



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)

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2023 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

As we learn to give thanks for all of life and death, for all of this given world of ours, we find a deep joy. It is the joy of trust, the joy of faith in the faithfulness at the heart of all things. It is the joy of gratefulness in touch with the fullness of life.

— Brother David Steindl-Rast (1926)
*an Austrian-American, scholar, and Benedictine monk,
known to many as the “grandfather of gratitude”*

PRELUDE

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”
“Song of Peace”

Tim Fields
Jean Langlais
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

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 (Psalm 95:1-7a)

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

Leader: Come, let us sing joyfully to God! Raise a shout to our rock, our deliverance!
People: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and sing our praises with joy.
Leader: God, in your hands are the depths of the earth and the mountain peaks are yours.
People: Yours is the sea, for you made it, the dry land as well, for your hands formed it.
Leader: Come, let us bow down and worship; let us kneel before Yahweh, our maker.
People: For you are our God, and we are the people you shepherd, the flock under your care.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #263

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

CORONATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

God of power and might, thank you for the power you put to work in Christ when you raised him from the dead and seated him at your right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion. We confess the ways in which we still take orders from those lesser rulers and authorities. Forgive our willing allegiance to powers with no rightful claim on us. Forgive our submission to the status quo, the bottom line, the daily grind. Forgive the ways in which these false gods have shaped our imaginations and drained our spirits. Forgive us for underestimating your power at work in us. By your mercy and power, enlighten the eyes of our heart. Give us vision to see all things as under your authority. Resurrect courage and compassion in us that we might bear witness to your reign.

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

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TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

Leader: Friends and siblings, God seeks the lost sheep and feeds them with justice. Forgiven and freed, turn, then, and live in Christ our Lord. 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 #227 (please sing 3 times)

REMEMBER ME

"Jesus, Remember Me"

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON (Inclusive Bible translation)

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

Psalms 100

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 #451

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

OPEN MY EYES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-23

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

"Gratitude, Enlightenment and Fullness"

The Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Woodworth

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.

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE FOR MISSION

Tiffany Sudar

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

"Jubilate Deo"

David Schelat
Based on Psalm 100

O be joyful in the Lord all ye lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before God's presence with a song.

*Be ye sure that the Lord is God: it is God that hath made us and not we ourselves;
we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.*

*O go your way into the gates with thanksgiving and into these courts with praise;
be thankful unto God and speak good of God's Name.*

For the Lord is gracious; God's mercy is everlasting; and God's truth endureth from generation to generation. O be joyful!

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Woodworth
Sara Hackett

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:	Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for your love in Jesus Christ. Accept our offering in union with Christ's offering for us. Confirm in us the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, that we may testify to the sovereignty of God's love. Through Christ, with the Holy Spirit, and all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #268

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

DIADEMATA

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Richard Proulx
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. BJ Woodworth
Liturgists: Sara Hackett
Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler
Tiffany Sudar
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Laura Ristau
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are sponsored by Tamara Golden in loving memory of her mother, Gail Noden, and grandparents, George and Norma Noden.

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. First Sunday in Advent
Dec 3 — The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy is preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. First Sunday in Advent
Dec 3 — The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy is 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

Church Tour

An *Underground* tour will be led by Tim VanFleet today. 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

ELPC is seeking volunteers to decorate our Sanctuary following 11 am worship today 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.

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

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.



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.

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.



Giving Tree

Sign up at 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 Sunday Dec 3;
and at Taizé on Wednesday, Nov 29.*

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

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.



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

Melia Chandler, Jeff Parsons,
Doris Dick's sister-in-law Kerry,

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.

In our

COMMUNITY



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 for more info and to purchase tickets.

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.

Donations for The Chapel Market

The *Chapel Market* is in need of toiletry items and cold weather clothes. Donations can be dropped off in the boxes at the South Highland Ave entrance.

Contemplative Prayer — Mondays

Please join Pastor BJ Woodworth on Zoom (Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992; Passcode: bestill) for Monday morning *Contemplative Prayer* from 7:30-8 am for 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture. This fall we will be mediating on the Psalms, using the translation of *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill.

Meditation Hour — Tuesdays

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to join John Benedict in the Chapel each Tuesday from 6-7 pm for an hour devoted to meditation. John is a retired psychologist and a long time student and practitioner of insight meditation. No experience necessary, and all are welcome!

The Chapel Market Requests Toiletry Items

The Chapel Market is in need of toiletry items, including bar soap, tooth brushes and paste, lotion, shampoo, toilet paper, etc. Donations can be left in the baskets in the Highland Lobby. Fall and winter clothing donations are also being accepted.

Download the ELPC App

ELPC published a mobile app to serve as a hub for all ELPC-related news, events, and digital offerings. On the app, you can stream live and archived worship services and concerts, watch sermons, listen to our Taizé podcast, download bulletins, browse events, connect with our social media pages, read up-to-date news, and more.

Volunteers Needed to be Beadles and Crucifers

There are many ways to participate in our worship services! We are currently seeking volunteers to be a Beadle or Crucifer at our 11 am Sanctuary worship service. If you would like to help, or have questions about these roles, **please speak to one of today's Beadles, or email Mario Seneca** (seneca459@hotmail.com).

Do You Speak Spanish and Want to Participate in Worship?

If you would like to read the Spanish phrases during our worship, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

December 3 ♦ 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) — **"Examining troubling words of Jesus from an historical, Jewish perspective"** video with Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapter 10 and conclusion 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.