



# 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)*

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 25, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

The Lord's Prayer may be committed to memory quickly, but it is slowly learnt by heart.

— F.D. Maurice

Before we can pray, 'Lord, thy kingdom come,' we must be willing to pray, 'My kingdom go.'

— Alan Redpath

### PRELUDE

"This Little Light of Mine"  
"Give Me Jesus"

arr. Charles Callahan  
Richard Billingham  
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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Massey

Leader: Welcoming God, you invite us into your Kin-dom as honored guests.

People: You give us water to wash our feet, you give us a kiss of greeting, and you anoint our heads with oil.

Leader: Merciful God, you welcome us even though we have strayed from your ways.

People: You forgive the things we have done and left undone and give us a seat at your table.

Leader: Wondrous God, we have come here to give you our thanks and praise.

People: May we make a joyful noise at your table this day!

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #317 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

McKEE

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

**God, we confess to you that sometimes we don't even think we need to confess to you. We are** often filled with self-righteousness, over-confidence, and an inner sense that we have it together and are ok without you. It is often easier for us to look outwards and see the sins and shortcomings of others, blame them, cancel them, and wonder how you have welcomed them to your table. Humble us, O God, and help us to acknowledge those places where we are stubborn and unwilling to let you in. Help us to learn to ask for your help and receive your grace. Give us courage to examine ourselves and invite you to search us and know us and see if there is any offensive way in us.

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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#### ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Oh, what joy for those whose sins are forgiven, whose mistakes have been wiped away by God's mercy and grace! So, let's rejoice in God's unfailing love, which has set us free yet again. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

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

#### RESPONSIVE HYMN (*sing 3 times*)

#### "God Is Forgiveness"



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#### HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON (*from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill*)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Psalm 32

#### MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

*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.*

#### RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER & FRIEND

Member: Kelly Harris

Friend: Nicholas Harris

#### \* HYMN #201

#### "A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar"

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

#### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

#### GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 7:36-50

The Rev. Woodworth

#### SERMON

"Do You See?"

The Rev. Woodworth

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

## TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. 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.*

### OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

*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

“Sanctus” (from *Gospel Mass*)

Robert Ray

### \* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



### \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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.

Leader: God, thank you for always welcoming all to your table, receive these gifts as a sign of our love, gratitude, and worship. Take these gifts and use them to expand and extend your table and use us, your children, to embody an ever-widening invitation of hospitality, inclusion, and justice to all.

People: Amén.

Amen.

### \* RECESSIONAL HYMN #339

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LIFT EVERY VOICE

### \* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

### POSTLUDE

“Fanfare on the Hymn Tune McKee”

Charles Callahan  
Based on *Glory to God* hymnal #317  
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](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. BJ Woodworth  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Steve Massey  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Soloists: Todd Farwell, Tessa Morris  
Logan Williams  
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire  
Crucifer: Michael Casey  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

To reflect our spiritual journey of the Lenten season, we bring images of a barren *Wilderness* into the worship space. You are invited to come up to the Chancel at the end of worship, access a copy of the detailed explanation, and explore the wilderness scene. We thank Mario Seneca and the Worship, Music & Arts Committee for this beautiful visual addition to our worship service!

If you would like to sponsor a plant for our Easter Sunday worship service, please fill out an order form, available in the Highland Lobby, and return it with your payment to the church office.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.  
*March 3* — 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.  
*March 3* — 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

During Lent, Pastor BJ will be practicing *Centering Prayer*, "a method of silent prayer (20 minutes) that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself." (*from Contemplative Outreach*)

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* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Megan Leisher for info ([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).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Congregational Meeting

Session has called ELPC's annual *Congregational Meeting* for today 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. For those who participate on Zoom (<https://zoom.us/j/188135194>), your face and name must appear on the screen to vote.

### Registration Open for the PW Gathering "Necessary Risks"

If you dare to take the risks to pursue a more loving community, Presbyterian Women invites you to *Necessary Risks* on Saturday, March 9 at ELPC. Register today (or purchase the book) after today's 11 am worship in the Highland Ave hallway. More details can be found in the article included in this announcement sheet.

### Cathedral Concert: Singing Our History

ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series continues today 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. Download the brochure for the 13th season of *Cathedral Concerts* at <http://tiny.cc/elpcconcerts>.



### Lenten Wilderness Display

To reflect our spiritual journey of the Lenten season, we bring images of a barren *Wilderness* into the worship space. You are invited to come up to the Chancel at the end of worship, access a copy of the detailed explanation, and explore the wilderness scene. We thank Mario Seneca and the Worship, Music & Arts Committee for this beautiful visual addition to our worship service!

### 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 Drew Simpson.



### ELPC Rainbow T-Shirts for Sale — Through March 17

Buy an ELPC rainbow tie-dyed shirt from March 1-17 online at <http://tiny.cc/elpcpride> (\$16 each; credit card only; includes small fee). They will also be sold in-person on Sunday, March 10 after the Journey and Sanctuary worship services (\$15 each; cash/check payable to ELPC).



They are available in short-

and long-sleeved options, with sizes ranging from S-4XL. The front of the shirt says *East Liberty Presbyterian Church* and the back says *God created you. God loves you. Be yourself.* They are perfect for the upcoming Pittsburgh Pride marches in June, or for wearing around each day as you share God's love for all in a colorful, stylish way.

You will be contacted when the shirts are ready for pick up at ELPC. For more info, please contact Wil Forrest ([Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x218).

### PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — March 4 and 5

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, March 4 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, March 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](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com).

### "Necessary Risks" Event — March 9

Anyone who seeks a more just and equitable world is invited to a day of worship, learning, discussion, and good food on Saturday, March 9 from 9 am–3 pm, sponsored by Presbyterian Women.

The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott will be our guide. She is the author of *Necessary Risks: Challenges Privileged People Need to Face*, which grew out of her experiences as a college chaplain and volunteer at a men's prison. Her work is informed by authors, theologians, and scholars of color. She is the editor and publisher of *Presbyterian Outlook*.

Registration must be received by noon on Wednesday, March 6, so we can reserve lunch for you or send you a Zoom link. You do not have to be Presbyterian or a woman to participate. For more info, email [PW.ELPC@gmail.com](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com).

The Rev. Dr. Ott will also be our guest preacher at both worship services on Sunday, March 10, and will teach a combined Sunday School class that day.







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

Margo Buben,  
Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut,  
Pam Kimmel, and  
Pastor Heather's cousin Kristie.

Condolences to David and Dana Carl on their father's passing.

Condolences to Ian Faight on his grandmother's passing.

Condolences to Linda Lane on her sister's passing.

#### Committee Meetings This Week

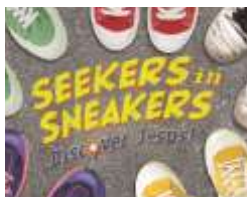
Justice..... Wednesday, Feb 28 @ 5:30 pm

Environmental Team ..... Friday, Mar 1 @ 9:30 am

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

#### Mark Your Calendars for VCS — June 24 to 28

Vacation Church School at ELPC is for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed) and will be held from 9 am–3 pm on June 24–28. Our theme this summer is *Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus!* where children use their investigative skills to discover Jesus. Geocaching activities will challenge children to dig into the Bible to find the way to Jesus. This journey of discovery has many twists and turns, so children will learn to ask questions, work with others, shine their light in the world, follow Jesus' example of serving others, and trust Jesus when things go wrong. Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children are invited to follow the example and teachings of Jesus in every place and every part of life. So grab your water bottle, your Bible, and your friends, because this is going to be a great adventure!



Youth in grades 6–12 are invited to serve as volunteers, and adult volunteers of all ages will be needed to help ensure our program is a success! Registration will be open soon.

#### LABYRINTH available in LENT

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



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

In our

## COMMUNITY



#### Free Covid Vaccine Clinic — March 5

Free Covid vaccines and blood sugar and cholesterol screenings will be administered on Tuesday, March 5 from 2-6 pm at Eastminster Presbyterian Church (250 N Highland Ave, 15206) by East Liberty Family Health Care Center. This event is open to the public. For more info, please visit [www.elfhcc.com](http://www.elfhcc.com).

#### 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](mailto:info@harmonydogrescue.org) or visit their website for info ([www.harmonydogrescue.org](http://www.harmonydogrescue.org)).

#### Job Opening at PTS

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS) is seeking a full-time *General Maintenance Worker*. This position has an hourly wage range between \$18.50-\$21/hour. Benefits include an 11% retirement plan contribution (no match required); medical, dental/vision insurance; life insurance; long-term disability; paid time off (vacation/sick/personal days, volunteer hours; and a Christmas holiday break); tuition remission (for spouses and dependents); and eligibility to participate in the Tuition Exchange program. Interested applicants should email a cover letter, resume, and three references to [careers@pts.edu](mailto:careers@pts.edu).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**March 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) — “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) — “Is the Easter Story of Jesus' Resurrection Factual or Metaphorical?” by Marcus Borg, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 15 and 16 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members