



# 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)*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 14, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one’s life. — Pope Francis

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Andante with Variations in D”

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy  
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

Leader: The bread of life opens our eyes.  
People: The word of life opens our ears.  
Leader: **The risen one shows us God’s own brokenness,**  
People: And by those wounds we are healed.  
Leader: Christ has risen!  
People: He has risen indeed!  
Leader: Alleluia! Let us worship God!

Eddie, Jen, Ellie and Nate Willson

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #267

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

MADRID

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Eddie, Jen, Ellie and Nate Willson

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us. We need forgiveness. We repent our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Be our solace in this life and always. We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.

Eddie, Jen, Ellie and Nate Willson

### TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION



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

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ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Eddie, Jen, Ellie and Nate Willson

Leader: In the name of God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, our pleas for forgiveness have **been heard. God's promises are sure: our sins are forgiven. Peace be with you. Friends,** believe the good news of the gospel.

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #435

IN BABILONE

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.  
For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,  
And our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 3:1-7

NT page 327

Eddie, Jen, Ellie and Nate Willson

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 #634

“To God Be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 24:36b-48

NT page 123

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Can I Get a Witness”

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

*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. Woodworth

*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 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Ken Medema/Jack Schrader

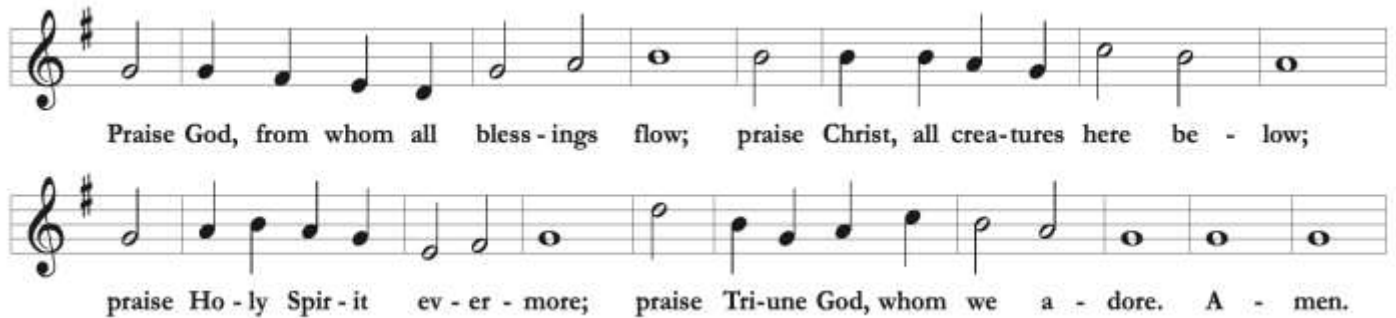
*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

*Something's gonna happen like the world has never known  
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.  
A door's gonna swing open, and the walls come atumblin' down,  
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.*

*You're gonna know it when the Lord stretches out their hand,  
And the people of the Lord get down to pray.  
There's gonna be a brand new song of victory in this land,  
When the people of the Lord get down to pray.*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

\* 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.

\* 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:	Lord God, we offer you only a portion of what you have given us. All that we have is from your creative hand. We give away all that we can through Jesus' love. All of our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom. Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy. In Jesus' name.	
People:	¡Amén!	Amen!

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #246 "Christ Is Alive!" TRURO

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE "Prelude in Classic Style" Gordon Young  
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 YouTube, 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.*

*Please silence all electronic devices before the service begins.*

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy  
Liturgists: The Rev. BJ Woodworth  
Sara Hackett  
Eddie, Jen, Ellie and Nate Willson  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore  
*Organist/Music Director*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Beadle: Jan Herzer  
Crucifer: Michael Casey  
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](http://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 21* — 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 21* — 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

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary.

Wednesdays, 6 to 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* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more info on future classes ([GloriaK@coh.net](mailto:GloriaK@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

### Clean Energy Letter Writing Event

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 after our Journey and Sanctuary services. A sample letter and a fact sheet will be available.

### Purchase Café Justo Coffee

Stop by the Highland Ave hallway today 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.*

### LGBTQIA+ Ministry

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's **Spiritual Gathering** after today's 11 am service to 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

Our Confirmation Class will meet in the McKelvy Room today after worship to start writing our *Statements of Faith* with our sponsors. Please contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

### 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 Dana Carl.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Nate Stephens. He is seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).



### Dress for Success Event Coming Soon!

Do you or someone you know need help getting business/professional clothes for a job interview or a new job? If so, contact Gerald McClendon (GeraldM@coh.net).

### Run in the Pittsburgh Marathon for OHM

If you would like to participate in the Pittsburgh Marathon on Sunday, May 5 as a runner or volunteer in support of Open Hand Ministries, visit ELPC.church or contact Laura Ristau (lauraristau@gmail.com).



### Young Adult Ministry Walks Highland Park — April 20

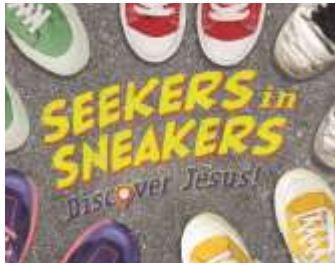
Come along on Saturday, April 20 as we walk and talk at **Highland Park**. We will be at **Tazza D'oro** in the Highland Park neighborhood from 9:30–10 am, and then walk through Highland Park starting at 10 am. Contact Sara Hackett for more info (SaraH@coh.net).

### 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.



## 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**



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 Vivienna 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

Session .....Tuesday, April 16 @ 7:00 pm  
M&O .....Thursday, April 18 @ 6:00 pm

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

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 connectlpc@gmail.com, and let us know what you're bringing to share at tiny.cc/connections-potluck.

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.

Pride Informational Fellowship Time — May 12

Stop by the Fellowship Room after the 11 am service on Sunday, May 12 to get a snack and all the info you need to know to participate in *Pittsburgh Pride* with others from ELPC this summer.



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 are provided. RSVP to Norma by May 19 (412.441.3800 x211).

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.

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, 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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

**April 21 ♦ 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

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — "Illegal Mining and Deforestation are Destroying the Amazon" video by Mariana van Zeller, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 25 and 26 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members