James and Heather Eng
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
Ethan LaPlaca, *Organist*
The Brass Roots:
Matthew McCormack, *trumpet*
Carlos Richter, *trumpet*
Deborah Jenness, *horn*
Taylor Jones, *trombone*
John Caughman, *tuba*
Abby Langhorst, *timpani*
Corey Beck, *percussion*
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire
Crucifer: L. Cowan
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Capt. Robert C. Hellman and Mrs. Lillian J. Hellman (whose 100th birthday would have been tomorrow), presented by their son, Michael Hellman.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Sept 17 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 17 — 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 — Resumes on Sept 18
Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture. We will meditate on the Psalms, using the translation *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill.

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 a hybrid *Inquirers' Class* TODAY in the Fellowship Room after worship (Zoom Meeting ID: 822 6745 1408) to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the pastors immediately after worship to participate.

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.

TODAY AT ELPC

Murals in our Sanctuary

The 2 murals hanging in the Chancel are by artist Steve Prince, the featured artist-in-residence at this year's Presbyterian Association of Musicians' (PAM) annual *Worship and Music Conference* in Montreat, NC.

Dr. Ed Moore brought these two murals back from Montreat and discussed displaying them at ELPC with the Worship, Music and Arts Committee. Additional info can be found at <http://tiny.cc/elpcmurals>, or by scanning this QR code.



Interested in Learning More About ELPC?

Attend a hybrid *Inquirers' Class* after today's 11 am worship service in the Fellowship Room (and on Zoom: www.us02web.zoom.us/j/82267451408) to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership.

Please see one of the pastors immediately after the service to attend, or contact Megan Leisher to register for future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

Purchase Café Justo Coffee

Stop by the Highland Ave hallway after the 11 am worship service today to purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee. All varieties are available in ground and whole bean bags for \$10 (cash or check only). Contact Ryan Booher (rabooherco@gmail.com) for more info.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

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 Tom Sturgill.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Karen Walker.



PW Bible Study: Celebrating Sabbath — Sept 11

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study *Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter* on Monday, Sept 11 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only). For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Club One Sixteen — Sept 13

Kids and youth in grades 1–12 are invited to club one sixteen, our midweek ministry. We gather each Wednesday from 4:30–7 pm for Bible Study, games, art, and dinner together, beginning Wednesday, Sept 13. For more info, please contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Fall Solstice Forest Bathing — Sept 16

Join Sandi Miller on Saturday, Sept 16 from 5:30–7:30 pm to treat yourself to peace and quiet in the forest. Meet at the fountain at the Frick Environmental Center. Please contact Sandi for info (samellaannmiller@gmail.com).

Tour the Sanctuary and Chapel — Sept 17

Jo Ellen Aleshire will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel on Sunday, Sept 17 after the 11 am worship service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

Contemplative Prayer — Resumes Sept 18

Monday morning *Contemplative Prayer* will restart on Sept 18 from 7:30-8 am. Please join Pastor BJ Woodworth on Zoom (Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992; Passcode: bestill) for 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture. This fall we will be mediating on the Psalms, using the translation of *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill.

"The More You Know" Session — Sept 24

The report of ELPC's CAT Scan results is now available at <http://tiny.cc/elpc-cat-scan>, or by scanning this QR code. Paper copies are on the info tables, and will also be presented at the next *The More You Know* session on Sept 24 in the Social Hall. Submit questions prior to the meeting to Kristin Cummings (kristinpcummings@gmail.com).



CHURCH EXTRAVAGANZA

Sept 17 after 11 am worship

On Sunday, Sept 17 after the 11 am service, the Membership & Outreach Committee is partnering with the Faith Formation Board to host a church-wide celebration and picnic on S Whitfield St.



Hot dogs (including vegan), fried chicken, and ice cream will be provided – please bring a side dish to share! There will be music, a church tour, balloon art, face painting, and games for kids.

We need help setting up, serving lunch, and cleaning up. Use this QR code to sign up to volunteer, or contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).



Come and learn more about ELPC's exciting ministries!



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

Harvey Adams, Edith Battle, Keith Beach,
JoAnn and Carol Chonoska,
Tim Engelhardt's grandfather LJ,
Debbie Hurrell's sister Beth, Chris Martin,
Hannah Moon's sister Inkyung and son Kevin,
Jon Nelson's daughter Rachel,
Pastor Heather's cousin Kristie, and Fran Wilson.
Condolences to Pamela Napier on her sister's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Tuesday, Sept 12 @ 7 pm Deacons (hybrid)
Thursday, Sept 14 @ 5:30 pm Mission Board (zoom)

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

Confirmation Class Info Meeting — Sept 24

Students in grade 8 and up who are interested in learning more about Confirmation Class, as well as their parents/caregivers, are invited to an informational meeting following 11 am worship on Sunday, Sept 24 to discuss the meaning and purpose of Confirmation, review our schedule, and answer questions. Please contact Sara Hackett to RSVP (SaraH@coh.net).

Thomas Ospital to Perform at ELPC — Oct 27

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series will kick off its 13th season on Friday, Oct 27 at 7:30 pm with a performance by organist Thomas Ospital from the Church of Saint-Eustache in Paris. The concert will be co-presented with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. Tickets are free for our ELPC community. Contact Dr. Ed Moore for details (EdM@coh.net).



Dinner and a Film — Oct 27

On Friday, Oct 27 from 5:30-8 pm, the Spiritual Life and Justice Committees invite you to an evening of fellowship, food, and formation around the ancient practice of *Sabbath*. We will gather for a simple meal together and then view the 2-hour documentary, *SABBATH: An Ancient Practice Meets the Modern World*. The film is told as a collection of short stories, exploring the history of one of the world's most important spiritual practices and its timeless relevance for a stressed-out, modern world. From the Biblical accounts of Creation, to the 10 Commandments, to the Puritans landing in the New World, to the contemporary practice of a "tech-sabbath" — *SABBATH* ties together our collective history, our health practices, our response to God's invitation and the search for a more sustainable way of life. RSVP to Norma by Oct 22 (412.441.3800 x211).

In our

COMMUNITY



March to End Fossil Fuels — Sept 17

Many world leaders will be gathered in New York City for the *U.N Climate Ambition Summit*. On Sunday, Sept 17 there will be a march to demand that these leaders invest in a clean and just future for all, and calling for an end to fossil fuel financing.

There will be a Pittsburgh bus going to the *Climate March* with 45 seats. If interested in attending and reserving a seat on the bus, please contact Fred Kraybill (fredkraybill@yahoo.com; 412.335.9449). There is no cost to ride the bus due to the generosity of the Sierra Club. The bus will leave from Monroeville at 2:45 am on Sept 17, and will return at approximately 1 am on Monday, Sept 18. More info is available at www.endfossilfuels.us.

Earth Care Conference — Sept 20 to 23

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to participate remotely or in-person in the PC(USA) Earth Care Conference *The Climate Crisis and Empowering Hope* from Sept 20 to 23. This hybrid conference will be held in Massaneta Springs Conference Center (Harrisonburg, VA) or on Zoom. The workshops are on Sept 21 and 22. Through fellowship, worship, study, and in-depth educational opportunities, Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) want participants to learn more about the current climate crisis. The virtual attendee fee is \$60; the in-person fee is \$200 (including meals); and need-based registration scholarships are available from PEC. Please inquire with Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net) and learn more at <https://presbyearthcare.org/2023-conference>.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Sept 17 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Examining Psalms and Stained Glass, facilitated by The Rev. Henk Bossers

Parenting Circle (Rm 213) — Starting Our New Year, facilitated by Trish Buben and other class members

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — "What is Religion?" video by Karen Armstrong, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A beginning discussion of the book *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship* by Fr. Gregory Boyle, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members