

Summer Worship

Sunday
September 1st, 2024
10am



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOPE



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)

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TIME OF PREPARATION

“The most important thing in life is knowing the most important things in life.”

— David F. Jakielo, *international speaker, consultant, executive coach, author, and is president of Seminars & Consulting*

GATHERING MUSIC *(music printed in bulletin)*

“Shine Jesus Shine”

“How Majestic is Your Name”

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

People: **Y también contigo.**

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 15: 1-2)

Doug Booth/ Susan Wadsworth-Booth

Leader: Who may abide in the presence of God?

People: Who may live on God’s holy mountain?

Leader: All those who walk blamelessly and do what is right.

People: All those who speak truth from their heart.

Leader: Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth!

* OPENING HYMN *(music printed in bulletin)*

“Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Doug Booth/ Susan Wadsworth-Booth

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

Doug Booth/ Susan Wadsworth-Booth

God of light, we confess that we live in the shadows of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. We honor you with our lips, but we have not served you in our hearts. We are satisfied with human traditions and norms and avoid your liberating truth.

We have confused meekness with weakness, holiness with social conformity, and anger with righteousness. Forgive us, we pray. By the power of your word save us from the prison of our conceit so that we may serve you with sincere hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

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

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Doug Booth/ Susan Wadsworth-Booth

Leader: Friends, do not despair: God renews us by the word of truth, that we might become the first fruits of God's creation. Friends, receive the good news of the Gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we belong to God, we are free and forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia and Amen!!!

RESPONSVE HYMN (*music printed in bulletin*)

"Give Me a Clean Heart"

SCRIPTURE LESSON

James 1:17-27

Doug Booth/ Susan Wadsworth-Booth

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 preschool room in the nursery suite for a time of learning together.

Children will return to worship during the Doxology. The registration form can be found online.

The nursery is open for families of young children, under the age of 3, to play together where the service is live-streamed.

* **HYMN** (*music printed in bulletin*)

"Take My Life"

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 7: 1-8. 14-15, 21-23

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

"Misplaced Priorities"

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

RESPONSIVE INTERCESSORY PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

Beloved, in peace, let us pray to God saying,

God of light, hear our prayer.

Bless the church, O God. Deliver us from self-righteousness and make us holy in every way that all people may see you in the witness of your faithful servants.

God of light, hear our prayer.

Bless the nations of the world, O God. Guide the leaders of governments for the sake of peace. Give them sound judgment and merciful hearts and help them be accountable for the common good. Save them from the cynicism of war. Free them from the influence of greed. Deliver them from the temptations of social power.

God of light, hear our prayer.

Bless our communities, O God. Help us live as friend with our neighbors and do good to one another that homes may be free of fear and families live in peace.

God of light, hear our prayer.

Bless children and those who care for and teach them, O God. Protect them from harm; give them what they need to grow in body, mind, and spirit, and provide caring adults to model for them a life of purpose and compassion.

God of light, hear our prayer.

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Bless all who are ailing in body, mind, or spirit. Heal them of their disease and restore them to fullness of life.
God of light, hear our prayer.

Bless those who face the reproach of society, O God; those who are in prison, whether innocent or guilty, those who live in homelessness, and those who are struggling with addiction. Surround them with compassion and save them from hopelessness.
God of light, hear our prayer.

These prayers we offer to you, God of light, by the power of your Holy Spirit and through Christ, who taught us to pray, saying....

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 Narthex.

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

Scan for online giving →



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“I’m Available to You”

Journey Praise Team

* **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. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

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: O God, receive these gifts for the work of your church. With these gifts we dedicate ourselves to live in the truth of your word, and follow your commandments with sincere hearts through Christ our Lord.

People: ¡Amén!

Amen!

* **CLOSING HYMN** (*music printed in bulletin*)

“Joyful, Joyful”

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

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. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists: Doug Booth
Susan Wadsworth-Booth
Sara Hackett
Musicians: Journey Praise Team,
led by Gerald Savage
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ **SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Water is available in the Narthex.

◆ **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 \$75 a Sunday during our summer worship schedule with one arrangement.

Our beautiful arrangements are provided by Bloom Brigade (www.bloombrigade.com).

◆ **SUNDAY WORSHIP**

10 am.....**Summer Worship.** Our weekly service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from piano and choir. Additional seating is available in the first floor Garth Overlook Room for those who prefer to worship indoors.

Starting NEXT Sunday Sept 8:

8:45 am.....**Journey Worship.** An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Held in the social hall. Sept 8 — The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy preaching.

11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir. Sept 8— The Rev. Dr. 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**

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 Jennifer King for more info on future classes (412.441.3800 x222; JenniferK@coh.net).

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

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the World
Shine upon us
Set us free
By the truth you now bring us
Shine on me! Shine on me!

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Maker's glory
Blaze, spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth your word, Lord
And let there be light

Lord, I come to your
Awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood
I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me
Consume all my darkness
Shine on me! Shine on me!

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Maker's glory
Blaze, spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations

With grace and mercy
Send forth your word, Lord
And let there be light

As we gaze on your royal brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here
May our lives tell your story
Shine on us! Shine on us!

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Maker's glory
Blaze, spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth your word, Lord
And let there be light

Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Maker's glory
Blaze, spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace
And mercy
Send forth your word, Lord
And let there be light

HOW MAJESTIC IS YOUR NAME

O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name:
Prince of Peace, Mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty.

O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name:
Prince of Peace, Mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty.

O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord,
How majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name.
O Lord, we magnify your name:
Prince of Peace, Mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty.

Prince of Peace, Mighty God;
O Lord God Almighty.

HOLD TO GOD'S UNCHANGING HAND

Time is filled with swift transition.
Naught of earth unmoved can stand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Trust in God who will not leave you.
Whatsoever years may bring.
If by earthly friends forsaken,
Still more closely to God cling.

Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Covet not this world's vain riches
That so rapidly decay
Seek to gain the heav'n-ly treasures.
They will never pass away.

Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

When your journey is completed,
If to God you have been true,
Fair and bright the home in Glory
Your enraptured soul will view

Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Hold to God's hand, God's unchanging hand.
Build your hopes on things eternal.
Hold to God's unchanging hand.

GIVE ME A CLEAN HEART

Give me a clean heart
So I may serve thee.
Lord, fix my heart
So that I may be used by thee.

For I'm not worthy
Of all those blessings.
Give me a clean heart,
And I'll follow thee.

Give me a clean heart
So I may serve thee.
Lord, fix my heart
So that I may be used by thee.

For I'm not worthy
Of all those blessings.
Give me a clean heart,
And I'll follow thee.

Give me a clean heart
So I may serve thee.
Lord, fix my heart
So that I may be used by thee.

For I'm not worthy
Of all those blessings.
Give me a clean heart,
Give me a clean heart,
Give me a clean heart,
And I'll follow thee.

TAKE MY LIFE

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise
Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee
Swift and beautiful for thee

Take my will and make it thine
It shall be no longer mine
Take my heart, it is thine own
It shall be thy royal throne
It shall be thy royal throne

Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee
Ever, only, all for thee

JOYFUL, JOYFUL

Solo:

Joyful, joyful, Lord, we adore thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee
Hail thee as the sun above

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light
Fill us with the light
Oh, fill us with the light of day

All:

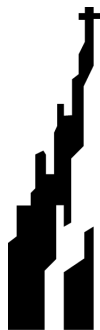
Joyful, joyful, Lord, we adore thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee
Hail thee as the sun above

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
(drive it away)
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us, fill us with the light of day
Light of day

Come and join the chorus
The mighty, mighty chorus
Which the morning stars began
The god of love is reigning o'er us
God watches over everything
So we sing

Joyful, joyful, Lord, we adore thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee
Hail thee as the sun above

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away (drive it
away)
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us, fill us, fill us, fill us
Fill us, fill us, fill us
Fill us with the light of day
Light of day!



East Liberty Presbyterian Church

Extending radical hospitality to all!

116 South Highland Ave 
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

www.ELPC.church



@EastLibertyPresbyterian



TODAY AT ELPC

LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering – TODAY Sept 1

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering and special roundtable lunch discussion today after the 10 am worship service. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).



INQUIRERS' CLASS – TODAY SEPT 1

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* TODAY after the worship service in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

For more info or be on the list for the next class, please contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).



Today's Deacon-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (*Deacon-on-Duty*) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our services.

The DOD today is **Jo Ellen Aleshire**



PW Bible Study Starts Sept 10 (*Postponed from of Sept 3*)

Bible Study begins on Tuesday, Sept 10 from 10 am–Noon (hybrid), and Monday, Sept 16 from 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom). For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

The title of the Presbyterian Women's 2024–2025 Bible Study is *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Learn more from its author, the Rev. Dr. Patricia K Tull, in a video at tiny.cc/pw-2024.

Choir Rehearsals Resume – Sept 5 and 10

Chancel Choir and Journey Praise Team rehearsals will resume on Thursday, Sept 5 at 7 pm. The ELPC Ringers will start rehearsals on Tuesday, Sept 10 at 6 pm. Please contact Dr. Ed Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).

Taize Worship with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Saturday, September 7th at 11:15am-12:15pm you are invited to gather with the PTS Hybrid Program students, staff & faculty for a joint Taize Prayer service, led by Pastor BJ and our ELPC Taize musicians, followed by a FREE box lunch in the courtyard. A commitment of the PTS program is to provide opportunities for these students to experience the rich and vibrant worship lives found within our East Liberty neighborhood. All are welcome, please join us!

NEXT Sunday Sept 8

Return to 2 Worship Services

Our two service schedule resumes with Journey worship at 8:45am, and Sanctuary worship at 11 am.

Rally Day—Plan on joining our faith family on Rally Day, Sept 8! We will celebrate with breakfast between our services from 9:45–10:45 am in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms.

New Sunday Schedule for Children—Children PreK–6th grade will go to *Sunday School: Sacred Stories for Kids* after the Moments with our Children during 11am Sanctuary worship. Parents will pick up their kids after worship.

Youth in grades 7–12 will meet for breakfast on the first Sunday of every month.

Nursery is open & staffed from 8:30-12:30.

Adult Education Classes will begin on Sunday, Sept 15.

Mid-week Fall Programming

Club 116—Kids in grades 1–6 are invited to our midweek youth group ministry, Wednesdays, 4:30–6:30 pm. We have Bible study, crafts, games in the gym, and dinner together! Our first meeting will be Wed, Sept. 11th.

Youth Group—Kids in grades 7-12 meet Thursdays, 4:30–7 pm. Together with Sixth Presbyterian church, we share dinner, pray, play, and explore faith. Youth Group begins on Thursday, September 12th.



Special Congregation Meeting following worship on Sunday, September 15, to act on Pastor Heather's request to dissolve her call as ELPC's Acting Co-Pastor and Associate Pastor for Educational Ministries, effective September 30. All members are encouraged to attend. And plan on joining us on Sunday, September 22, to celebrate Pastor Heather's service to our worship community. Effective October 1, Pastor Heather will begin serving as the solo Pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon.

Young Adult Ministry (Ages 18-40) Jam with the YAMs!

Are you 18–40? We will gather on the third Sunday of each month starting Sunday, September 15.

Church Tower Tour – Sept 15

All are welcome to join guide Steve Evrard for a tour of the church tower on Sunday, Sept 15. Please gather at the Highland Lobby after the 11 am worship service.

Connections Dinner Groups

Would you like to be part of a group of about 10 people who gather monthly for a potluck meal or other activity to get to know one another? Please complete the online form by Oct 6 at

<https://tinyurl.com/ELPCconnect>, or scan →





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

Bethany Bray,
Peta Harrigan Cole's sister-in-law Birney,
David Jennings Smith, and Mary Anne Kirby.

*Condolences to Dr. Charma Dudley
on her cousin's passing.*

*Condolences to Debbie Hurrell
on her sister's passing.*

*Condolences to the family of
Sean Bara, Minister of Music at First
Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, on his passing.*

*Condolences to Evelyn Wrzosek and family
on her brother's passing.*

Committee Meetings This Week

Property Tuesday, Sept 3 @ 7 pm

*For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact
Jen King (JenK@cob.net; 412.441.3800 x222).*

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Lecture: Great Composers & Spirituality of Music – Sept 19

Beatrice Institute is sponsoring a free lecture by Manfred Honeck, Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, at First Baptist Church (159 North Bellefield Ave, 15213) on Thursday, Sept 19 from 7:30-9:30 pm. He will explore and showcase the creativity involved in the performing musician to spirituality. Afterwards, Maestro Honeck will be joined by John Henry Crosby, Founder and President of the Hildebrand Project, for a one-on-one interview. The evening ends with a Q&A from audience members. RSVP is requested but not required at <https://beatriceinstitute.org/public-events/manfred-honeck-lecture>. You can purchase a ticket (\$25) for a pre-event reception with Manfred Honeck at 5:30 pm on the Soldiers & Sailors patio using the RSVP link.



**Let's Get Free
Art Show:**

Abolitionist Expressions
Sept 22 to Oct 20

ELPC's Justice and Worship, Music & Arts Committees invite you to attend an art show from Sept 22 - Oct 20 featuring selected works from the permanent collection of *Let's Get Free: The Women and Trans Prisoner Defense Committee*. The show, *Abolitionist Expressions*, includes paintings, collages, and other artwork created by people who are or have been incarcerated.

The mission of *Let's Get Free* is working to "...end perpetual punishment, build a pathway out of the prisons back to our communities through commutation reform, support successful possibilities for people formerly and currently incarcerated, and shift to a culture of transformative justice." The organization's efforts are in line with the goals of both ELPC Committees and we are thrilled to partner with them on this initiative.

The artwork will be displayed in the Highland and Trustees Rooms, and will be available for the public to view on Sundays from Noon – 2 pm, and Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7 pm.

The mission of *Let's Get Free* is working to "...end perpetual punishment, build a pathway out of the prisons back to our communities through commutation reform, support successful possibilities for people formerly and currently incarcerated, and shift to a culture of transformative justice." The organization's efforts are in line with the goals of both ELPC Committees and we are thrilled to partner with them on this initiative.

A panel presentation on the societal impact of the death penalty, mass incarceration, and inequities in our legal system is being planned for Sunday, Oct 13 after the 11 am sanctuary worship service.

We're in need of volunteer "gallery sitters" willing to be onsite during the times when the show will be open to the public. Contact Vivienne Selia (vselia@comcast.net).



Whether you embrace the season of fall or are an autumn struggler, join us at Villa Maria from Friday, Sept 27 at 6 pm to Sunday, Sept 29 at 11 am to open yourself up to the bittersweet beauty and the invitations autumn has for you, and receive a liberating measure of divine grace at the *Sacrament of Letting Go Retreat*. We will be led by Lynn Holden, a spiritual director, professional counselor, and founder of Cultivating Awareness. *RSVP to Norma (412.441.3800 x211) by Sun, Sept 15. Cost options are:*

1. One Night (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) Shared Bath | \$70
2. One Night (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) Private Bath | \$110
3. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) Shared Bath | \$85
4. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) Private Bath | \$135