



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)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 15, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone’s face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

— Henri Nouwen

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Meditation on Brother James’ Air”

Harold Darke
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

People: **Y también contigo.**

The Rev. Schoenewolf
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 19:1-4, 14*)

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

Leader: Look at the heavens!

People: **They are shouting the glory of God.**

Leader: The days and the nights declare the magnificence of God’s creative works.

People: **Their voice goes through all the earth and their words reach the ends of the world.**

Leader: Let our words of praise be acceptable to you.

People: **Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #463

“How Firm a Foundation”

FOUNDATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

You have called us, O God, and we have refused to listen; you have stretched out your hand and we have not taken it. We have taken what you have given us and used those gifts to hurt others, wound our planet, and defy you. Forgive our inability to recognize you and live out the reality of your gospel. Give us the insight we need to understand your place in our lives so that our words and actions reflect your love at work in our lives and in your world.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

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

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SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #469 (*sing 2x*)

CHILDREN PRAYING

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler

Leader: In Christ, God put on flesh and dwelt among us so that we might know the redemption and hope offered to us by God. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

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

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!**

EPISTLE LESSON

James 3:1-12

OT page 312

Karen Beasley

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

There is a new Sunday School schedule for the children and youth in our faith family.

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Afterwards:

- *Children in PreK-6th grade will go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents will pick up their kids after worship (PreK-3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207).*
- *Youth in grades 7-12 will meet at 9:45 am for breakfast on the first Sunday of the month. Teens also will meet after church one Sunday a month for lunch and programming.*
- *The nursery is open and staffed from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.*

* **HYMN #693**

“Though I May Speak”

GIFT OF LOVE

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:27-38

NT page 61

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SERMON

“The Measure of Our Words”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Schoenewolf

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

Tiffany Sudar

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

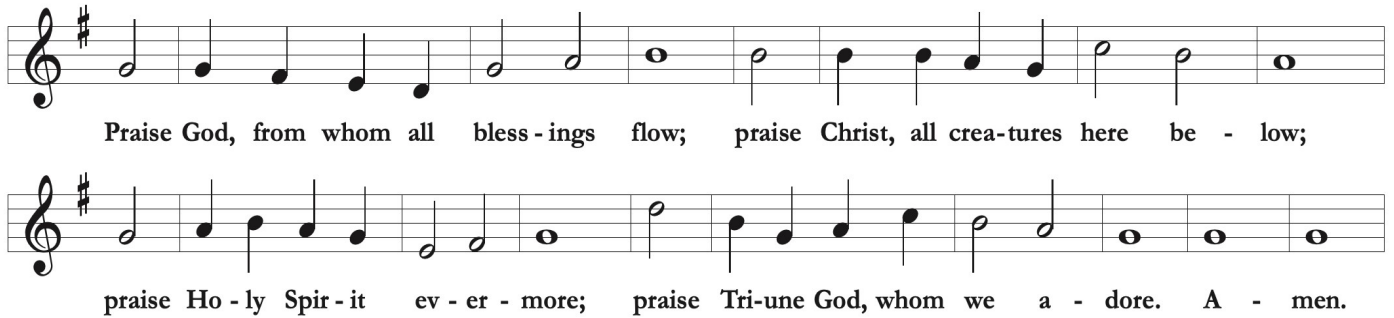
“The 23rd Psalm”
(dedicated to my mother)

Bobby McFerrin

*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. Schoenewolf
Tiffany Sudar

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: God of wisdom, may this offering serve as a powerful witness to this world in need. Guide us as we administer the gifts that you have given us for the building of your kingdom. In 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 #450

“Be Thou My Vision”

SLANE

* CHARGE & BLESSING

The Rev. Schoenewolf

POSTLUDE

“Tuba Tune”

C.S. Lang
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: Karen Beasley
Sara Hackett
Melia and Paige McKenzie-Chandler
Tiffany Sudar
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,
Organist / Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Liz Hopkins
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
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.
Sept 22 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Sept 22 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf 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. This fall we will be drawing our guided meditations from the book *Becoming Rooted: 100 Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth* by Randy Woodley, an activist, scholar, author, teacher, wisdom-keeper and Cherokee descendant, recognized by the Keetoowah Band.

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* 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

Church Tour

All are welcome to join guide Steve Evrard for a tour of the church tower today after the 11am service. Please gather at the Highland Lobby to participate in the tour.

Young Adult Ministry: Jam with the YAMs!

If you are 18–40, please join the young adult ministry *Jam with the YAMs!* We will gather on the third Sunday of each month from Noon-1 pm (starting today) in the Harambe Room. Contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

New Sunday Schedule for Children

Beginning last week, there will be a new Sunday School schedule for the children and youth in our faith family.

- Children in PreK-6th grade will go to *Sunday School: Sacred Stories* after *Moments with our Children* during the 11 am Sanctuary service. Parents will pick up their kids after worship (PreK-3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207).
- Youth in grades 7–12 will meet at 9:45 am for breakfast on the first Sunday of the month (begins today). Teens also will meet after church one Sunday a month for lunch and programming.
- The nursery is open and staffed from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

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



Congregational Meeting – Sept 29 (changed from Sept 15)

There will be a special *Congregational Meeting* on Sunday, Sept 29 (*moved from Sept 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 Sept 30. All members are encouraged to stay in the Sanctuary after the 11 am service that day to attend.

Gatherings for Kids – Wednesdays and Thursdays

- **Club 116:** Kids in grades 1–6 are invited to our midweek ministry on **Wednesdays from 4:30–6:30 pm** for Bible study, crafts, games, and dinner.
- **Youth Group:** Kids in grades 7-12 meet **Thursdays from 4:30–7 pm**. Together with Sixth Presbyterian Church, we share dinner, pray, play, and explore faith.



NEW JOURNEY ZOOM ID

Please use the *NEW*

Journey Worship Service Zoom ID / link below to worship with us online at 8:45 am on Sundays:

Meeting ID: 824 2903 4526

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82429034526>

Handbell Ringers Rehearsals – Sept 17

The Handbell Ringers will start rehearsals on Tuesday, Sept 17 at 6 pm. Contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net).



Celebration Honoring Pastor Heather – Sept 22

Join us on Sunday, Sept 22 after the 11 am worship service to celebrate Pastor Heather's service to our worship community. Pastor Heather will begin serving as the solo pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon on Oct 1.

Cathedral Concert: Back to Broadway – Sept 29

Our new season of *Cathedral Concerts* kicks off on Sunday, Sept 29 at 3 pm with *Back to Broadway*. Join us in the Sanctuary for an afternoon of show tunes from past and present, featuring ELPC's own section leaders. The concert is free, and a freewill offering will be received. Contact Dr. Ed Moore for more info (EdM@coh.net).



Let's Get Free Art Show:

Abolitionist Expressions

Sept 22 to Oct 20

Sundays from Noon – 2 pm

Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7 pm

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.

Please see the flyers around the church for more info.



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

Bethany Bray, Sharon Hardnet,
Peta Harrigan Cole's sister-in-law Birney,
Jon Nelson's cousin Rayna, and Larry White.

Condolences to **Linda Addlespurger and family**
on her husband's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Session.....Tuesday, Sept 17 @ 7:00 pm
Children & Family.....Thursday, Sept 19 @ 5:00 pm
Membership & Outreach ..Thursday, Sept 19 @ 6:00 pm

Voter Event / Social Hour – Sept 29

Join us in the Fellowship Room on September 29. The members of the ad hoc Voting Team (under Justice) will be available to do voter registration, mail in ballot request, check status. Consider the issues important for this election, reflect and discuss. Receive a voter pledge card with an issue checklist. This is a Social Hour, so come enjoy the food and conversation. A few volunteers are needed. Contact Nancy Heastings, (n.heastings@comcast.net). Your Voice Your Vote Use It! Our Democracy Needs ALL of Us. VOTE

Yoga Retreat: Celebrating the Beauty of You – Oct 5

Join us on Saturday, Oct 5 from 9 am–3 pm for a *Yoga Retreat*. This retreat is all about embracing yourself as you are, relaxation, and inner peace through yoga, movement and meditation in community. Yamuna Morgenstern will lead our yoga, movement and reflections. Special guest Jessica Rosario will offer the sound bath with her crystal bowls and mesmerizing voice. The cost is a suggested donation of \$60 (or pay what you can). Please register online at tiny.cc/yoga-retreat. Contact Yamuna for details (domorgens@gmail.com).

Congregational Meeting – Oct 6

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is excited to announce that a candidate has been selected and the Session has called a *Congregational Meeting* to vote on this candidate on Sunday, Oct 6 after the 11 am service.

Connections Dinner Groups – Form Due Oct 6

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>.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Amen to Action Event – Nov 2

Help prepare 100,000 meals for our neighbors at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Saturday, Nov 2 from 8 am-Noon. If you want to participate with ELPC's Neighbors Committee, sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CADAA2EAAFCCF8-50490811-amen#/.



Please Save the Dates!

We are grateful for all the support you have given the PNC over the course of our journey to discern a new Senior Pastor for ELPC. We would like to invite you to attend any of the events we are planning for the first weekend in October so you can meet and welcome our candidate for ELPC.

- There will be an *All-congregation Open House* at the church on **Saturday, Oct 5** from 2-4 pm to meet the person we have selected.
- On **Sunday, Oct 6** there will be a *Meet & Greet* following the 8:45 am Journey service.
- Our final event of the weekend will be a *Reception*, also on **Sunday, Oct 6** after the *Congregational Meeting*, which follows the 11 am sanctuary service.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Sept 22 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm+Zoom) – Relate the Psalms and the liturgical calendar's Gospel of Mark with the *Heavenly Hosts*, facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers and other class members

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm+Zoom) – “Solution to Solving the Border Crisis,” by panel of experts, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) – A discussion of chapters 1 and 2 of *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

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 the end of today, Sunday, 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