



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)

FULL INCLUSION SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

When the door of the steam bath is continually left open, the heat inside rapidly escapes through it; likewise the soul, in its desire to say many things, dissipates its remembrance of God through the door of speech, even though everything it says may be good... Timely silence, then, is precious, for it is nothing less than the mother of the wisest thoughts.

— Diadochus of Photiki (400-486)

PRELUDE

“I Love Thee, My Lord”
“Amazing Grace”

George Shearing
George Shearing

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Woodworth

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

Mike Hellman

Leader: With open arms you welcome us all. No one stands outside the circle of your mercy and love.
People: We come to say thank you for giving us an everlasting name and making us all your people, called and chosen by you from the very beginning.
Leader: Through the presence of your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see you; open our minds to receive your truth; and open our mouths to speak and sing your praise.
People: For in you alone we live and move and have our being; we are your beloved children. Thanks be to you, O God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(adapted from Religious Institute)*

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Loving God, in your wisdom you created a world rich with diversity. Today, we say “yes” to the diversity among us—within ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and our churches. We confess that at times, we turn away from this diversity and its transformative power. We confess we have rejected that which is different, forced it to be silent, or pretended that it does not exist. We passively participate in systems that privilege sameness and uproot difference. Give us the courage to live boldly into the mystery of diversity, the strength to persevere in the face of adversity, and the power to love in ways that go beyond understanding. That we might co-create with you a world where the vast diversity of all God’s children is welcomed, celebrated and flourishing.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Friends and siblings, in Jesus Christ, receive this unbelievably good news! God is with us. God welcomes us. God is for us. God forgives us. God loves us. 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 (*sing 3 times*) "God is Forgiveness"



© 2007, 2011, Les Presses de Taizé. GIA Publications, Inc. agent. OneLicense.net #A-700877

SCRIPTURE LESSON (*Inclusive Bible translation*) Acts 8:26-40

Bee Wang

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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.

ANTHEM

"I Dream a World"

Connor Koppin

text: Langston Hughes, adapt.

*I dream a world where all are free from harm or scorn, where love will bless the earth and peace its paths adorn.
I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way, where greed no longer saps the soul nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white, whatever race you be, will share the bounties of the earth and every soul is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head and joy, like a pearl, attends the needs of humankind.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

HEBEW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 56:1-8

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

"Welcomed into God's Abode"

The Rev. Woodworth

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING INVITATION

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.



The Rev. Schoenewolf

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Many Colors Paint the Rainbow”

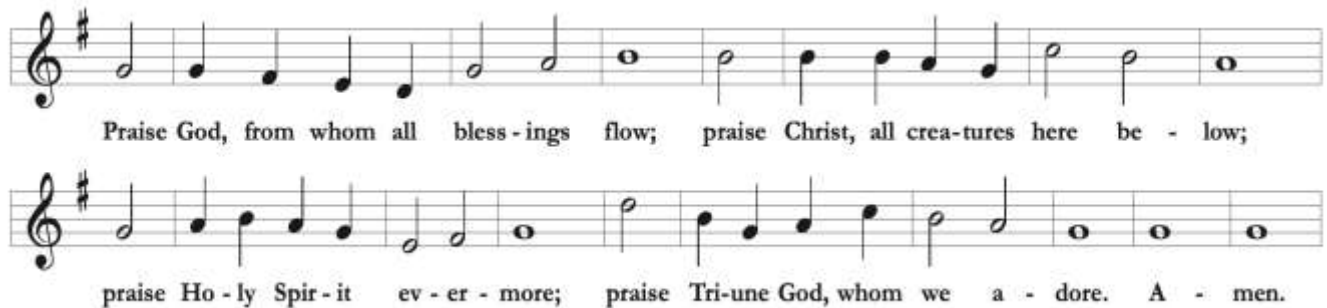
Roy Hopp

text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., adapt.

Many colors paint the rainbow arching over land and sea. Many colors form the fabric of our human tapestry. God, with joy and hope you made us by a pattern you had planned, weaving varied threads together with a skilled and loving hand. Many peoples bring their treasures, as those kings who traveled far, drawn from all earth's scattered places back to Christ, the Morning Star. All may offer gifts to others and from them receive in turn. In the gathering of nations, help us, God, to teach and learn. Many faces round the table wait for Christ, the Risen Lord, for he comes with love to meet us in the loaf, the cup, the Word. All are welcomed, none rejected, bound by Christ in unity, naming others kindred, siblings in a worldwide family. Many voices sing God's praises in a language all their own. Tongues confused at Babel's tower now are joined around God's throne. Free our hearts of hate and discord till our lives in concert blend. Alleluia, alleluia! be our anthem without end.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

The Rev. Woodworth

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: God, thank you for welcoming us all into your abode and inviting us to be full participants in your divine nature. Receive these gifts as a sign of our deep gratitude and use them to maintain justice and do what is right, expanding the breadth and depth of your all inclusive love in our church, our neighborhood and the broader world.

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.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Postlude on Hymn to Joy”

Jason D. Payne

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
Mike Hellman
Bee Wang
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Renaissance City Choir
Dr. Kym Scott, *Artistic Director*
Kathleen Andrews, *Viola*
Hope Academy Teaching Artist
Beth Goldstein-McKee, *Cello*
Hope Academy Teaching Artist
Beadle: Laura Ristau
Crucifer: Erich Stein
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

The Stewardship and Finance Committee invite you to join them for fellowship and food in the Fellowship Room. Sponsored by Membership & Outreach.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Captain and Mrs. Alfred Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Hicks, Mr. Lewis W. Hicks, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Wenman A. Hicks.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Oct 22 — 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 22 — 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

Full Inclusion Sunday & Community Sing-A-Long

This morning we welcome the Renaissance City Choir (RCC) as they join the ELPC Chancel Choir during Sanctuary worship to celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community on *Full Inclusion Sunday*. The second annual Community Sing-A-Long, cohosted by the Justice Committee, LGBTQIA+ Ministry, and RCC will be held in the Social Hall at 1:30 pm. We will be invited to sing songs composed by people in the LGBTQIA+ community. All are welcome!

Fellowship Time

The Stewardship and Finance Committee invite you to join **them for fellowship and food after today's 11 am service** in the Fellowship Room. Sponsored by Membership & Outreach. Please join us!

All Connections Potluck Lunch

Join the *Connections Group* for a potluck lunch at 12:15 pm in the Music Room. Contact connectelpc@gmail.com for more info.

Church Tour

Tim VanFleet will guide a *Hidden Places* tour after today's 11 am worship service. Gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

Confirmation Class Meeting

Today from 12:15–3 pm in the 2nd Floor Parlor, the Confirmation Class will discuss *Who Is God?*—an introduction to the three persons of the trinity and our ability to relate to God as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Please contact Pastor Heather (HeatherS@coh.net) or Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) for more info.

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 Tom Sturgill.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Peta Harrigan Cole.

Chapel Market Update

ELPC's **free clothing ministry**, *Chapel Market*, is in need of more cold weather clothes. Please consider donating your clean, gently-used fall and winter clothing for adults and children. There is a special need for coats of all sizes, and extra large sizes of sweatshirts and sweatpants. Clothing donations can be dropped off in the boxes at the South Highland Ave entrance. For more info, please contact Emily Rosenthal (ejr116@gmail.com) or Gerald McClendon (GeraldM@coh.net).

Updates on Our Community Partners — Oct 22

Join the ELPC Neighbors Committee in the Social Hall on Sunday, Oct 22 after 11 am worship as we welcome representatives from our community mission 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.

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). Download the brochure for the 13th season of *Cathedral Concerts* at <http://tiny.cc/elpcconcerts>.



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/10C0F4CADAA2EAAFFCCF8-amen. If you have any questions, please contact the Neighbors Committee.



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

Charlotte Calderone,
Melia Chandler,
Carol Chontos' friend Seth and his family,
Doris Dick's sister-in-law Kerry,
Henry Petrilli's father Lawrence,
Cheryl Rhodes' mother Marian,
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

Tuesday, Oct 17 @ 7:00 pm.....Session (hybrid)
Thursday, Oct 19 @ 6:00 pm.....M&O (hybrid)

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

Worshipping with Rev. Ross-Allam — Oct 29

We are pleased to welcome The Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam as our guest preacher on Sunday, Oct 29. He is director of the Center for the Repair of Historic Harms at the Presbyterian Mission Agency PC (USA), and was ordained as minister of Word and Sacrament by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities in 2013, where he began ordained ministry as executive director of 21st Century Academy at Kwanzaa Community Church PC(USA) and associate pastor for Social Justice at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.



Church Tour — Oct 29

Steve Evrard will lead a *Tower Tour* on Sunday, Oct 29 after the 11 am service. Please wear closed-toe shoes and gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

Mission Opportunities with OHM: House Rehab — Nov 4

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 (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).

Visit us online at
www.ELPC.church

In our

COMMUNITY



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).

Food Drive — Nov 12

Many of our neighbors suffer from food insecurity and hunger. The Neighbors Committee invites you to participate in a food drive to help stock the shelves of East End Cooperative Ministries food pantry with healthy, non-perishable foods to distribute to those in our community who are in need. On *Stewardship Sunday*, Nov 12, please bring your food donations (along with your pledge card) to worship. You can also drop off your donations at the South Highland Ave entrance prior to Nov 12.

Here is a list of suggested items: brown rice, baking soda, whole grain pastas, instant potatoes, boxed mac & cheese, low-sodium soups and broth, low-sugar canned fruits and vegetables, cans of tomato paste or sauce, tuna fish, high-fiber breakfast cereal, pancake mix and syrup, brownie mixes, peanut butter and jelly, bags of dried beans, and unsalted nuts and seeds.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Oct 22 ♦ 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) — “Meeting Jesus the Christ Again: A Conservative Progressive Faith (chapters 3-5)” with The Rev. Dr. Bob Chesnut (via Zoom), facilitated by Gwen Puza

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