



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 OF EASTER APRIL 28, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Jesus Christ the disabled God [Crucified and Risen Christ], is not a romanticized notion of “overcomer” God. Instead here is God as survivor.

— Nancy Eiseland, “The Disabled God”

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Variations on Thaxted”

Tom Trenney
Ryan Croyle, organ

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

Barbara Griffin

Leader: We come to worship with joy, trusting God’s holy word will inspire us.

People: **We lean into God for understanding, anticipating the Spirit’s blessing.**

Leader: May God hear our praise! May we be counted among the great congregation.

People: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable, as we worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Barbara Griffin

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Barbara Griffin

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Barbara Griffin

Leader: We seek God’s grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

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

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!

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

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SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #466 (sing 3x)

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:16-20

NT page 48
Barbara Griffin

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.

COMMISSIONING OF THE PITTSBURGH MARATHON RUNNERS & WALKERS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Lynne Chadwick, Molly Davidson-Welling, Jim Digiorgio, Bob Forloines, Carole Forloines
Carol Mullen, David Phillips, Laura Ristau, Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Reed Williams

* HYMN #300

“We Are One in the Spirit”

THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Donna Giver-Johnston

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

NT page 170
The Rev. Dr. Giver-Johnston

SERMON

“Easter People”

The Rev. Dr. Giver-Johnston

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Call”

Alexander Brent Smith
text by George Herbert

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife: And such a Life, as killeth death.*

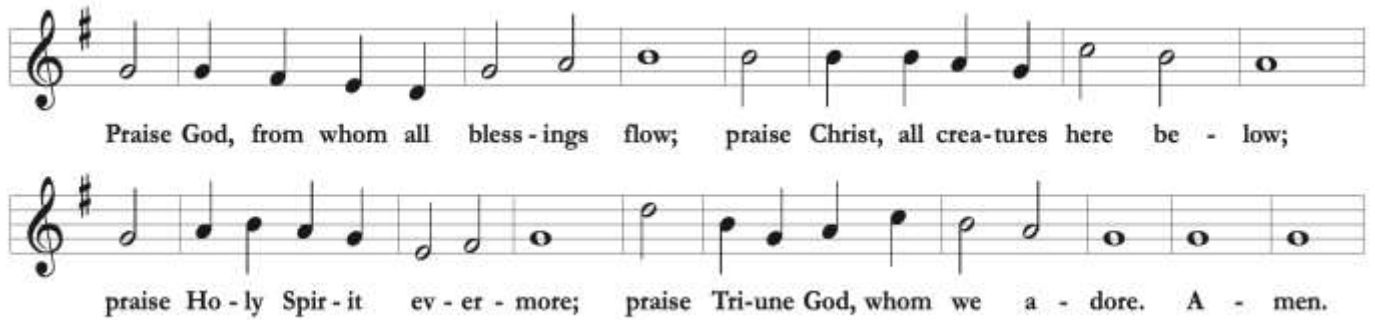
*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length: Such a Strength, as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part: Such a Heart, as joys in love.*

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

* 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 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 #295

“Go to the World!”

SINE NOMINE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Giver-Johnston

POSTLUDE

“Fanfare”

Walter Pelz
Ryan Croyle, *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. Dr. Donna Giver-Johnston
*Director of the Doctoral Ministry Program,
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*

Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Barbara Griffin
Sara Hackett

Musicians: Ryan Croyle, *Guest Organist*
ELPC Chancel Choir

Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Erich Stein
Sound: Wayne Gaines
Bobby Jarsulic

◆ 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

Because of the route of the Pittsburgh Marathon, ELPC will not have any worship services next Sunday, May 5. *Please contact Sara Hackett to attend the All-Church retreat next weekend (SaraH@coh.net).*

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
May 12 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
May 12 — 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

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).

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

Due to the route of the Pittsburgh Marathon, ELPC will not hold worship services next Sunday, May 5.

TODAY AT ELPC

Connections Ministry Potluck

The Connections Ministry invites everyone to a potluck lunch today at 12:15 pm in the Good Samaritan Room. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

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 Nate Stephens.

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



ELPC Members Participate in the Pittsburgh Marathon

Ten members of ELPC are running or walking in Pittsburgh Marathon events to support Open Hand Ministries on May 4-5! Your prayers and support are felt and welcomed! Use this QR code and search for their name (Lynne Chadwick, Molly Davidson-Welling, Jim Digiorgio, Bob Forloines, Carole Forloines, Carol Mullen, David Phillips, Laura Ristau, Susan Wadsworth-Booth, Reed Williams), or search for *Donate to Open Hand Ministries Race Roster 2024*.



One of the most important services to runners is the cheering and encouragement of spectators. To take it a step further, consider helping at the *Fluid Station* on Race Day at Stanton and Negley near the Union Project. Contact Laura Ristau (Marathon@openhandpittsburgh.org) to help.

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. Email Don Breitbarth (donbreitbarth@gmail.com) to help.

PW Bible Study: Sacred Encounters — May 6 and 7

Please join Presbyterian Women for their Bible Study on Monday, May 6 from 7-8:30 pm (Zoom only), or on Tuesday, May 7 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.

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* this summer.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Gathering — May 12

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, May 12 at 1 pm. Contact Wil Forrest for more info or to attend (Wil@coh.net).

A Brass and Organ Spectacular

Friday, May 24 at 7:30 pm

The 13th season of ELPC's *Cathedral Concerts* series wraps up with a special concert featuring The Brass Roots, organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore, and conductor Daniel Nesta Curtis.



The concert will feature the premiere of a new piece for brass ensemble and organ by Pittsburgh composer Nancy Galbraith in honor of the 10-year anniversary of Dr. Ed Moore and The Brass Roots at ELPC called *East Liberty Overture*.

The concert is free, but a free will offering will be received. Contact Dr. Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).





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

David Jennings Smith, Pen Lytle,
Gloria Ritchey's granddaughter Rhya,
and Vivienne Selia's friend Martha.

Condolences to Kathy Callahan on her mother's passing.

Condolences to Peta Harrigan Cole on the passing of her cousin and brother.

Condolences to Vivienne Selia on her friend's passing.

NO Committee Meetings This Week

Pentecost Offering — May 19

The *Pentecost Offering*, one of our denomination's four churchwide special offerings, supports ministries with children, youth, and young adults in our community, across the nation, and around our world. This year, our 40% will help support the ELPC junior and senior high mission trip/pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. The remainder of the offering is forwarded to the denomination.

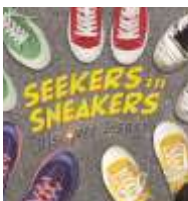
Confirmation Class Welcomed — May 19

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate this special day in worship by welcoming our Confirmation Class into full membership of our church and give thanks for the many and varied gifts of all within our congregation. We give thanks that the Holy Spirit calls us too, giving us gifts for service and inviting us to new expressions of our faith.

A Day Retreat — June 1 (RSVP by May 19)

Join us for a contemplative retreat, *Attending Wilderness: A Day Retreat*, on Saturday, June 1 from 9 am–4 pm at Jennings Environmental Center (2951 Prospect Rd, Slippery Rock, 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. 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).

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL



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!*

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

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Belle Voci Sensory Friendly Concert — May 4

Belle Voci, the community-based intergenerational treble choir, will join with Team Friends and the Justice Committee of ELPC's Mission Board to present a FREE sensory friendly concert in the ELPC Social Hall on Saturday, May 4 at 2 pm. Visit bellevociipgh.com for info.

EECM Food Drive — May 4

On Saturday, May 4 from 9 am—1 pm, East End Cooperative Ministry will be accepting non-perishable food and monetary donations in the EECM Community House parking lot (6125 Harvard St, 15206).

End Gun Violence: PA Advocacy Day — May 7

Join hundreds of concerned citizens in Harrisburg on May 7 for *PA Advocacy Day* to pass legislation to end gun violence. Arrangements will be made for you to meet with your legislators and then join the rally on the front steps of the Capitol. You will hear from survivors, medical personnel, students, school administrators and others. CeasefirePA has built a coalition focused on a multi-pronged strategy to cut all forms of gun violence. To sign up, visit CeaseFirePA.org or email vselia@comcast.net.

Mother's Day Jazz & Gospel Extravaganza — May 10

Etta Cox and friends will perform at a *Mother's Day Jazz & Gospel Extravaganza* at Bidwell Presbyterian Church (1025 Liverpool St, 15233) on Friday, May 10 at 6 pm. A reception will be held at 5 pm. Purchase tickets (\$30) by calling 412.231.4663.

Donations for

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

May 12 ♦ 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) — "Presbyterian Political Theology" by Elder Ron Stone, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of chapters 29 and 30 of the book *Between the Dark and the Daylight* by Joan Chittester, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members