



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)

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 24, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Remember finally, that the ashes that were on your forehead are created from the burnt palms of last Palm Sunday. New beginnings invariably come from old false things that are allowed to die.

— Richard Rohr

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Les Rameaux (The Palms)”

Jean-Baptiste Faure
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

*Join all and sing his name declare, let every voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord! Bless him, who cometh to bring us salvation!*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

CALL TO WORSHIP

George, Cat, Ruth and Owen Toro

Leader: They brought the colt of a donkey to Jesus and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

People: As he road along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road.

Leader: As he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power they had seen, saying:

People: Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven!

Leader: Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” He answered them:

People: I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.

Leader: Let us praise our God of Life.

* PALM PROCESSIONAL HYMNS

#853

#197

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”
“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

SIYAHAMBA
ELLACOMBE



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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Woodworth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Woodworth

God of heaven and earth, we give you thanks for sending us Jesus Christ in your name. Even though we profess to following him, we confess that in times of trial we too often deny him. Forgive us and heal us, we pray. Help us to put our faith not in the princes of this world, but **only in the Prince of Peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Because of the grace we received in baptism, we have nothing to fear. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Forgiven and freed, let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

George, Cat, Ruth and Owen Toro

EPISTLE LESSON

Philippians 2:5-11

The Rev. Woodworth

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

Children in preschool through grade 3 are invited to the Chapel for a time of learning together. Children will return to worship during the Offering.

The nursery is open to young children under the age of 3. Parents/caregivers must complete a registration form and sign children in and out of the nursery each day. Please note that attendance may be limited based on staff to child ratios but parents/caregivers are always welcome to remain with their children in the nursery.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Child:

Delta Mae Snoek Griess, daughter of Emily Snoek and Jason Griess

Profession of Faith

Act of Baptizing

* HYMN #199

“Filled with Excitement”

HOSANNA

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 26:17-30

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

SERMON

“How Did We Get Here?”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING INVITATION

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.

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Holy City”

Stephen Adams (Michael Maybrick)
text: Frederic Weatherly

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION

OLD HUNDREDTH



* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Woodworth

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: Holy One, we give you thanks for the great deeds of salvation that you have done and continue to do. Bless these offerings of thanksgiving that they may further your kingdom in this world; through Jesus Christ we pray.

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 #200

“A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd”

CHRISTIAN LOVE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

J. Wayne Kerr
ELLACOMBE – Glory to God hymnal #197
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. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Sara Hackett
George, Cat, Ruth and Owen Toro
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Soloists: Adrianna Cleveland, Todd Farwell
Tessa Morris, Gail Novak Mosites
Judd Poeske, Denise Sheffey-Powell
Robin Thompson, Logan Williams
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Erich Stein
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Fellowship Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The eco-palms being distributed today were sponsored by Linda and Coleman Lane, in loving memory of Linda's sister **The Rev. Gail E. Bowman.**

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 lovely visual addition to our worship service!*

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP — EASTER

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
March 31 — 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 31 — 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

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 more info on future classes (MeganL@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Palm Sunday

The eco-palms being distributed today at our worship services were sponsored by Linda and Coleman Lane, in loving memory of Linda's sister, The Rev. Gail E. Bowman.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* will be collected this morning. Thank you for your generosity.

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!

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 Susan Wadsworth-Booth. The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Peta Harrigan Cole. She is seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).



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.



HOLY WEEK and EASTER *Worship Services*

Wednesday, March 27 at 7 pm

TAIZÉ STATIONS OF THE CROSS
(Led by Pastor BJ)

Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY (Communion)
(Led by Pastor Heather)

Friday, March 29

GOOD FRIDAY

12 pm (Led by Pastor Heather)

7 pm (Led by Pastor Patrice)

Saturday, March 30 at 7 pm

EASTER VIGIL (Communion)
(Led by Pastor BJ)

Sunday, March 31

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

Join us at our **All-Church Retreat**

Friday–Sunday, May 3–5

or come for the day on

Saturday, May 4

at Lutherlyn Camp in Prospect, Pennsylvania

*Brochures are available around the church and online at
cathedralofhope.org/event/all-church-retreat-2024/*



Together, we will explore the theme *Block Party*: a neighborhood of kindness and love. Through worship, rest, workshops, study, and games, we will explore what it means to be good neighbors! Our weekend together will include time to relax and enjoy the great outdoors!

*Please join us for this intergenerational weekend of
worship, workshops, fellowship and fun!*



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

Justice.....Wednesday, Mar 27 @ 5:30 pm
Neighbors.....Wednesday, Mar 27 @ 6:00 pm
Peace.....Thursday, Mar 28 @ 5:30 pm

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

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!

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).

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. World Vision helps keep new merchandise out of landfills and gets it to folks affected by disasters. We will have pizza, work in the distribution warehouse preparing donations to be shipped to needy individuals throughout the world, then get ice cream. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — April 1 and 2

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, April 1 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, April 2 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.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

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.

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>.

Would you like to be a liturgist at any of our Holy Week services?

Everything you would need to say and do would be provided to you. Please let Norma know by Tuesday if you would be interested in participating in this way (412.441.3800 x211).

Please let her know if you prefer to read on a Sunday too!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

March 31 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

*There will be no church school classes
next week, Easter Sunday.*

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).