



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOVEMBER 19, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

O God; by your Spirit let us see your wonder. For your justice outruns our sense of fairness; your love overwhelms our deepest affections. Open our eyes, unstop our ears, and show us your most excellent way: for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

### PRELUDE

“Let All Things Now Living”

David Cherwien

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Now Thank We All Our God (Marche Triomphale)”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert/Kevin McChesney

The Brass Roots

Ryan Croyle, *organ*

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### \* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

Coleman and Linda Lane

Leader: Clothe yourselves with faith and love; be confident in your salvation in Christ Jesus.

People: The Lord is with us! Thanks be to God!

Leader: Let us worship God.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #612

“We Praise You, O God”

KREMSER

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Coleman and Linda Lane

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Coleman and Linda Lane

Almighty God, you have shown us the ways of justice and nurtured us with love. Even so, we have not lived according to your will. When we are oppressed or unjustly accused, we cling to fear and forget to trust in your deliverance. When we are giddy with power and abuse the rights of others, we hold tight to our privilege and forget your laws. Have mercy on us, Lord, for we are weak and prone to disobedience. Hear our confession and respond to us with kindness, that we might turn to you again, and live in equity and peace; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Coleman and Linda Lane

Leader: We belong to Jesus Christ. Therefore we need not fear: for he lived for us, he died for us, he was raised for us and prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

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

PRAYER IN HONOR OF TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Schoenewolf

EPISTLE LESSON (*Inclusive Bible translation*)

Coleman and Linda Lane

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.*

\* HYMN #699

“Fill My Cup”

FILL MY CUP

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:14-30

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

“Risky Business”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Women Thank Offering

Mary Alice Lightle

OFFERING INVITATION

Mary Alice Lightle

*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

“Jubilant Song”

Allen Pote  
Based on Psalms 90, 96

*Sing to the Lord a jubilant song. Rejoice and sing and let the earth be glad.  
Let the heavens be filled with joy, and a jubilant song.*

*Sing alleluia to the Lord. Alleluia! Tell of God's salvation from day to day.  
Shout God's marvelous works among the people. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.*

*Sing to the Lord a jubilant song...*

*Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.  
Before the mountains were made, or the land and the sea were born.  
From age to age you are God, and we pray for the coming of your Kingdom.  
We shall rejoice, we shall be glad all the days of our lives.*

*Sing to the Lord a jubilant song...*

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

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise Christ, all crea-tures  
here be - low. Praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.  
Praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore. (Interlude) A - men.

\* 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:	For all that you are and all that you do, we give you thanks, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We wait in hope for the coming of your realm and offer these gifts to further your kingdom on earth; in Jesus' name.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #716 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

BEACH SPRING

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

"Now Thank We All Our God"

arr. Virgil Fox  
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](http://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. Heather Schoenewolf  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
Sara Hackett  
Coleman and Linda Lane  
Mary Alice Lightle  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Ryan Croyle, *Organist*  
*The Brass Roots:*  
Carlos Richter, *Trumpet*  
Christopher Wilson, *Trumpet*  
Deborah Jenness, *Horn*  
Taylor Jones, *Trombone*  
John Caughman, *Tuba*  
Beadle: Ian Kuchera  
Crucifer: Youth  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Please join us in the McKelvy Room for our second annual *Pie Festival*. All are welcome to come enjoy pie and other sweet treats while we connect with each other before the Thanksgiving holiday.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are given by Presbyterian Women in honor of all the women of East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
*Nov 26 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.*  
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.  
*Nov 26 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth 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

*Note: No service on Wednesday, Nov 22.*

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](mailto:MeganL@coh.net)).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### PW Thank Offering

The *PW Thank Offering* will be received during worship today. Make checks payable to *Presbyterian Women in ELPC* and write "PW Thank Offering" in the memo line. For more info, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

### Pie Festival

Please join us as we give thanks for our many blessings with the return of our *Pie Festival* today after the 11 am service in the McKelvy Room.

### Family Swim Event

The Children and Family Ministry Team is hosting a swim party for families with young kids and elementary-age students at Shaler Elementary School (700 Scott Ave, Glenshaw 15116) from 12:30-2:30 pm today. Pizza will be provided. Please see Sara Hackett immediately after the service to attend.

### Forum on the Sudan and South Sudan

The Sudanese Community of Pittsburgh is sponsoring a *Forum on the Sudan and South Sudan* from 1-4 pm in the Music Room today. The speakers are Gaurav Bansal, Senior Sudan Desk Officer at the State Department, and Esther Sprague, ACT Founder for Sudan. There will be food and refreshments. This event is hosted by the ELPC Peace Committee.

### 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 Nate Stephens.

### Giving Tree

Please help families and children have a blessed Christmas by participating in the *Giving Tree*. Details are highlighted in the next column.

### 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.

## Giving Tree

Sign up at [tinyurl.com/ELPC-GivingTree2023](https://tinyurl.com/ELPC-GivingTree2023) for specific gift requests and to make financial donations to assist with the purchase of retail gift cards.

*Deacons will be available to assist and answer questions Today and on Sundays, Nov 26, Dec 3; and at Taizé on Wednesday, Nov 29.*

*Gifts should be dropped off at the church no later than Sunday, Dec 10.*

### Church Tour — Nov 26

An *Underground* tour will be led by Tim VanFleet on Sunday, Nov 26. Please wear closed-toe shoes, and gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service to participate. All are welcome!

### Volunteers Needed to Decorate Sanctuary — Nov 26

ELPC is seeking volunteers to decorate our Sanctuary following 11 am worship on Sunday, Nov 26 for about an hour. Single persons, families, couples are all welcome. Children and youth under 12 years old must be supervised by their parent/guardian. A plan and decorations will be prepared in advance so volunteers can immediately begin. Contact Henk Bossers (412.400.5970) or Carla Depperman (412.820.2506) if you can help.

### PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — Dec 4 and 5

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, Dec 4 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, Dec 5 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.



## No Taizé

on the Eve of Thanksgiving  
WEDNESDAY, NOV 22

We resume on Nov 29,  
preparing for Advent



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

Melia Chandler,  
Doris Dick's sister-in-law Kerry, and  
Janet Pollard's son, mother, and former husband.

*Condolences to Tim Engelhardt on his uncle's passing.*

*Condolences to Beverly Harris-Schenz on her mother's passing.*

*Condolences to Joel and Beth Minnigh  
on their sister-in-law's passing.*

*Condolences to Cheryl Rhodes on her mother's passing.*

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#### Committee Meetings This Week

Tuesday, Nov 21 @ 7:00 pm ..... Session (hybrid)

Wednesday, Nov 22 @ 5:30 pm ..... Justice (zoom)

The church building is closed on  
Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

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#### Blue Christmas Service — Dec 8

ELPC's Board of Deacons will host our annual *Blue Christmas Service* on Friday, Dec 8 at 7 pm in the Chapel. This special service offers comfort and healing in a time of darkness, and to help people hold onto hope. Join us for a meditative time of prayer, reflection, and singing.

#### Christmas Pageant — Dec 10

Our annual *Christmas Pageant* will be on Sunday, Dec 10. Please plan on joining us for this special re-telling of Jesus' birth! Practice for kids (birth through grade 8) will be on Saturday, Dec 9 from 9:30–11 am. Please contact Sara Hackett for details (SaraH@coh.net).

#### LGBTQIA+ Ministry Gathering — Dec 10

You are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry on Sunday, Dec 10 at 12:30 pm to share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcomed. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

#### "Ask the Expert" Offering from the Environmental Team

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee now offers the *Ask the Expert* pilot for the ELPC faith family. Do you have a home project that could benefit from advice on how to make it more environmentally friendly? Maybe you'd like to replace windows and are looking to learn which companies and models are more energy efficient? Or need a water heater replacement, and would like to learn about the government incentives? Or interested in solar? Several people have done these things already and are willing to answer your questions in a phone conversation. *We do not endorse any specific products or services.* Share project details, your phone number, and preferred call times via email to [e.team.elpc@gmail.com](mailto:e.team.elpc@gmail.com).

In our

## COMMUNITY



#### Thanksgiving Community Brunch — Nov 23

All are invited for a free, non-traditional, home-cooked Thanksgiving community brunch on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 23, from 11 am-3 pm at Sixth Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church (6556 Shetland St, 15206). Meals and can be delivered to seniors and the disabled (mileage restrictions). No carry-out meals available. Please RSVP by Nov 20 by calling 724.315.7710.

#### Pittsburgh Youth Chorus Winter Concert — Dec 3

Tickets are now on sale for the Pittsburgh Youth Chorus *Winter Concert* on Sunday, Dec 3 at 4 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary. Please visit [www.pittsburghyouthchorus.org](http://www.pittsburghyouthchorus.org) for more info and to purchase tickets.

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#### Volunteers Needed — Dec 15

The annual *Christmas in East Liberty* concert is on Friday, Dec 15 at 7:30 pm. If you are able to help greet and usher for this event, please contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net). This is one of our largest events each year and our greeters and ushers are always an important part of showing our hospitality to our guests.

#### Save the Date: All Church Retreat — May 3 to 5, 2024

ELPC's *All Church Retreat* will be from May 3-5, 2024 at Lutherlyn Camp (Prospect, PA). Whether you join us for the whole weekend or for Saturday only, we will have delicious meals, time to rest in creation, and intentional community building activities. Workshops and worship will be intergenerational. Registration and details will be made available in February 2024.

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Nov 26 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am**

♦ ADULTS ♦

Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm) — Exploring the scripture passages represented in our Sanctuary's stained glass windows, facilitated by The Rev. Henk Bossers

Parenting Circle (Rm 213) — Exploring how our faith builds and nourishes our family lives, and parent/child relationships, facilitated by Trish Buben and other class members

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — "Overcoming Toxic Fundamentalism" video by Philip Yancey, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapter 9 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