



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)

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 3, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

At table, we meet our God, reclined and relaxed, and are invited to set aside our fears and burdens. Give us the eyes to recognize who is not at the table and the courage to break down the walls that have kept them away. Gather us together in love and humility. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Choral Dorian”
“I Come with Joy (Dove of Peace)”

Jehan Alain
David Cherwien
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.
People: Y también contigo.

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake and Charlotte Brake-Hoffman

Leader: Every time we gather in God’s name, we learn something new.

People: **What will be God’s gift of revelation today?**

Leader: We enter this time of worship joyfully assured of God’s mercies, grace, and faithfulness.

People: Celebrating these blessings and with thankfulness, we bring our love, praise, and worship to God.

Leader: So, let us worship God together in the spirit of holiness. Amen!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #301

“Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake and Charlotte Brake-Hoffman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake and Charlotte Brake-Hoffman

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake and Charlotte Brake-Hoffman

Leader: Hear these words from the Apostle Paul, “God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.” The grace of Christ is sufficient for us. Thanks be to God! Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

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

March 3 • Third Sunday in Lent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #775 “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” WALK WITH ME

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Leviticus 19:9-14
Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake and Charlotte Brake-Hoffman

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 #507 “Come to the Table of Grace” TABLE OF GRACE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 14:7-14 The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON “Table Manners” The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*adapted from The Confession of 1967*) The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God’s purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God’s creation. Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption.

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God. Now to him who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING INVITATION Tiffany Sudar

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 “Teach Me, O Lord” Thomas Attwood

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. (Psalm 119:33)

March 3 • Third Sunday in Lent

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

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.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Rev. Joe Hajdu

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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. Fowler-Searcy

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy and The Rev. Hajdu

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 HYMNS

#504

“We Come as Guests Invited”

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

#501

“Feed Us, Lord”

FEED US

#525

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

LET US BREAK BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Hajdu

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #767

“Together We Serve”

SAN ANSELMO

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Little Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 554”

attr. Johann Sebastian Bach
Dr. Moore, organ

March 3 • Third Sunday in Lent

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. Joe Hajdu
Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake
Charlotte Brake-Hoffman
Sara Hackett
Tiffany Sudar
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadles: Jo Ellen Aleshire
Liz Hopkins
Crucifer: Jan Herzer
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 around the church, 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 10 — The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
March 10 — The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott 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

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

Register 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.

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!

Sponsor an Easter Plant

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 Norma in the church office.

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 Nate Stephens.



Donation Requests for The Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is in need of full-sized toiletry items (bar soap, tooth brushes and paste, lotion, shampoo, toilet paper, deodorant, razors, etc.) in addition to spring and summer clothing for men, woman and children. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open (first and third Tuesday of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am–12 pm).

Church Directory Update

If you would like to have your photo and/or contact information updated in our new church directory, please email Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net) with your updated information, or complete a member update form found in the Highland Lobby. Please submit photos as jpeg or png files in portrait orientation with up-close focus on faces and minimal background distractions. Please complete your submissions by March 31.

Soup & Sustenance — Thursdays through March 28

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).

ELPC Rainbow T-Shirts for Sale — Through March 17

Buy an ELPC rainbow tie-dyed shirt through March 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.*

You will be contacted when the shirts are ready for pick up at ELPC. For more info, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).

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.

Cathedral Concert:

The Mendelssohn Choir

Sunday, March 10 at 3 pm

Critically acclaimed as one of the finest choruses in the country, The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh returns to ELPC on Sunday, March 10 at 3 pm for their first post-Covid *Cathedral Concert*, along with their new music director, Daniel Singer. The concert is free. Contact Dr. Ed Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).

Download the brochure for the 13th season of *Cathedral Concerts* at <http://tiny.cc/elpcconcerts>





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

Property Tuesday, Mar 5 @ 7:00 pm

YAYA Thursday, Mar 7 @ 6:00 pm

Environmental Team Friday, Mar 8 @ 9:00 am

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

“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.

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.

Fellowship Time – March 10

Presbyterian Women will be sponsoring our Fellowship Time next Sunday, March 10 after the 11 am sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship Room. Our guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Teri Ott, will be present to sign copies of her book, which will also be for sale.

Tween Scavenger Hunt – March 10

Youth in grades 4–6 will be dusting off the Polaroid cameras for a scavenger hunt around East Liberty on Sunday, March 10 from 12:30-2 pm. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Confirmation Class Gathering – March 17

Our Confirmation Class will meet in the 2nd Floor Parlor after sanctuary worship on Sunday, March 17.

In our

COMMUNITY



Pitt Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program

The University of Pittsburgh is offering a Dental Assistant Apprenticeship Program. Program highlights include a 14 month paid training program, and an allowance for books, scrubs and other costs. Please call 412.624.6165 or visit www.dental.pitt.edu/dental-assisting.

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.

Lunchtime Book Discussion – March 16

Hiland Presbyterian Church (845 Perry Hwy, 15229) is hosting a free book 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).

Spring Open House at CLP-East Liberty – March 20

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—East Liberty is hosting a *Spring Open House* from 5:30-7:30 pm on Wednesday, March 20. Part of the event includes a local resource fair where visitors can learn about the different nonprofit organizations in our neighborhood. All are invited!

RCC Cabaret – April 6 and 7

Renaissance City Choir continues its homage to the natural elements this season with its Cabaret 2024: *Earth, Wind, & Choir* on Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, April 7 at 2 pm, at ELPC. Learn more and buy tickets at RCCpittsburgh.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 or visit their website for info (www.harmonydogrescue.org).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

March 10 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott will teach a combined Sunday School class next week in the Social Hall.