



# 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)*

## JANUARY 7, 2024 – 11AM BAPTISM OF THE LORD

### PRELUDE

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”  
“Prelude for the Introit of Epiphany”

arr. Wayne L. Wold  
Maurice Duruflé

### TIME OF PREPARATION

God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. You sit enthroned above the floods of life. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. Amen.

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### \* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

Carla Depperman

Leader: In the beginning, at the dawn of creation, God’s Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep

People: **God is a God of life and new life, not just for some, but for all.**

Leader: God parted the waters of the Red Sea to lead the Israelites from slavery to liberation

People: **God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary’s womb.**

Leader: Jesus showed us how to live by washing his disciple’s feet with water.

People: **Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, who was the first to proclaim that he was the Christ.**

Leader: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

People: **Today we celebrate that Jesus is the firstborn in a large family – God’s family!**  
**Praise be to God!**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #26

“Earth and All Stars”

EARTH AND ALL STARS

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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## January 7 • Baptism of the Lord

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

### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Jesus accompanies us on life's journey, offering abundant mercy and bountiful forgiveness along the way. Hear the good news of the Gospel.

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

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Praise God!**

### \*REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

#### SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #480

"Take Me to the Water"

TAKE ME TO THE WATER

### 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 Chapel for a time of learning together. Children younger than age 3 are welcome to attend, if accompanied by their parents. Parents and caregivers should meet their children in the back of the Chapel during the Doxology, when children will return to the worship service.*

*The nursery is open to young children who are accompanied by their parents/caregivers during worship (there will be no staff/volunteers present); the service is livestreamed into that space.*

### GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:4-11

Children

### \*HYMN # 850

"In the Deep Unbounded Darkness"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

The Rev. Schoenewolf

### SERMON

"Back to the Beginning: Origin Stories"

The Rev. Schoenewolf

### TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(The Nicene Creed)*

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen

### OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Woodworth

*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.*



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## January 7 • Baptism of the Lord

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

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day”

Richard Shepherd

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day,  
I would my true love did so chance  
to see the legend of my play,  
to call my true love to my dance;

Sing O my love,  
This have I done for my true love.

Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
Of her I took fleshly substance.  
Thus was I knit to all of nature,  
to call my true love to the dance.

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,  
So very poor; this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
to call my true love to my dance.

Then afterwards baptized I was;  
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Creator’s voice heard from above,  
to call my true love to my dance.

### \* 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. A - men.

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# January 7• Baptism of the Lord

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## — SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Woodworth

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.**

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.**

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

### 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 not able to come forward will be served in their seats.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Woodworth

**God of all of creation: We praise you for claiming us as your beloved and for nourishing us in this communion meal. Unite us in ministry, transform us in your grace, and strengthen us to serve you-at the beginning of this new year, and always. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.**

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #490** (*music printed in bulletin*)

BEACH SPRING

“Wash O God Your Precious Children”

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Schoenewolf

### POSTLUDE

“In Dir ist Freude” BWV 615  
(In you is Gladness)

Johann Sebastian Bach



## January 7 • Baptism of the Lord

*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. BJ Woodworth  
Sara Hackett  
Carla Depperman  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Beadles: Polly McQueen  
Mario Seneca  
Crucifer: Eric Stein  
Sound: Tim Benedict  
Wayne Gaines

### ♦ SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

### ♦ 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](mailto:wilson.franr@gmail.com)). The cost is \$200. *Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade ([www.bloombrigade.com](http://www.bloombrigade.com)).*

### ♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

JANUARY 14, 2024

8:45 am .....**Journey Worship.** An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall. The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am .....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. 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

#### Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person at 6 pm in the Sanctuary (before the 7 pm Taizé Prayer service).

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

#### Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month

## 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. Contact Megan Leisher to register or for more information ([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).


# Wash, O God, Your *Precious Children*

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B $\flat$



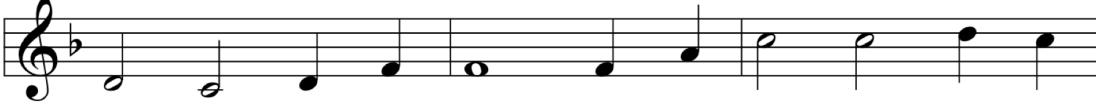
1 Wash, O God, your pre - cious chil - dren, new - born crea - tures  
2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may  
3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) F (Bm) Dm



of your womb. Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like  
we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of  
all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) B $\flat$  (D) F (A) C




Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and  
bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our  
lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) Dm (F#m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B $\flat$  (A) C (D) F



spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;  
foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in  
fore you, wa - ter - washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) Dm (G) B $\flat$  (D) F



send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.  
liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.  
lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

## TODAY AT ELPC

### 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 **Jo Ellen Aleshire**.



### PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — Jan 8

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, Jan 8 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only). For more info and the Zoom link, email [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com).

### LGBTQIA+ Ministry Gathering — Jan 14

You are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Jan 14 to share conversation and lunch. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend or for more info ([Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x218).

### Adult Education Series — Begins Jan 28

All are welcome to the first-ever LGBTQIA+ Ministry-hosted Adult Education hour on three consecutive Sundays on Jan 28, Feb 4 and 11. The topic will be examining what the Bible does and does not have to say about homosexuality. This series will be led by our pastors and will be in the McKelvy Room.

### Book Launch- Jan 28

The Facing Systemic Racism Committee (FSR) and the Faith Formation Board are co-sponsoring a Book Launch of Beverly Harris-Schenz's new book ***Living While Black: My Experience with Everyday Racism*** on Sunday, January 28, 2024, 1:30-3:30 pm in the Social Hall. Beverly is a member of the congregation and active in the FSR. She will present an "interactive reading" in which she will read personal stories from her book and engage the audience in a discussion of the issues presented. All congregational members, their children, friends, and the general public are warmly invited.

### Wintering Retreat- Feb 2 to 4

Join us for a time of rest and retreat, community and conversation and play and prayer from Feb 2-4 at Villa Maria Retreat Center. Lean into the simple, slow, and still rhythms of winter. The retreat schedule will flow naturally with morning, midday and evening prayers that gather us together and scatter us in time alone, inviting us into community and sending us into solitude, stillness, and silence. Consider the gift and invitation of winter in the words of Katherine May: *Plants and animals don't fight the winter; they don't pretend it's not happening and attempt to carry on living the same lives that they lived in the summer. They prepare. They adapt. They perform extraordinary acts of metamorphosis to get them through.* (taken from "Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times") RSVP to Norma by Jan 21 (412.441.3800 x211).

#### Cost options:

1. One Night (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) Shared Bath | \$70
2. One Night (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) Private Bath | \$110
3. Two Nights (Fri-Sun) Shared Bath | \$85
4. Two Nights (Fri-Sun) Private Bath | \$135

### "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 or are 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).

### 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.

### 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!



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

Dr. Linda Lane's sister, Rev. Gail Bowman,  
Dr. Charma Dudley's friend John and family,  
Andrea DeVries and family, Pam Kimmel, Sondra  
MacArtney,

Doris Dick's sister-in-law Kerry, Karen Fraser,  
Peta Harrigan-Cole's brother Tony

*Rachelle Calfee would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards,  
and expressions of sympathy.*

### 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. The duties of the Beadle include processing at the beginning of the service with the Bible, and the Crucifer also processes while carrying the cross. 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).

### Taizé Podcast Now Available

If you are unable to come to our Taizé services in person on Wednesdays at 7 pm, stream or download a 15-minute contemplative recording each week. Each podcast includes a brief time of centering, music, a meditation, and a closing prayer. You can find a link to listen to the recordings at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church), in our *This Week in Worship* email news flash each Friday, or in our new app.



## All Church Retreat May 3 to 5, 2024

ELPC's *All Church Retreat* will be 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 available in February.

Contact Sara Hackett

### 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.

Visit us online at  
**[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)**

to learn more about our ministries and opportunities  
at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**9:45 to 10:45 am**

♦ ADULTS ♦

**Journey with Scripture (Fellowship Rm)** - In this video, mathematician, philosopher and Christian apologist John Lennox gives a remarkable discussion about finding God amidst suffering and evil.

**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)** - The Loud Absence: Where is God Amidst Suffering and Evil? In this video, mathematician, philosopher and Christian apologist John Lennox gives a remarkable discussion about finding God amidst suffering and evil.

**Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm)** -A discussion of the Introduction and chapter 1 and 2 of [Between the Dark and the Daylight](#), by Joan Chittester.

♦ CHILDREN & YOUTH ♦

**Nursery (under 3)** — Nursery Suite, Room 110a

**Preschool** — Nursery Suite, Room 110b

**K-3rd grade** — Room 206

**4th-6th grade** — Room 211

**7th-12th grade** — Second Floor Parlor