



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 S. 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)

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 7, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Resurrection is “rebirth out of impotence and indolence to the ‘living hope’ [which] means a passion for life and a lived protest against death... It lives from something different — from the superabundance of God’s future.” — *Jurgen Moltmann*

MUSIC MINISTRY

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Jesus Christus, Unser Heiland, Der Den Tod Überwand, BWV 626”

(Jesus Christ Our Savior, Who Overcame Death)

“Heut Triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630”

(Today the Son of God Triumphs)

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

Jeff Fritz

Leader: Rejoice and be glad:

People: This is the day that the Lord has made!

Leader: Rejoice and be glad:

People: Heaven and earth will never be the same!

Leader: Rejoice and be glad:

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #248

“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”

HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Gracious God, we have heard the good news, that on the third day, Christ rose again. Yet we still look for the living among the dead. You rolled away the stone from the tomb. Yet, we still look for the living among the dead. You sent messengers to proclaim the gospel. Yet, we still look for the living among the dead. You were faithful to your promises and are doing wonderful things! Yet, we still look for the living among the dead. Forgive us, Lord, we pray. Teach us to trust your promise and believe and embody the good news of salvation, that Christ is alive, and Jesus is risen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

April 7 • 2nd Sunday of Easter

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Friends, hear and receive the good news of the Gospel. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, not our mistakes, our forgetfulness, our neglect, not even our death, for Christ is risen indeed and ushered in forgiveness, life and freedom.

People: ¡Gracias a Dios! Tenemos perdón. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #240 (*refrain, verse 4, refrain*)

ALLELUIA NO. 1

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

Jeff Fritz

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Child:

Owen Xavier Toro, son of George and Cat Toro

Profession of Faith

Act of Baptizing

* HYMN #373

“O Day of Peace”

JERUSALEM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Woodworth

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON

I Corinthians 15:19-20

The Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“Implementing the Achievement”

The Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. 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.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“This Joyful Eastertide”

arr. Charles Wood

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow! My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber: Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Had Christ, that once...

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river. Lovers of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

Had Christ, that once...

* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures high and low.

Al-le - lu-ia, al-le - lu-ia! Praise God, in Je-sus ful-ly known: Cre - a-tor, Word, and Spir-it one.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu ia!

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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: We praise you, O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, grace, and hope, in the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Let our lives be proof of that good news. That all our words and actions, our love and service bear witness to your resurrection power; for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus, the Christ.

People: ¡Amén!

Amen!

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #238

“Thine Is the Glory”

JUDAS MACCABEUS

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Christ Lag In Todesbanden, BWV 625”
(*Christ Lay In Death's Fetters*)

Johann Sebastian Bach
Dr. Edward Alan 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 YouTube, 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.

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
Jeff Fritz
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire
Crucifer: Ian Kuchera
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our weekly worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211). The cost is \$250 a Sunday. *Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).*

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
April 14 — 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.
April 14 — 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

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture. We will meditate on the Psalms, using the translation *Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill.

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* TODAY AFTER WORSHIP in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info on future classes (GloriaK@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Inquirers' Class

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* after today's 11 am Sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership.

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 Hannah Moon.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Linda Sanders. She is seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).

RCC Cabaret

Renaissance City Choir continues its homage to the natural elements this season with its Cabaret 2024: *Earth, Wind, & Choir*. Please join them for their performance today at 2 pm in the Social Hall. Buy tickets at RCCpittsburgh.com.



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).

Clean Energy Letter Writing Event – April 14

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to send a thank you letter to Governor Shapiro for his slate of major energy policies. Join us for a letter writing event in the Fellowship Room on Sunday, April 14 after our *Journey* and *Sanctuary* services. A sample letter and a fact sheet will be available.

Purchase Café Justo Coffee – April 14

Stop by the Highland Ave hallway after the 11 am worship service next Sunday, April 14 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 (rabooherco@gmail.com). *Note: Café Justo will be sold on the second Sunday of the month.*


VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

June 24 to 28

Vacation Church School at ELPC will be held June 24–28 from 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is *Seekers in Sneakers: Discover Jesus!* and children will use their investigative skills to discover Jesus and explore the stories of those who experienced and brought about change in the world around them after an encounter with Jesus. Spots are **filling up fast, so don't delay, register today!**

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!

Campers and volunteers can register at ELPC.church.



LGBTQIA+ Ministry – April 14

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, April 14 after 11 am worship. Join us and share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to attend or for more info (Wil@coh.net).

Confirmation Class Gathering – April 14

Our Confirmation Class will meet in the 2nd floor Parlor after Sanctuary worship on Sunday, April 14 to start writing our *Statements of Faith* with our sponsors. Please contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Ministry Walks Highland Park – April 20

Come along on Saturday, April 20 as we walk and talk at Highland Park. We will be at Tazza D'oro in the Highland Park neighborhood from 9:30–10 am, and then walk through Highland Park starting at 10 am. Contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

Join us at our
All-Church Retreat
Friday–Sunday, May 3–5
at Lutherlyn Camp in Prospect, Pennsylvania

Together, we will explore the theme *Block Party*: a neighborhood of kindness and love.



*Brochures are available around
the church and online at:*
[cathedralofhope.org/event/
all-church-retreat-2024/](http://cathedralofhope.org/event/all-church-retreat-2024/)



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, Pen Lytle,
Gloria Ritchey's granddaughter Rhya,
and Vivienne Selia's friends Martha and Bob.

Condolences to Dr. Edward Alan Moore on his father's passing.

A Note of Gratitude....

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to our ELPC family, both the members and staff, for all the support and love we received during our recent bereavement. Gail Bowman was much loved by many, and while our loss is heartbreaking, we are also grateful for your prayers and all the help, which included but was not limited to: Gail's memorial service and repast, volunteers who set up, cleaned up and reset the Social Hall, and for the dozens of cards we received. We feel truly blessed by all of your many acts of kindness! — *Linda and Coleman Lane*

Committee Meetings This Week

Deacons.....Tuesday, April 9 @ 7:00 pm
Worship, Music, Arts.....Tuesday, April 9 @ 7:30 pm
Mission Board.....Thursday, April 11 @ 5:30 pm
PNC.....Saturday, April 13 @ 9:00 am

For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact Gloria Knopp (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

Gun Violence Prevention Letter Writing Event – April 21

Please join the Peace Committee after the 11 am service on Sunday, April 21 for a *Social Hour* and to write letters to Pennsylvania legislators regarding gun violence prevention legislation.

The PA House of Representatives passed two bills — HB 714: *Universal Background Checks* and HB 1018: *Extreme Risk Protection Order* — which have been proven to save lives. Even though they have bi-partisan support, the chair is unwilling to bring them to the full Senate for a vote.

Sample letters will be available for you to send to Judiciary Chair Senator Lisa Baker and Majority Leader Senator Joe Pittman and your State Senator requesting hearings on these bills. Without hearings in the next few months these bills will “die” and the process to get gun legislation will have to begin again in January 2025. Bills must be voted on in the two-year legislative session.

Connections Ministry Potluck – April 28

The Connections Ministry invites everyone to a potluck lunch on Sunday, April 28 at 12:15 pm in the Good Samaritan Room. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com, and let us know what you're bringing to share at tiny.cc/connections-potluck.

The Malawi/South Sudan Delegation Update

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the delegation from Malawi and South Sudan's travel to Pittsburgh has been delayed until early Fall. More information to follow soon.

Find Out How the Wildflowers Grow – May 4

Each spring a group of dedicated members and friends refresh the Highland Ave entrance, the courtyard and the rain garden. Join us on Saturday, May 4 from 9 am-1 pm to tidy up the church landscaping. Green thumbs are not required. Just bring your energy, curiosity, and a pair of work gloves to the Highland driveway around 9 am. Email Don Breitbarth (donbreitbarth@gmail.com) to help.

Environmental Book Study – May 9

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to read *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet* by Leah Thomas, and then join a book discussion on Thursday, May 9 at 7 pm on Zoom. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net) for info and link.

Donation Requests for The Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is in need of full-sized toiletry items (men's and women's deodorant, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, razors, toilet paper, lotion, etc.) in addition to spring and summer clothing for men, woman and children. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby.

Attending to Wilderness: A Day Retreat – June 1

Join us for a contemplative retreat on Saturday, June 1 from 9 am–4 pm at Jennings Environmental Center (2951 Prospect Rd, Slippery Rock, PA 16057).

There will be time in groups and in solitude, time for creative expression, prayer, and integrating what we discover within ourselves and our natural environment. Hiking options will be available for all skill levels. We will be led by Megan Shelly, a spiritual director and the founder of bewilderpgh (bewilderpgh.com), where she designs and leads retreats and contemplative backpacking trips. The cost is \$40. Beverages, snacks, and lunch will be provided. RSVP to Norma by Sunday, May 19 (412.441.3800 x211).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

April 14 ♦ 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) – “Rachel Carson: Voice of Nature” video, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) – A discussion of chapters 23 and 24 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members