



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)

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD FEBRUARY 11, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Most Christian 'believers' tend to echo the cultural prejudices and worldviews of the dominant group in their country, with only a minority revealing any real transformation of attitudes or consciousness. It has been true of slavery and racism, classism and consumerism and issues of immigration and health care for the poor.
— Richard Rohr

PRELUDE

“Schönster Herr Jesu” (*Beautiful Savior*)

Gerre Hancock

Tune: *Glory to God* hymnal #630
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

Jennifer Karius

Leader: The glory of God shines like a consuming fire.

People: We have seen the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Leader: The voice of God thunders like a mighty storm.

People: Out of the clouds, God speaks: This is my beloved Son; listen to him!

Leader: Let us worship God’s beloved Son in spirit and in truth!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #409

“God Is Here!”

ABBOT’S LEIGH

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jennifer Karius

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Jennifer Karius

Almighty God, when we encounter beauty and love and wonder in the world, so often we seek to control it, to contain it, to claim it as our own. Forgive us for all the ways we seek to pull things under our power, for the ways we fashion the world and put ourselves first. We are selfish, God. We push aside your command to love our neighbors and seek our own personal comfort. Heavenly parent, we take this opportunity to acknowledge our lies and our denial, laying bare our hearts and minds before you, as we confess our personal transgressions. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers as we confess to you in silence.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

Feb 11 • Transfiguration of the Lord

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Jennifer Karius

Leader: Our God comes and does not keep silent; God speaks to us with grace and love, saying: You are my beloved child. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

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

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #406 (sing 3 times)

HOLY GROUND

"We Are Standing on Holy Ground"

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now; we are standing in his presence on holy ground.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Kings 2:1-12

Russ Walker

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 #662

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

RATISBON

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9:2-9

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"Mountaintop Transformations"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

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.

UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

James Eng

OFFERING INVITATION

James Eng

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

"Credo" (from Gospel Mass)

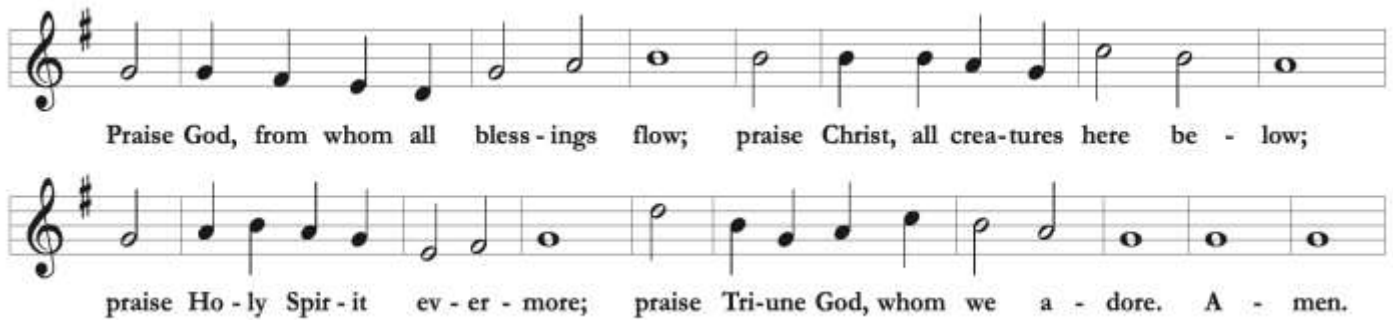
Robert Ray

Feb 11 • Transfiguration of the Lord

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
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.

Leader: Almighty, on the mountain top, you instructed Peter, James, and John: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" We are listening, God, and we hear your call to make the world a better place alongside your Holy Spirit. We offer you these gifts and our hearts alongside them. May they be blessed to do your bidding. Creator God, you are beyond our knowledge and understanding. We are blessed to be counted as your beloved children and to be lights in this world.

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 #192 "Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining"

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

"Deo Gracias"

Aaron David Miller
Tune: *Glory to God hymnal #189*
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. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
James Eng
Sara Hackett
Jennifer Karius
Russ Walker
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Adrianna Cleveland, *Soloist*
Beadle: Heather Eng
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Huber and Mr. Harry M. Huber.

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 18 — The Rev. Ralph Lowe preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Feb 18 — The Rev. Ralph Lowe 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 info (MeganL@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Purchase Café Justo Coffee

Stop by the Highland Ave hallway after the 11 am worship service today 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

Children, youth, and families are baking and decorating dog treats for *Ellie's Pet Pantry* from Noon–2 pm in the Good Samaritan Rm today. 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.

Annual Report Available

Copies of the 2023 *Annual Report* are available on the information tables around the church. Please take one copy per family. The report can also be viewed on our website.

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 Linda Sanders.



Soup & Sustenance — Begins Feb 15

Beginning Feb 15, join us from 5:30-6:45 pm any Thursday (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).

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).

LABYRINTH available in LENT

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



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

Sunday Social Hour — Feb 18

Join us after the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Feb 18 for a *Social Hour* hosted by the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee. You will be able to express your feelings about climate change, ideas about potential actions, and priorities for ELPC. Your contribution is important to help the Environmental Team and ELPC focus its efforts. Enjoy good food, warm drinks, meet the Team and have lively conversations.



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.

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.

Ash Wednesday is Feb 14



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.



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

Mary Barr's friend Janice,

Margo Buben,

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut,

Martha DeMarzi's friend Diane,

Pam Kimmel, Lisa Petrilli, and Rebecca Serey.

Condolences to Andrea DeVries on her father's passing.

Condolences to Roberta London on her father's passing.

Condolences to the family of

Sonya-Marie Morley on her passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Deacons.....Tuesday, Feb 13 @ 7:00 pm

Worship, Music & ArtsTuesday, Feb 13 @ 7:30 pm

Membership & Outreach...Thursday, Feb 15 @ 6:00 pm

PNC.....Saturday, Feb 17 @ 9:00 am

For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact

Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

Confirmation Class Overnight Retreat — Feb 17 to 18

Our Confirmation Class will meet at ELPC from Sat, Feb 17 to Sunday, Feb 18, for an overnight retreat to talk about what it means to be a member of the church, the PC (USA), and ELPC. We'll gather on Saturday at 4 pm, and wrap up on Sunday at 9:45 am.

Tween Retreat — Feb 24 and 25

Youth in grades 4–6 are heading to Crestfield Camp with youth from churches all around Pittsburgh for a *Tween Retreat* from Saturday, Feb 24 to Sunday, Feb 25. Our one-night retreat together will be filled with crafts, worship, games, campfires, music, silliness, and thoughtful questions. We will meet at ELPC on Saturday at 8 am, and return on Sunday at 12 pm. The cost is \$85 (scholarships are available).

Any parents who are interested in joining the fun by chaperoning should please contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Teens Serving Breakfast at EECM — Feb 25

Our Teen Church School class (youth in grades 7–12) will be serving breakfast at East End Cooperative Ministry on Sunday, Feb 25. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

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.

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.

In our

COMMUNITY



Volunteers Needed for Harmony Dog Rescue

Harmony Dog Rescue, a new nonprofit that serves individuals and families in crisis, is seeking volunteers and donations. The mission of Harmony Dog Rescue is to provide safe homes for dogs whose owners are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence or medical emergencies. Please email info@harmonydogrescue.org or visit their website for info (www.harmonydogrescue.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>.

Lunchtime Book Discussion — March 16

Hiland Presbyterian Church (845 Perry Hwy, 15229) is hosting a free book discussion and light lunch on Saturday, March 16 from 11:30 am—1:30 pm. The book to be discussed is *The Color of Life: A Journey toward Love and Racial Justice* by Cara Meredith. Please RSVP by March 8 to Carolyn (gibbses5@verizon.net) or Barb (412.364.9000).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Feb 18 ♦ 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) — “Working Theology for Black Lives Matter” led by The Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 11 and 12 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members