



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 IN LENT MARCH 17, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation. I arise today through the strength of Christ's birth with His baptism, through the strength of His crucifixion with His burial, through the strength of His resurrection with His ascension, through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.
— *St. Patrick's Breastplate*

PRELUDE

“Prelude in C Minor, BWV 546”

Johann Sebastian Bach
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.
People: Y también contigo.

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 126 from "Psalms for Praying" by Nan C. Merrill*)

James and Heather Eng

Leader: When the Divine Lover enters the human heart, all yearnings are fulfilled!
People: Then will our mouths ring forth with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy;
Leader: Then we will sing our songs of praise, to you, O Beloved of all hearts.
People: For gladness will radiate out for all to see; so great is your Presence among us.
Leader: May all who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy!
People: May all who go forth weeping tears of repentance, come home to You with shouts of joy, leaving sorrow behind.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #2

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

ITALIAN HYMN

CALL TO CONFESSION

James and Heather Eng

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*"The Prayer Tree" by Michael Leunig*)

James and Heather Eng

God, help us find our confession; the truth within us which is hidden from our mind; the beauty **or the ugliness we see elsewhere but never in our ourselves...** God, help us find our confession, help us across the boundary of our understanding. Lead us into the darkness that we may find what lies concealed. That we may confess it towards the light. That we may carry our truth in the center of our heart and that we may carry our cross wisely and bring harmony into our life and our world.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

March 17 • Fifth Sunday in Lent

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

James and Heather Eng

Leader: Friends, let us believe the good news of the Gospel: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In freedom and confidence let us therefore forget what lies behind, and strain towards what lies ahead!

People: ¡Alaben a Dios! Tenemos perdón. Praise God! We are forgiven.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #6 (vs. 5; sing 2 times)

DEIRDRE

"Christ Be With Me"

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me. Christ before me,
Christ beside me. Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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

James and Heather Eng

Psalms 45:1-8

MINUTE FOR MISSION

All Church Retreat

Sara Hackett

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 #630

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

CRUSADERS' HYMN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 12:1-8

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

"What a Waste?"

The Rev. Woodworth

VISUAL MEDITATION

"Tending for the Body" by Phuc Luu

produced by *The Work of the People*

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.

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.



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OFFERTORY ANTHEM

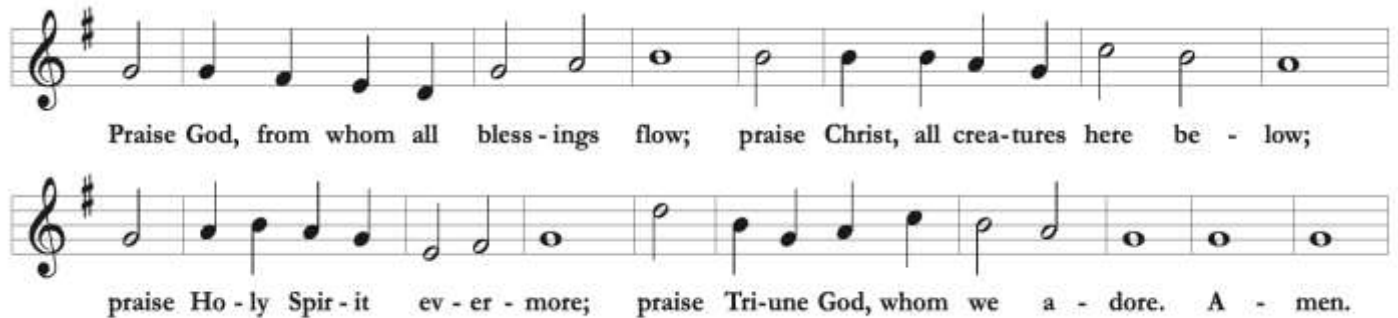
“Create in Me, O God, a Pure Heart”

Johannes Brahms
sung in German then in English

Create in me, O God, a pure heart, and grant anew a right spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf
The Rev. Woodworth

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: Abundant God, you cause water to flow in desert places. Give wine to flow at a wedding feast, and food to feed thousands on a grassy mountainside. Your generosity astounds and humbles us. We bow before you in gratitude and awe, asking you to receive what we have brought in response. May these gifts be a pleasing and fragrant offering, for the sake of the world you came to serve. We pray in all of your holy names:

People: ¡Amén!

Amen!

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #629

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

ST. AGNES

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in C Minor, BWV 546”

Johann Sebastian Bach
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. BJ Woodworth
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
James and Heather Eng
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Linda Davis
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Tim Benedict
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. All orders are due today.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP — PALM SUNDAY

Eco-palms will be distributed at our worship services next week.

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
March 24 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
March 24 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf 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

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, or make a donation to the EECM Food Pantry, please fill out the order form in today's bulletin, and return it with your payment to Norma in the church office. Today is the deadline to submit order forms.

Confirmation Class Gathering

Our Confirmation Class will meet in the Fellowship Room after today's 11 am worship service.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Gathering

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

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 Peta Harrigan Cole.



Run in the Pittsburgh Marathon for OHM

If you would like to participate in the Pittsburgh Marathon as a runner or volunteer in support of Open Hand Ministries, contact Laura Ristau (lauraristau@gmail.com).

ELPC Rainbow T-Shirts for Sale

Buy an ELPC rainbow tie-dyed shirt online at <http://tiny.cc/elpcpride> (\$16 each; credit card only; includes small fee). 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). Please note: Today is the final day to order a shirt.

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) 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.

Visit by Delegation from Malawi and South Sudan

For the first time since COVID, the Pittsburgh Presbytery International Partnership will welcome 23 siblings from Malawi and South Sudan. ELPC is blessed to have Moses Masiye, from Balaka CCAP, our sister congregation, as part of the delegation. Two host families are needed. If you are interested in hosting Moses for a week (May 11-15 or May 16-20), or for more info, please contact Kay Shissler (kshissler@juno.com; 412.681.2047). More information about how you may get involved is to come!



HOLY WEEK and EASTER *Worship Services*

Wednesday, March 27 — **TAIZÉ STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

7 pm (Led by Pastor BJ)

Thursday, March 28 — **MAUNDY THURSDAY** (Communion)

7 pm (Led by Pastor Heather)

Friday, March 29 — **GOOD FRIDAY**

12 pm (Led by Pastor Heather)

7 pm (Led by Pastor Patrice)

Saturday, March 30 — **EASTER VIGIL** (Communion)

7 pm (Led by Pastor BJ)

Sunday, March 31 — **EASTER SUNDAY** (Communion)

8:45 am and 11 am (Led by Pastor Patrice)



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

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut,
David Jennings Smith,
Pam Kimmel, Lisa Petrilli, and
Pastor Heather's cousin Kristie.

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

Condolences to Linda Lane on her sister's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Session Tuesday, Mar 19 @ 7:00 pm
Membership & Outreach.. Thursday, Mar 21 @ 6:00 pm

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

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).

Palm Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing — March 24

On Palm Sunday, March 24, eco-palms will be distributed at our worship services, and the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be collected. Thank you for your generosity.

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).



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).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Healing with Nature Mosaic Project — Begins April 6

Participants of all ages will be guided through soulful self-reflections, vehicles for creative expression, and tender encounters with the natural world and one another during the *Healing with Nature Mosaic Project*, a program designed to respond to the human experience of grief and loss through the healing power of nature and creative expression. This free six-week, ten session program at the Frick Environment Center is held on Saturdays from 1-3 pm, and Thursdays from 4-6 pm, beginning Saturday, April 6 and ending Thursday, May 9. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/HealingWithNatureMosaicProject>. For more info, contact Susan Spangler (sspanglerlcs@gmail.com) or Ted Cmarada (cmarada@gmail.com).

Animating Antiracist Ways of Being Workshop — April 10/11

The Anti-Racism Transformation Team (ARTT) of the Pittsburgh Presbytery is sponsoring a free workshop from 9 am-1 pm on Zoom on Wednesday, April 10, and Thursday, April 11, presented by Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training. This workshop will build a shared understanding of how inherited systemic racism operates within institutions, and begin to provide tools for imagining solutions. Open to the first 40 registrants only, and registration closes on Thursday, April 4. For more info, contact arttpittsburgh@gmail.com. Register at <https://form.jotform.com/232636150221040>.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

March 24 ♦ 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) — "Parenting Experiences," facilitated by Pastor Heather

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — "Why Atonement Theology will Kill Christianity" video by Bishop John Spong, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 19 and 20 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

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).