



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)

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 4, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Jesus, my suffering Lord, grant that today and every day I may see You in the person of Your sick ones, and that in caring for them I may serve You. Grant also that even in the guise of the fretful, the demanding, the unreasonable, I may still recognize You and say: My suffering Jesus, how sweet it is to serve You.
— Mother Teresa of Calcutta

PRELUDE

“Adagio from Symphonie III, Op. 28”

Louis Vierne
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

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 (Isaiah 40:21, 28-31)

Hollen Barmer

Leader: Have we not known? Have we not heard? Has it not been told to us since the beginning?
People: God is our everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
Leader: God does not faint or grow weary. God gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.
People: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.
Leader: They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.
People: Let us praise the everlasting God – the God in whom we find our strength.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #401

“Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: 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 #799 “I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry”

I LOVE THE LORD

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

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GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 1:29-39

Hollen Barmer

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.

EPISTLE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Cor 9:16-23

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

“All Things and All People”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Confession of 1967; 9.21, 9.22, 9.26*)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for all when the gospel is proclaimed and **believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to humanity, moves them to** respond in faith, repentance and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which we know that God loves and accepts us in spite of what we are. We therefore accept ourselves and love others, knowing that no one has **any ground on which to stand, except God’s grace.**

Life in Christ is life eternal. The resurrection of Jesus is God’s sign that God will consummate the work of creation and reconciliation beyond death and bring to fulfillment the new life begun in Christ.

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

Robert Ray

“Acclamation: Hallelujah Praise the Lord” (from *Gospel Mass*)

Hallelujah, praise the Lord. Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord. Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.

Praise God with stringed instruments.

Praise God with dance.

Praise God on the psaltery and harp.

Everything that hath breath ought to praise God.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord. Hallelujah. Let us praise the Lord.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

The children will present the Communion Elements and stay up in the Chancel until we are ready to serve.



— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy and 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 seated in the transepts are asked to join the procession to the front to receive communion by entering one of the pews from the outside and proceed to the center aisle after those seated in the row. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN #501

"Feed Us, Lord"

FEED US

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Faithful God, you have appointed us your witnesses to be light that shines in the world. Nourish us by this Communion meal that we will together find strength to share the bright hope you have given us: your love revealed in Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #296

"Go in Grace and Make Disciples"

WONDROUS LIGHT

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

"Final from Symphonie III, Op. 28"

Louis Vierne

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. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Hollen Barmer
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadles: Michael Casey
Mario Seneca
Crucifer: Jan Herzer
Sound: Tim Benedict
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.
Feb 11 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Feb 11 — The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy 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

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* TODAY 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 about future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Inquirers' Class

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* today after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Megan Leisher for info about future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

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.



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).

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.



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.
- ◆ 5:15 pm — 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, Sonya-Marie Morley, Rebecca Serey.
Condolences to Taylor Armstrong on his grandfather's passing.
Condolences to Roberta London on her father's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Property Tuesday, Feb 6 @ 7:00 pm
Mission Board..... Thursday, Feb 8 @ 5:30 pm

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

Purchase Café Justo Coffee — Feb 11

Stop by the Highland Ave hallway after the 11 am worship service next Sunday, Feb 11 to purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee. All varieties are available in ground and whole bean bags for \$10 (cash or check only). Contact Ryan Booher (rabooherco@gmail.com) for more info.

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 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



“Souls Shot” Exhibit — Through Feb 14

Shadyside Presbyterian Church (5121 Westminster Place, 15232) presents portraits of victims of gun violence in *Souls Shot*, a moving tribute to the victims portrayed. This exhibit is open through Feb 14. Additional info is available at www.soulshotportraitproject.org.

The Rev. Dr. Henry Highland Garnet Weekend — Feb 16 & 17
Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church (1000 Bryn Mawr Rd, 15219) will be hosting two events to honor The Rev. Dr. Henry Highland Garnet, a man that went from slavery to freedom, and was the first black Presbyterian minister in Pittsburgh.

Dinner and dialogue will be on Friday, Feb 16 from 6-8:30 pm, and lunch and discussion will be on Saturday, Feb 17 from 11 am-2:30 pm. Speakers include Rev. Gavin Walton, Rev. Jimmie Hawkins and B. Marshall. Register at: <https://form.jotform.com/240165150801040>.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Feb 11 ♦ 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) — “Sojourner Truth's Life and Legacy” video, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 9 and 10 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

LGBTQIA+ Ministry (McKely Rm) — Examining what the Bible does and does not have to say about homosexuality, led by our pastors; final class in series