



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)

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 22, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life.
— Nelson Mandela

PRELUDE

“Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier, BWV 731”
(Blessed Jesus, We Are Here)
“Prelude on Rhosymedre”

Johann Sebastian Bach

Ralph Vaughan Williams
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.
People: Y también contigo.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hollen Barmer

Leader: Lord, you have welcomed us, saying, “I know you by name, and you have found favor in me.”
People: **Lord, you have promised us, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”**
Leader: Lord, you have blessed us, saying, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you.”
People: **Lord, you have humbled us, saying, “I will proclaim my holy name in your presence.”**
Leader: Lord, show us your glory! We worship you!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #305

“Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

DARWALL'S 148TH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Hollen Barmer

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Hollen Barmer

God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours. If we are honest, we know we hold so much back. We have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own desires first. We have promised you our worship, but we give our attention to idols instead. We have promised to do your work in the world, but we put it last on our list of priorities. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Increase our generosity that we might give freely, grateful for all the gifts you have given us.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hollen Barmer

Leader: The good news remains true: God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us, helping us become imitators of Christ. 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 #701 (*sing 3 times*)

SANCTUARY

“Lord, Prepare Me”

SCRIPTURE LESSON (*Inclusive Bible*)

Matthew 5:1-12

Hollen Barmer

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Linda Davis

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.

HYMN #710 (*sing 2 times*)

“We Lift Our Voices”

OFFERING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Repairers of the Breach”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Russ Walker

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

Tiffany Sudar

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

“O How Amiable”

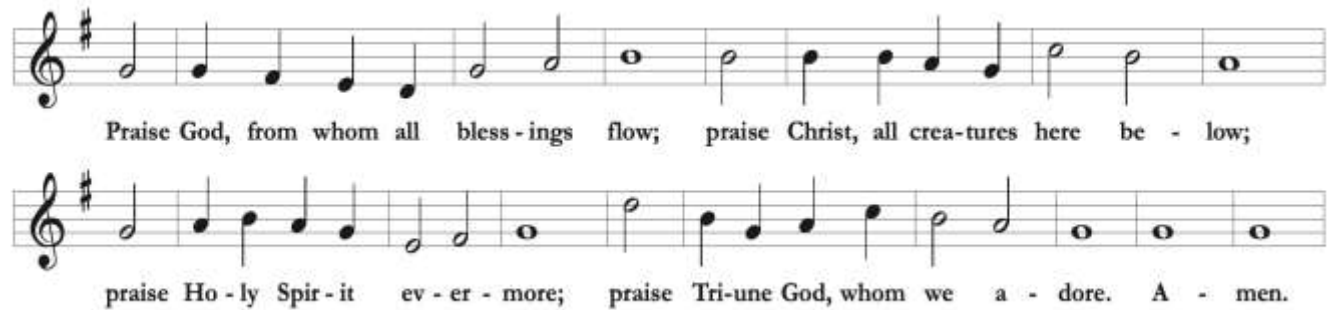
Ralph Vaughan Williams

*O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.
My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young;
even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be always praising thee.
The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork.
O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
Russ Walker

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:	We trust you, Lord God, to multiply the blessings these gifts represent, as we pour out your love and grace on those who long to hear your word to them, to see your power at work within them, to feel your comfort beside them, through the generous gifts of your Spirit.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #295

“Go to the World!”

SINE NOMINE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Toccata Pontificale”

Gordon Young
Dr. Moore, *organ*



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: Hollen Barmer
Linda Davis
Tiffany Sudar
Russ Walker
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire
Crucifer: Michael Casey
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join the ELPC Neighbors Committee in the Social Hall after the service 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.

◆ 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 29 — The Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Oct 29 — The Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam 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

Updates from Our Community Partners

Join the ELPC Neighbors Committee in the Social Hall after the 11 am service 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.

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 Molly Davidson-Welling. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Yodit Betru.



ELPC Officer Nominations for 2024

The congregation is invited to nominate members of ELPC for the office of Elder, Deacon, and next year's Nominating Committee. The Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) will prayerfully consider all recommendations submitted by the congregation as they prepare a slate for terms starting in 2024. Guidelines and nomination forms are available in the church's mailroom and on the church website. Committee members include: Damon Bethea, Michele Bossers, Andrea DeVries, Jessica Gianotta, Bill Johnson, Josh Mattila, Jill Millard, and Drew Simpson.

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/elpccconcerts>.



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 today (412.441.3800 x211).



Worshiping 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. Please contact Frank Bauerle (817.705.6856; frbauerle@yahoo.com) or Tim Raufer (412.999.4267; trauffer@openhandpittsburgh.org).



PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — Nov 6 and 7

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, Nov 6 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, Nov 7 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.





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,
Cheryl Rhodes' mother Marian,
Beth Urbaitis.

*Condolences to Henry Petrilli and his family
on his father's passing.*

*Condolences to Jim Tinnemeyer and his family
on his father-in-law's passing.*

Committee Meeting This Week

Thursday, Oct 26 @ 6:00 pm.....Faith Formation (zoom)

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

Fall Garden Cleanup and Spring Tulip Planting — Nov 11

Please join the *Garden Crew* on Saturday, Nov 11 for our final volunteer day of 2023. We will remove annual flowers from the Highland Ave entrance, the Courtyard, the children's play yard, and plant spring tulips at the South Highland Ave entrance.



Green thumbs are not required — just bring a generous spirit and a pair of work gloves to the Highland entrance around 9 am. We will be finished before noon. Free donuts and *Garden Crew* T-shirts for everyone! Please contact Don Breitbarth for more info (donbreitbarth@gmail.com).

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.

In our

COMMUNITY



Voter Education Materials on the Upcoming General Election
The League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh (LWVPGH) is a nonpartisan organization that neither supports nor opposes any candidate or political party, and their mission is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in their government. Please visit their website (www.lwvpgh.org) to prepare for the Nov 7 General Election.

ELPC Gratitude Retreat — Nov 17 to 19

As we approach Thanksgiving, look towards Advent, and ponder the end of 2023, it is a great time to take a weekend in community with others and slow down, reflect, pause, pray and forget not all of God's benefits at a *Gratitude Retreat* at Villa Maria Retreat Center in Pulaski, PA from 6 pm on Friday, Nov 17 to 11 am on Sunday, Nov 19.



The retreat will flow in the simple rhythm of **Stop... Look...Go...** We will gather in prayer and reflection and then scatter for time alone and quiet, in the morning, at noon, and in the evening. Friday night we will STOP, get quiet, be still, and build stop signs in our lives. Saturday we will LOOK, listen, smell, taste, and hear the richness, notice the connections, drink in the beauty, smell the goodness and savor what is being graciously given to us in this moment or season of our life. Then Sunday we will GO! We will ponder what gratitude practices we want to incorporate into our lives so we may stay awake to God's goodness in our everyday ordinary lives.

RSVP to Norma by Sunday, Nov 5 (412.441.3800 x211). Cost options are:

1. Friday-Saturday | Shared Bath | \$70
 2. Friday-Saturday | Private Bath | \$110
 3. Friday-Sunday | Shared Bath | \$85
 4. Friday-Sunday | Private Bath | \$135
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SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Oct 29 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Combined Adult Classes

Next Sunday at 9:45 am in the Social Hall, please join the Facing Systemic Racism Committee and The Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam, director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Center for Repair of Historical Harms, for a combined class. Rev. Ross-Allam will also be our guest preacher at both the Journey and Sanctuary worship services.