



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)

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 28, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continually return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to... the Light Within, is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative Life that presses to birth within us. It is a Light Within that illumines the face of God and casts new shadows and new glories upon the human face.

— Thomas Kelly (1893-1941), a Quaker mystic

PRELUDE

“Air for Organ”

Gerre Hancock
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

Zo Zielinski

Leader: I lift my eyes up to the mountains, from where does my help come?

People: My help comes from the One who made heaven and earth.

Leader: We look not to the mountains or valleys, even heaven or earth,

People: For God is found among us.

Leader: **Wherever two or three are gathered in Christ’s name,**

People: God is here among us.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of Creation, the God of the People, the God of Community.

People: Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is The Way. Let us worship together in faith.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #321

“The Church’s One Foundation”

AURELIA



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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Forgiving God, we confess that we are conformed to this world. We conform to this world's frantic pace, too hectic to notice the daily blessings you provide. We conform to this world's reckless waste, exploiting what you entrust to our care. We conform to this world's shallow values, oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us. We conform to this world's impatient attitudes, preferring the latest instead of the lasting. Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Leader: If it had not been for you, O God, who kept us and watched over us, we would have been lost in sin. But you kept us and watched over us. And so, we are safe, helped and forgiven. Our help comes from you, the Maker of heaven and earth. 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 #789 *(refrain only; sing 3 times)*

SARANAM

“Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come”

Jesus, Savior, Lord, now to you I come. Saranam, saranam, saranam.

You're my rock, my refuge, my heavenly home. Saranam, saranam, saranam.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 121

Bee Wang

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 #327

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“Who Am I?”

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.

* 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. Woodworth



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Kyrie” (from *Gospel Mass*)

Robert Ray

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



* 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 promising to build your church. Thank you for building upon our simple confession of who you are and our humble willingness to follow you. Use these gifts to propel and advance work of your Kin-dom of justice, hope, love, and peace on this earth as it is in heaven.

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 #766 “The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound”

McKEE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Gloria from the Twelfth Mass”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
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: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sara Hackett
Bee Wang
Zo Zielinski
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Tessa Morris, *Soloist*
Judd Poeske, *Soloist*
Beadle: Liz Hopkins
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY 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). 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. Communion will be celebrated.
Feb 4 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. Communion will be celebrated.
Feb 4 — 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

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* on Sunday, Feb 4 after the 11 am service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Megan Leisher for info (MeganL@coh.net).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.

TODAY AT ELPC

“Living While Black” Book Launch

The Facing Systemic Racism (FSR) Committee 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* in the Social Hall from 1:30–3:30 pm today.

Beverly is a member of the congregation and active in the FSR Committee. 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.



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 Drew Simpson.



PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — Feb 5 and 6

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, Feb 5 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, Feb 6 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.

Environmental Book Study — Feb 8

For their next book study, the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee has selected two books written by two important women scientists: *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times* by Jane Goodall; and *The Sea Around Us* (1951) by Rachel Carson. Read one or both and join the discussion on Zoom on Thursday, Feb 8 at 7 pm. For more info and the zoom link, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

INQUIRERS' CLASS — FEB 4

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, Feb 4 after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. This can be a hybrid class if requested. See one of our pastors to attend.



ASH WEDNESDAY

On Ash Wednesday, Feb 14, we will hold three worship services in which there will be the imposition of ashes.



- ◆ 12 pm — Pastor Heather will lead our noontime service in the Chapel.
- ◆ 5 pm — In lieu of club one sixteen, Pastor Heather and Sara Hackett will lead an interactive, intergenerational time of worship, which will be followed by a light meal for all participants.
- ◆ 7 pm — Pastor BJ will lead our Taizé service

SOUP & SUSTENANCE

Beginning Feb 15, join us from 5:30–6:45 pm any Thursdays (through March 28) in the McKelvy Room for soup, bread and fellowship.



Soup and bread are provided; if you want to volunteer to bring a soup one week, contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

LABYRINTH WALK

You are invited to come and walk the labyrinth on the stage in the Social Hall, beginning Feb 15 to March 26.



- ◆ Tuesdays, 10 am–2pm
- ◆ Thursdays, 10 am–7 pm
- ◆ Sundays, 10 am–2 pm

FOOD DRIVE

Please bring canned goods to worship throughout the season of Lent for the EECM Food Pantry so that we might share God's love by feeding our siblings in need.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.



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

Mary Barr's friend Janice,
Martha DeMarzi's friend Diane,
Andrea DeVries and her father and mother-in-law,
Doris Dick's sister-in-law Kerry,
Dr. Charma Dudley's friends Virginia and John,
Pam Kimmel, Dr. Linda Lane's sister Gail,
Sondra MacArtney, and Rebecca Serey.

No Committee Meetings This Week

Connections Group Event – Feb 10

Join ELPC's Connections Group on Saturday, Feb 10 at 7:30 pm for *Blues Is The Roots*, presented by New Horizon's Theater. The performance will be in the Helen Wayne Rauh Rehearsal Hall at the O'Reilly Theater (621 Penn Ave) downtown in the Cultural District.

Tickets are available online at newhorizontheater.org. Please buy your own ticket in advance (\$35 general admission; \$30 seniors/students). Please RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com so we'll know to look out for you. We also can organize dinner before the show.

Baking Valentine Cookies for Dogs – Feb 11

Children, youth, and families are baking and decorating dog treats for *Ellie's Pet Pantry* on Sunday, Feb 11 from Noon–2 pm in the Good Samaritan Rm. This event is open to children of all ages with a parent/adult, and youth in grades 4-12 may come on their own. Lunch from Chipotle will be provided. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Sunday Social Hour – Feb 18

Join us after 11 am worship on Sunday, Feb 18 for a *Social Hour* hosted by the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee. Hear about recent climate news and share your thoughts about environmental issues—along with your priorities for ELPC. Your contribution is important to help the Environmental Team focus its efforts. Enjoy good food, warm drinks, and lively conversation.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Gathering – Feb 18

You are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Feb 18 to share conversation and lunch. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Cathedral Concert: Singing Our History – Feb 25

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series will continue on Sunday, Feb 25 at 3 pm with *Singing Our History*—a special performance commemorating Black History Month with Robert Ray's timeless *Gospel Mass* and Women's History Month with choral and solo works by women composers and arrangers. The concert is free and open to the public.

In our

COMMUNITY



Volunteer ESL Teachers Needed

Get to know your new neighbors AND really help someone become more self-sufficient and integrated into the Pittsburgh community! Casa San Jose needs volunteer ESL teachers at ELPC. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm in Feb, March and April. Volunteers can do one evening per week (we can find substitutes when needed). Training is provided. Speaking Spanish is not necessary. If interested, please contact Ruth Farrell (502.682.4540; ruth@casasanjose.org).

Congregational Meeting – Feb 25

Session has called ELPC's annual *Congregational Meeting* for Sunday, Feb 25, immediately following Sanctuary worship. We will gather in the Social Hall for a light lunch, followed by our Annual Meeting. Childcare and activities for school-age children will be available during the meeting.

Please note that our annual report and meeting materials will be available to preview online by Sunday, Feb 11, and hard copies will be available on the information tables on the first floor, and at the meeting.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Feb 4 ♦ 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) – “Weekly Gatherings,” 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) – “Freedom House Ambulance: The FIRST Responders,” facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) – A discussion of chapters 7 and 8 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

LGBTQIA+ Ministry (McKelvy Rm) – Examining what the Bible does and does not have to say about homosexuality, led by our pastors; class runs to Feb 11