

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)

FULL INCLUSION SUNDAY OCTOBER 13, 2024 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Exclusion is always dangerous. Inclusion is the only safety if we are to have a peaceful world.

— Pearl S. Buck

MUSIC MINISTRY

“When Love Is Found (O Waly Waly)”
“Simple Gifts”

Emma Lou Diemer
David Schelat

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Dr. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

GREETINGS

Moses Masiye, *Balaka CCAP, Malawi*

* 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

Marsh Anderson

Leader: **Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God’s name.**
People: How awesome are your deeds, O God! We sing praises to your name.
Leader: Come and see what God has done – bringing us out of slavery into freedom, moving us from fearfulness to joy, welcoming us stranger and friend alike.
People: God has done great deeds – rejoicing in our diversity, compelling us to work for justice, healing our wounded spirits and troubled hearts.
Leader: Siblings in Christ, no wall or divide, no prejudice or bias, can keep us apart. As we are one in the Spirit, let us gather to worship God today!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #684

“Faith Begins by Letting Go”

LUX PRIMA



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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Marsh Anderson

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Marsh Anderson

God of justice and mercy, we confess that we put ourselves first and trust in things that will not last. We desire evil and scorn that which is good; we gather up power and wealth and push aside the needy in our way. O Lord, be gracious to us despite our great sin and transgressions; we gather up power and wealth and push aside and ignore the oppressed, the ostracized, the needy in our way. O Lord, be gracious to us despite our unfaithfulness and transgressions. Teach us to love justice and share in your mercy. Help us to seek the treasure of heavenly life with you, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Marsh Anderson

Leader: Beloved children, God, who loves and sustains, hears your plea. The Lord desires for you a welcome into the beloved community of freedom and light. Remember the poor and the outcast, welcome the child, and you will know, as well as your own welcome, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, Mother of all things, now and forever, you are forgiven. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #654 (*sing 3x*)

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

“In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful”

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Proverbs 3:1-8

OT page 779
Shampagne Humphries

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Amy Bialek

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.*

ANTHEM (*see insert for text*)

“All of Me”

Kyle Pederson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 12:9-18

NT page 216
The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

SERMON

“Don't Try This Alone”

The Rev. Dr. 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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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 Sanctuary.

The Rev. Woodworth



OFFERTORY HYMN (see Insert for music)

“Sing for Justice”

AR HYD Y NOS

* 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
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:	Small and humble, in comparison to the bounty of your blessings, are these offerings brought before you. Yet like the mustard seed of old, take our portion and plant it in the fertile soil of justice, love and mercy, so that a rich harvest may come forth to your eternal glory. In Christ's name we pray.	
People:	Amén!	Amen!

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #767

“Together We Serve”

SAN ANSELMO

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

Diane Bish



The Renaissance City Choir affirms and celebrates LGBTQIA+ identity through the unifying power of music. RCC is western Pennsylvania's only LGBTQIA+ and allies choral group and affirms, by example and through song, the worth and dignity of those in our community. The RCC, with its 110 singers, rehearses and performs at ELPC as Artists in Residence, and thanks the leadership and members of ELPC for providing a safe space and artistic home.

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: The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Marsh Anderson (he/they)
Amy Bialek
Shampagne Humphries
Moses Masiye, *Balaka CCAP, Malawi*
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),
Organist / Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Renaissance City Choir
Dr. Kym Scott (she/her),
Artistic Director
Victor Hoyos Leon (he/they),
Narrator
Alex Marthaler (he/him), *Pianist*
Omari I. Abdul-Alim (he/him),
Violinist
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Join us in the Fellowship Room for nonpartisan voter guides (paper and online) that will give you info about offices and candidates. Then go to the McKelvy Room for a panel discussion that will explore the experience of incarceration from multiple perspectives.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Oct 20 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Oct 20 — The Rev. BJ Woodworth preaching.

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our weekly worship service in honor or memory of a loved one (\$250), please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211).

◆ 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 on Mondays

Rev. BJ Woodworth will lead a time on Zoom of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture.

Mondays, 7:30 to 8 am

Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992 • Passcode: bestill

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Group

Join Steve Evrard on Zoom for a time of scripture readings, responsive prayer, and interactive dialogue.

Tuesdays, 8 to 8:30 am

Meeting ID: 896 9680 6662 • Passcode: 116

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* on Sunday, Oct 20 to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Jen King for more info on future classes (JenK@coh.net).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Panel Discussion on Incarceration

As part of the art show *Abolitionist Expressions* currently being sponsored by ELPC's Justice & Worship, Music & Arts Committee, there will be a panel discussion at Noon today in the McKelvy Room exploring the experience of incarceration from multiple perspectives. Panelists will be The Rev. Dr. Tami Hooker, Rita Nordquist, etta cetera, and Barbara Jewell. More info on these panelists is on the flyer around the church, and in the rooms where the artwork is displayed (Highland and Trustees Rooms). Refreshments will be provided. *Please note: Artwork can be viewed through Oct 20 on Sundays from Noon-2 pm, and on Wednesdays from 5:30-7 pm.*

Are You Ready to Vote?

The members of the ad hoc Voting Team (under Justice Committee) will be available to do online voter registration, mail-in ballot requests, and check voter status and polling locations. Join us today in the Fellowship Room before and after the 11 am worship service. We will have nonpartisan voter guides (paper and online) that will give you info about offices and candidates. Contact Nancy Heastings for more info (n.heastings@comcast.net).

LGBTQIA+ Ministry

You are invited to attend our LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering at 1:30 pm today. (Please note the later start time so all can attend the panel discussion also being held.) 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).

Family Bowling

Families with children and teens are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship for pizza and bowling on ground floor!

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 in the Harambe Room. Today is not the third Sunday, but we will meet because of a scheduling conflict.

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



Connections Group Potluck Lunch — Oct 20

The *Connections Group* will be hosting a potluck lunch on Sunday, Oct 20 at 12:15 pm in the Good Samaritan Room. The lunch is open to everyone at ELPC. To RSVP, please complete the online form (tiny.cc/connections-potluck). Sign up for a dinner group online (tinyurl.com/ELPCconnect). We'll form the groups shortly after today's deadline.

Youth Ministry Events — Oct 20 and 27

- ◆ Following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Oct 20, youth in grades 7–12 are heading to Gearhead Farms in Murrysville for a *Corn Maze and Hayride!* The cost is \$20 to cover the maze and lunch. Scholarships are available. We will return to ELPC at 5:30 pm.
- ◆ Youth in grades 4–12 are eating lunch and *Carving Pumpkins* from 12:30–2 pm on Sunday, Oct 27. Friends are welcome! RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Church Tours — Oct 20 and 27

A tour of the *Sanctuary and Chapel* will be held on Oct 20, and a *Tower* tour will be offered on Oct 27. If you would like to participate in either tour, please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am worship service.

Special Reception Celebrating Hope Academy — Oct 27

Join us following the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on Sunday, Oct 27 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Hope Academy and the long-time leadership and accomplishments of Director Linda Addlespurger. Come to the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms to celebrate and enjoy light refreshments.

Remembrance of Those Who Have Passed Away — Nov 3

As part of our *All Saints' Day* service at the 11 am service on Sunday, Nov 3, we will remember those in our congregation and larger church family who have passed away since November 2023. Send the names and passing dates of extended friends and family to Norma in the church office (412.441.3800 x211) by Monday, Oct 28.



INQUIRERS CLASS

Sunday, October 20

Attend an Inquirers' Class to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).



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

Gloria Barber, John Belechak,
Mary Alice Lightle,
Amiyah McCorvey and Larry White.

Condolences to Linda Addlespurger on her husband's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Session..... Tuesday, Oct 15 @ 7:00 pm
Membership & Outreach ...Thursday, Oct 17 @ 6:00 pm

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

Liturgists Invited

Would you like to serve as a liturgist for the Journey and Sanctuary worship services? If you want to participate — reading the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, scripture lessons, etc. — please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211; Norma@coh.net) so you can be added to the pool. We are happy to make accessibility accommodations at your request to ensure that this opportunity is open to all.

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Group

ELPC offers an online prayer group each Tuesday morning from 8-8:30 am, hosted by ELPC member Steve Evrard. These 20-minute sessions feature scripture readings, responsive prayer, and interactive dialogue. All are welcome at this opportunity for fellowship and prayer. The Zoom Meeting ID is 896 9680 6662 (passcode is 116), or you may call in by dialing 929.205.6099.

Volunteer for Fall Clean-Up at ELPC — Nov 9

If you would like to help clean up the church grounds for the fall season, please join Don Breitbarth on Saturday, Nov 9 from 9 am—Noon. Work will include removing the annual flowers in the courtyard and at S Highland Ave, planting spring tulip bulbs, and some miscellaneous cleanup in the rain garden. Gloves, garden tools, and donuts provided! Please contact Don for more info (don.breitbarth@gmail.com).

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.

Donations for Chapel Market

The Chapel Market is in need of winter clothing. Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Revolutionary Love Tour with Valrie Kaur — Oct 15

In the thick of a divisive election season, join visionary civil rights leader Valarie Kaur in an immersive experience of storytelling, music, song, ancestral wisdom, and community-building on Tuesday, Oct 15 from 6-9 pm at 1Hood Media (460 Melwood Ave, Suite 207, 15213).

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you into a space for soulful introspection, deep listening, and courageous action. Each stop uplifts local leaders, artists, and advocates who catalyze hope. You will leave with the tools needed to lead with love and courage in your daily life. This event is free, but please reserve your tickets online at tiny.cc/revolutionary-love-tour, or scan this QR code.



An Evening with Death Row Exoneree & Attorney — Oct 17

On Oct 17 from 7-9 pm, Pennsylvanians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty is hosting *An Evening with Death Row Exoneree Daniel Gwyn and Attorney Jim Moreno* at East End Cooperative Ministry (6175 Harvard St, Entrance B). Come learn about his journey to freedom after spending 30 years on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Advanced registration requested but not necessary at:

www.eventbrite.com/e/an-evening-with-death-row-exoneree-daniel-gwynn-and-attorney-jim-moreno-registration-1008925462217

Amen to Action Event — Nov 2

Join with neighbors from local congregations and nonprofits to pack 100,000 meals for the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank during *Amen to Action* at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on Saturday, Nov 2 from 8 am–Noon. If you want to participate with ELPC's Neighbors Committee, sign up online at: <http://Tiny.cc/amen-to-action>. You can also donate at www.pts.edu/Amen-to-Action. School aged children can participate with adult family members. Please contact Bob Forloines for more info (rforloines@gmail.com).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Oct 20 ♦ 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) — "Christian Nationalism (Part 1 of 3)" by Daniel Aleshire, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — A discussion of chapters 9 and 10 of *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members