



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)

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 1, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, even as the drums of warfare beat on through the night, even as the cries of injustice linger in the morning, even as the hustle of busyness rumbles through the day, quiet our hearts. Still our thoughts. Join us in our worship. Remember us in your mercy as we try to remember you, through the proclamation of your good news, in story and in song, and through the hospitality of your gracious table. Welcome us again, one Lord, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRELUDE

“I Come with Joy”
“Let Us Break Bread Together”

David M. Cherwien
Dale Wood
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

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

Leader: Jesus Christ summons us to answer God's call of mercy.
People: Christ gathers us and gives us power to be healed and to heal, to be forgiven and forgive.

Leader: Christ gathers us and gives us power to be freed from sin and to set others free, to tell one another and the world.

People: **God's presence is at hand. Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.**

Doug Booth and Susan Wadsworth-Booth

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #372

“O for a World”

AZMON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Doug Booth and Susan Wadsworth-Booth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

Doug Booth and Susan Wadsworth-Booth

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION



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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Doug Booth and Susan Wadsworth-Booth

Leader: People of God, our sins are forgiven. The Lord is loving, and we are reconciled to God.
Therefore, let us humble and surrender ourselves to the will of God for the glory of the Lord. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE HYMN #627 (*sing 2 times*)

“I Love You, Lord”

I LOVE YOU, LORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 13:5-13

Doug Booth and Susan Wadsworth-Booth

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 nursery suite for a time of learning together (registration form required). Children younger than age 3 are welcome to attend, if accompanied by their parents. Children will return to the worship service during the Doxology. The nursery is open for play to young children who are accompanied by their parents/caregivers during worship; the service is livestreamed into that space.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hand”

African-American Spiritual
arr. Margaret Bonds

He's got the whole world in his hand.

*He's got the woods and the waters in his hand, he's got the sun and the moon right in his hand,
He's got the whole world in his hand.*

*He's got the birds and the bees right in his hand, he's got the beasts of the field right in his hand,
He's got the whole world in his hand.*

*He's got you and me right in his hand, he's got everybody in his hand,
He's got the whole world in his hand.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Our Common Mission”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*adapted from the Confession of Belhar*)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the unity of the communion of saints of the entire human family. And we believe that this unity of the people of God must be manifest and active, in that we love one another; that we give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another; that we share one baptism together; that we eat of one bread and drink of one cup together; that we confess one name, one Lord, for one cause, with one hope, which is the height and the breadth and the depth and the love of Christ, forever and ever. Amen.

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 Narthex.*



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“City Called Heaven”

arr. Josephine Poelinitz

I am a pilgrim, a pilgrim of sorrow, I'm left in this wide world, this wide world alone.

Oh I ain't got no hope, got no hope for tomorrow. I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.

Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord. Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn.

Oh I heard of a city, a city called heaven. I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all creatures here below.

Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Joe Hajdu

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

It is right to give God

alabanzas a Dios.

thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

The Rev. Hajdu

SHARING BREAD & CUP

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles to partake of the elements. Those seated in the transepts are asked to join the procession to the front to receive communion by entering one of the pews from the outside and proceed to the center aisle after those seated in the row. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN #515

“I Come with Joy”

DOVE OF PEACE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Hajdu

Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of saints' witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #753

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Voices of the World”

Iain Farrington

“Voices of the World” was composed by Iain Farrington (b. 1977) for the Coronation of King Charles III in Westminster Abbey, London on May 6, 2023. A jazzy theme is heard at the beginning and recurs throughout the piece between traditional melodies from ten different countries, all members of the Commonwealth of Nations. Representing five continents, the melodies are drawn from popular and folk music and one of the melodies is in our Glory to God hymnal. The piece celebrates the huge variety of global music traditions and the cultural diversity within the United Kingdom. How many tunes and countries can you identify?

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. Joe Hajdu
Doug Booth
Susan Wadsworth-Booth
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Soloists: Adrianna Cleveland, Gail Mosites
Denise Sheffey-Powell, Logan Williams
Beadles: Heather Eng and Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Erich Stein
Sound: Wayne Gaines and Bobby Jarsulic

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

The ELPC Board of Deacons is hosting its annual international meal commemorating World Communion following today's 11 am worship service. Join us in the McKelvy Room for a sample of global cuisine. All are welcome!

◆ 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.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Oct 8 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Oct 8 — 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

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

Peace & Global Witness Offering Received

The *Peace & Global Witness Offering* will be received today as we celebrate *World Communion Sunday*. The proceeds from this special denominational offering empower and encourage individuals and congregations to be peacemakers in the world. Twenty-five percent of the offering is maintained locally and will be donated to the Pittsburgh Darfar Emergency Coalition.

East Meets West: Taste of Nations

The ELPC Board of Deacons will be hosting its annual international meal commemorating World Communion following today's 11 am worship service. Join us in the McKelvy Room for a sample of global cuisine.

Seed Distribution

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee and ELPC youth will be distributing packets of common milkweed seeds (*Asclepias syriaca*) after both worship services today. The milkweed plant is the sole food for Monarch caterpillars, and the widespread use of herbicides has eradicated much of it.

October Church Tours — Today and Oct 15

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

Young Adults Bowling & Pizza

All young adults (age 18–30s) are invited to join us after worship today in ELPC's original 1930s duck pin bowling alley on the ground floor for bowling and pizza. Friends and visitors are welcome! Hosted by Sonia Degenholtz. And mark your calendars for Thursday, Nov 5, to meet our young adult group for lunch at Patron Mexican Grill.

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. 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 *Journey* service DOD is Hannah Moon. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Todd Hoffman.



PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — 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; trauffer@openhandpittsburgh.org).

Children & Youth Ministry Events — Oct 7 and 8

- Sat, Oct 7: *Family Kindermusik Class, Playtime & Lunch*
Join Kindermusik educator Christa Beck at 11 am for a family musical experience for parents/caregivers and their young children (geared at children up to age 7).
- Sun, Oct 8: *Tween Corn Maze*
Following worship, youth in grades 4–6 are heading to Howling Hills Corn Maze in Allenport, PA. The cost is \$20 to cover the maze and lunch (scholarships available). We will return to ELPC at 5:30 pm. RSVP to Sara Hackett to participate (SaraH@con.net).

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. 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. Sign up online at tiny.cc/connections-potluck, or use this QR code to indicate what food you can bring. Contact connectelpc@gmail.com for more info.





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

Harvey Adams, Keith Beach,
Charlotte Calderone, JoAnn and Carol Chonoska,
Tim Engelhardt's grandfather LJ, Chris Martin,
Hannah Moon's sister Inkyung and son Kevin,

Henry Petrilli's father Lawrence,

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 the family of Ida Joiner on her passing.

Condolences to Gloria, Reva, Gianni and Rhya Ritchey on their friend Pete's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Mon, Oct 2 @ 6:30 pm.....Nominating (zoom)

Tuesday, Oct 3 @ 6:00 pm.....PNC (hybrid)

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

Updates on Our Community Partners — Oct 22

Join the Neighbors Committee as they welcome representatives from our community partners East Liberty Development, Inc., and Open Hand Ministries, as they give updates on their important work and ministries in the East End. A light lunch will be served. Zoom will be available at tiny.cc/community-updates.

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 ELPC. Contact Dr. Ed Moore (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*. RSVP to Norma by Oct 22 (412.441.3800 x211).

Volunteer Opportunity: Amen to Action — Oct 28

On Saturday, Oct 28, ELPC will be participating in packing food boxes for distribution throughout Allegheny County by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The event will be held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (616 N Highland Ave, 15206) from 8 am to Noon. Please register with the ELPC volunteer group by using this link: www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CADAA2EAAFCCF8-amen. If you have any questions, please contact the Neighbors Committee.

In our

COMMUNITY



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).

EECM Coat Drive — through Oct 13

You can help those in need by donating new or gently used winter coats to the *EECM Coat Drive*. Drop off new coats (with tags), and gently used coats, by Oct 13 at East End Cooperative Ministry (6140 Station Street, 15206, Entrance A) or at Highmark Whole Care (6033 Broad St, 15206).

The Chapel Market requests donations of:

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Oct 8 ♦ 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) — “Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening Our Souls” video by Dr. John Philip Newell, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapter 3 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