



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)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

When words are both true and kind, they can change the world.

— Siddhartha Gautama, most often referred to as the Buddha

PRELUDE

“Adagio in E”

Frank Bridge
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from *The Inclusive Bible*, Psalm 145:1-8)

Beverly Harris-Schenz

Call: We extol you, O God, our Ruler, and bless your name forever and ever!

Response: Every day we will bless you and praise your name forever and ever!

Call: Great you are, Yahweh, and greatly to be praised; your generosity is unfathomable.

Response: Generation after generation praises your works and proclaims your mighty deeds; they speak of the splendor of your glorious majesty.

Call: We proclaim the power of your awesome deeds and declare your greatness.

Response: We celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and sing joyfully of your generosity and justice.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #619

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

LAUDA ANIMA

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. We have become comfortable as your children and envious of your generosity towards others. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to see everything as your gift, share generously and open our arms to embrace all.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: People of God, our sins are forgiven; we are reconciled to God, free in Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore love one another and welcome all, with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips. Amen! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #399 (sing 3x) "God Welcomes All"

THEMBA AMEN

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Beverly Harris-Schenz

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Member: Linda Davis

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 #36

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

AR HYD Y NOS

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

"Radical Hospitality"

The Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

"Christus Paradox"

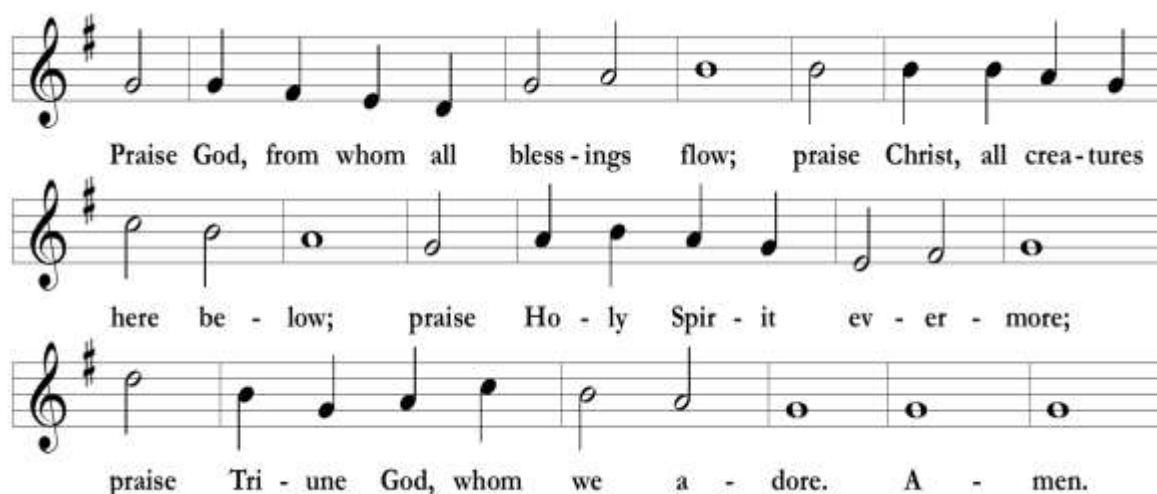
Alfred Fedak/Sylvia Dunstan

The text can be found in the Glory to God hymnal #274.

* 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. Woodworth

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:	God, you are generous. Your hands are always open, and you are constantly widening your embrace to welcome others into your family. Help us to share them with the same open hands and wide embrace in which you gave them to us. Take these gifts and use them how you see fit.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #435 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

IN BABILONE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

"Fanfare & Processional"

Ryan Croyle
Dr. Moore, organ

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. BJ Woodworth
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sara Hackett
Beverly Harris-Schenz
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Laura Ristau
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

You are invited to join us in the Social Hall after worship for our next *The More You Know* session.

◆ 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.
Oct 1 — 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.
Oct 1 — 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

Contemplative Prayer

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

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*)

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 (MeganL@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

“The More You Know” Session

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 today’s *The More You Know* session in the Social Hall after the 11 am worship service.



Confirmation Class Info Meeting

Students in grades 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 in Room 217. Please contact Sara Hackett for details (SaraH@coh.net).

ELPC Connections Event

Join the ELPC Connections group at the Pittsburgh Zoo’s *Lantern Festival* today at 6:30 pm. Buy your own ticket online (\$21 for adults). Meet other ELPC members at the front gate and walk through together. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

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 2 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.



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 *Sanctuary* service DOD is Nate Stephens.



OHM Family TeamWorks Dinner — Sept 26

Open Hand Ministries (OHM) is one of our mission partners serving the neighborhoods near ELPC. We will be supplying food for their community dinner on Tuesday, Sept 26. We are asking for volunteers to provide salads, side dishes, or desserts (to serve 6 to 8 people) for this dinner. Look for the sign-up tables at the entrances to the worship spaces, or contact Bob Forloines for more info (rforloines@gmail.com).

Seed Distribution — Oct 1

The sole food for Monarch caterpillars is the milkweed plant. Once plentiful along roadsides and farms, the widespread use of herbicides has eradicated much of it, and these beautiful and intrepid insects are now being decimated by a combination of loss of habitat, pesticide use, and climate change.

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee and ELPC youth will be distributing packets of common milkweed seeds (*Asclepias syriaca*) on Sunday, Oct 1 after both worship services, so you can plant them in a sunny spot in your yard to help. Please contact Mary Barr for info (empirephobic@gmail.com).

World Communion Sunday and East Meets West:

Tastes of Nations — Oct 1

The ELPC Board of Deacons will be hosting its annual international meal commemorating World Communion Sunday on Oct 1, following 11 am worship. Please sign up to bring a dish representative of your ethnicity, country of origin, or family favorite. Join us in the McKelvy Room for a sample of global cuisine.

October Church Tours — Oct 1 and 15

Tim VanFleet will guide a *Tower Tour* on Oct 1, and a *Hidden Places* tour on Oct 15 after the 11 am worship service. Gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

PW Bible Study: Celebrating Sabbath — Oct 2 and 3

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, Oct 2 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, Oct 3 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid). Those attending Tuesday morning are invited to bring a bagged lunch and stay for fellowship after the lesson. For more info and the Zoom link, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed for Voter Registration Drive — Oct 7

The Justice Committee is sponsoring a *Voter Registration Drive* from 10:30 am-1 pm on Saturday, Oct 7 at ELPC. Zoom training will be provided. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net) or Michele Bossers (michele2285@gmail.com) if you can volunteer to help.

Mission Opportunities with OHM: House Rehab — Oct 7

Our community mission partner, Open Hand Ministries, has resumed house rehab work days. No special skills are needed, just a desire to do some manual labor and enjoy fellowship while serving our neighbors! Volunteers are needed monthly on Saturdays (Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2) and weekly on Wednesdays from 9 am—3 pm. For more info, please contact Frank Bauerle (817.705.6856; frbauerle@yahoo.com) or Tim Raufer (412.999.4267; traufer@openhandpittsburgh.org).



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

Harvey Adams, Keith Beach,
Charlotte Calderone, Rev. Dr. Bob Chesnut,
JoAnn and Carol Chonoska,

Tim Engelhardt's grandfather LJ, Chris Martin,
Hannah Moon's sister Inkyung and son Kevin,
Cheryl Rhodes' mother Marian,

Pastor Heather Schoenewolf's cousin Kristie, Beth Urbaitis.

*Condolences to the family of The Rev. Hydrie Houston
on her passing. She was a former Associate Pastor at ELPC.*

Condolences to Pamela Napier on her sister's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Wed, Sept 27 @ 5:30 pm..... Justice (zoom)

Wed, Sept 27 @ 6:00 pm..... Neighbors (hybrid)

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

LGBTQIA+ Ministry — Oct 8

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry on Sunday, Oct 8 at 12:30 pm to share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, for more info, or to attend (wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

All Connections Potluck Lunch — Oct 15

Join the *Connections Group* for a potluck lunch on Sunday, Oct 15 at 12:15 pm in the Music Room. Please sign up online at tiny.cc/connections-potluck, or use this QR code to indicate what food you can bring to share. Contact connectelc@gmail.com for more info.



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. RSVP to Norma by Oct 22 (412.441.3800 x211).

In our

COMMUNITY



Panel on Gun Violence — Sept 27

Calvary Episcopal Church (315 Shady Ave, 15206) is hosting a panel on local efforts to combat and prevent gun violence, co-sponsored by Amnesty International Group 39, CeaseFirePA and Squirrel Hill Stands on Wednesday, Sept 27 at 7 pm. More info is at www.amnestypgh.org.

Garfield Community Farm Fall Benefit — Oct 7

Garfield Community Farm invites you to their *6th Annual Fall Fundraiser* on Saturday, Oct 7 from 7-10 pm at Tree Pittsburgh headquarters (32 62nd St, 15201). It will be an evening with appetizers from Garfield chefs, local beer, wine, and art to celebrate the impact of Garfield Community Farm, which became their own non-profit organization in 2023! Purchase tickets at www.garfieldfarm.com.

Active Living With Chronic Conditions — Oct 19 to Nov 30

Do you have an ongoing health condition, such as arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, asthma, heart disease, chronic pain, cancer, depression or any other condition that affects your daily life? Attend the in-person workshop *Active Living with Chronic Conditions* from 1-3:30 pm on Thursdays from Oct 19 to Nov 30 at Vintage, Inc. (421 N Highland Ave, 15206). This program will help you learn new ways to solve problems; how to manage your symptoms and achieve goals; and how to work with your doctor. For more info or to register, contact Tom Sturgill (412.361.5003; tsturgill@familylinks.org).

The Chapel Market requests donations of:

- **men's pants; and**
- socks and underclothes (for men and women).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Oct 1 ♦ 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) — "Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church" led by Rev. Wilda Gafney, PhD, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 2-5 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