



# 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)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 10, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

Enjoying the benefits of living and loving in community empowers us to meet strangers without fear and extend to them the gift of openness and recognition. *– bell hooks in “all about love”*

### PRELUDE

“O Waly Waly”

Emma Lou Diemer

based on Glory to God hymnal #693

“Wondrous Love”

Rebecca Groom te Velde

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.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Jan Herzer

Leader: By grace we have been saved by faith. This is not our own doing. It is the gift of God.

People: **We give thanks for the many ways God has declared God’s love for us. We pray that** we might be strengthened to love each other as God has loved us.

Leader: Let us worship God, and announce with joy the wonder of God’s love.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #297

“In Christ Called to Baptize”

ST. DENIO

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. You have lavished us with affection, provided for our needs, and still we turn from you. We abuse the creation you have entrusted to our care. We neglect the needs of others. We hide from truth; we run from your call; we choose fear over love. Forgive us, we pray. Soften our hardened hearts, that we may become instruments of your saving love. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION



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

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March 10 • Fourth Sunday in Lent

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SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #729 (vs. 1 and 2)

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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!

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Carla Depperman

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 14:15-24

Lenore Williams

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 #693

“Though I May Speak”

GIFT OF LOVE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott

EPISTLE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Corinthians 13

The Rev. Dr. Ott

SERMON

“Choose Love”

The Rev. Dr. Ott

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

*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. 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

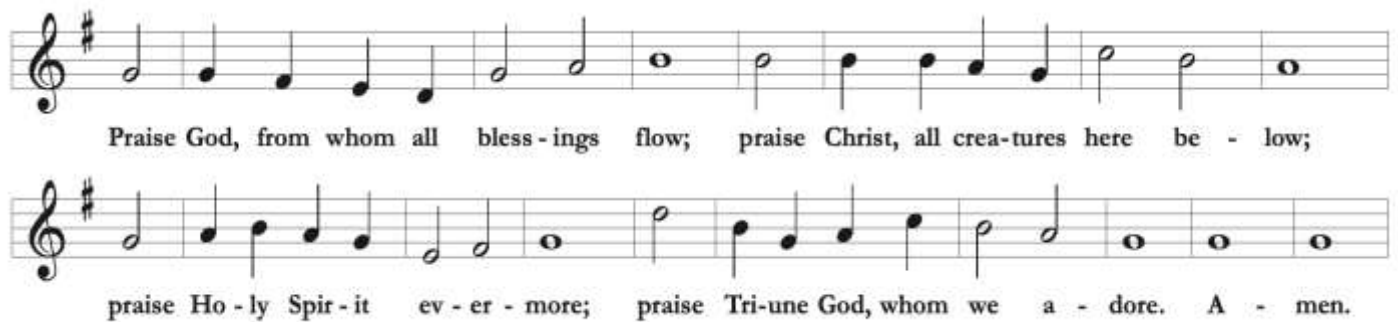
“Wondrous Love”

Alice Parker/Robert Shaw  
text: Glory to God hymnal #215

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

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



\* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy  
Jan Herzer

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:	We offer these gifts to you, O God, in thanksgiving for all that you have given to us. Bless what we bring that together we might be instruments of your peace, justice, and love.	
People:	Amén.	Amen.

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN (*please see music insert*)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

“For Everyone Born”

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Ott

POSTLUDE

“Sing Out Earth and Skies”

Mary Beth Bennett  
Dr. Moore, *organ*



### *Music Notes....*

The offertory anthem is a setting of *Wondrous Love* by Alice Parker (1925-2023) and Robert Shaw (1916-1999). Shaw and Parker collaborated many times to produce arrangements of folksongs, hymns and spirituals that have become standards in the choral repertoire. Alice Parker was a renowned composer, conductor, and teacher who died this past December at the age of 98.

Woman Composer Sunday was launched in 2021 by the Royal College of Organists (UK) and the Society of Women Organists. Since then, the Sunday closest to International Women’s Day (March 8) has been observed as Women Composer Sunday by professional organizations around the world, including the American Guild of Organists.

*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. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Carla Depperman  
Sara Hackett  
Jan Herzer  
Lenore Williams  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Beadle: Michael Casey  
Crucifer: Mario Seneca  
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 today's bulletin, 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 17* — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.  
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.  
*March 17* — The Rev. BJ Woodworth 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](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

Welcome to The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott

ELPC extends a warm welcome to today's guest preacher, The Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott. 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*. We thank her for delivering today's message.

### Fellowship Time

Presbyterian Women is sponsoring our Fellowship Time after today's 11 am worship service in the Fellowship Room. The Rev. Dr. Ott will be present to sign copies of her book, which will also be for sale.

### ELPC Rainbow T-Shirts for Sale

Buy an ELPC rainbow tie-dyed shirt through March 17 online at <http://tiny.cc/elpcpride> (\$16 each; credit card only; includes small fee) or today 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](mailto:Wil@coh.net)).

### Purchase Café Justo Coffee

Stop by the Highland Ave hallway after the 11 am worship service to purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee. All varieties are available in ground and whole bean bags for \$10 (cash or check only). If you are unable to pick up your coffee in person, contact Ryan Booher ([rabooherc@gmail.com](mailto:rabooherc@gmail.com)).  
*Note: Café Justo will be sold on the second Sunday of the month.*

### Tween Scavenger Hunt

Youth in grades 4–6 will be dusting off the Polaroid cameras for a scavenger hunt around East Liberty from 12:30-2 pm today. See Sara ([SaraH@coh.net](mailto:SaraH@coh.net)) to join!

### 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 the order form in today's bulletin, and return it with your payment to Norma in the church office by March 17.



### 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.



### Church Directory Update — Due March 31

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](mailto: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. Complete your submissions by March 31.

Cathedral Concert:

## *The Mendelssohn Choir*

TODAY at 3 PM

Critically acclaimed as one of the finest choruses in the country, The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh returns to ELPC today 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](mailto: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

Deacons..... Tuesday, Mar 12 @ 7:00 pm  
Worship, Music & Arts ..... Tuesday, Mar 12 @ 7:30 pm  
Mission Board..... Thursday, Mar 14 @ 5:30 pm

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

#### Confirmation Class Gathering — March 17

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

#### LGBTQIA+ Ministry Gathering — March 17

You are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, March 17 to share conversation and lunch. Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).



#### Every Kid's Birthday Party — March 22

The Children and Family Ministry team is hosting a *Birthday Party* for families with kids at the Toy Lending Library (5401 Centre Ave, 15232) on Friday, March 22 from 5:30-7:30 pm. If you would like to help plan the birthday party or bring a game or treat, please let Sara Hackett know (SaraH@coh.net).

#### Youth Can Volunteer at World Vision — March 28

Youth in grades 7–12 can volunteer at World Vision in Sewickley on Thursday, March 28 from 12-5 pm. We will have pizza for lunch, work in the distribution warehouse preparing donations to be shipped to needy individuals throughout the world, and then get ice cream to celebrate our work. World Vision helps keep new merchandise out of landfills and gets it to folks affected by disasters. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

In our

## COMMUNITY



#### 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.

#### 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](http://www.dental.pitt.edu/dental-assisting).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**March 17 ♦ 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) — “**The Great Resurrection Debate**” video by William Lane Craig and John Shelby Spong, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 17 and 18 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

## FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*Do you have a few hours to share some hospitality at the Highland Ave entrance?*

We are looking for volunteers to sit at the front desk, greet visitors, and answer the phone during the daytime/evening on Tuesdays from 9 am-9 pm and afternoon/evenings on Wednesdays from 1-9 pm. Ideally it would be for a 3-hour block of time, but we are open to what works with your schedule.

If interested, contact Jim Tinnemeyer for more info (JimT@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x239).