



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.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 5, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every stone, pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in. - Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

PRELUDE

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
“Prelude for the Introit of Epiphany”

arr. Wayne L. Wold
Maurice Duruflé
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.
People: **Y también contigo.**

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz
The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...
People: **We are here to worship.**
Leader: Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...
People: **With questions and hope, we are here.**
Leader: Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...
People: **With our fears and with faith, we are here. God is here!**

Beverly Harris-Schenz & Michael Schenz

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #151

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

The nursery is open and staffed from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

Sara Hackett

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

Beverly Harris-Schenz & Michael Schenz

One of my favorite things about the Magi is that they go looking for God. Actively and consistently, they follow the star until it guides them to Jesus. I wish I was more like that, but I admit I tend to get distracted and lost, taking exit ramps off the road, following whatever new shiny sign is present. It’s part of being human. Let us seek God together. Join me in the prayer of confession:

Leader: God of Light, we recognize how difficult it is to seek you in this noisy world,
People: **Forgive us for not seeking you beyond the sanctuary of the church and the comforts of the city lights.**
Leader: You call us to seek out opportunities to share your love and grace.
People: **Forgive us for not believing that love really can change the world.**
Leader: We long to be more like the Magi.
People: **Help us to faithfully journey your way, every single day. Amen.**

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

Jan 5 • Epiphany Sunday

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Beverly Harris-Schenz & Michael Schenz

Leader: Friends, God's love is measured not with fear, but with grace.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN # 145

“What Child Is This” (verse 3 only)

GREENSLEEVES

READING

words from: Carmelle Beaugelin

Beverly Harris-Schenz &
Michael Schenz

Epiphany celebrates the pilgrimage of three distinguished individuals to the newborn revelation of God revealed in the Christ child. Whether there were only three wise men, or kings, or Magi does not matter. However many of them made the harrowing pilgrimage to the newborn Jesus, they were most likely foreigners and outsiders. Often the community we begin a journey with is not the same community that supports us throughout our journey's length. Even in the story of our Savior's birth, it is not a matter of whether blood is thicker than water. Instead, what matters are the bonds that tie a community together when love and acceptance flow like the healing frankincense and myrrh of the gift-bearers.

* HYMN #152

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-16 NRSVUE

NT page 6

Rev. BJ Woodworth

SERMON

“We Keep Seeking”

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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.

Rev. BJ Woodworth



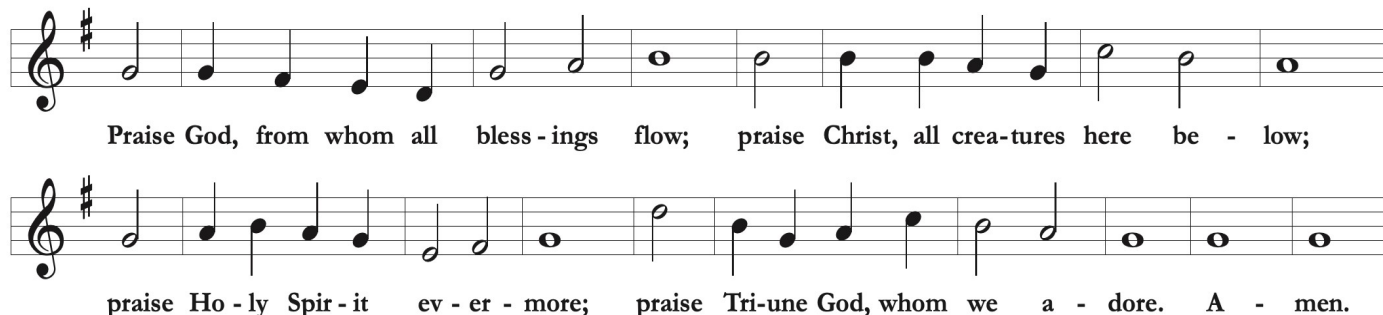
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”
(*Personent Hodie*)

arr. Gustav Holst
text: Glory to God #141

* 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.

Jan 5 • Epiphany Sunday

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.



SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz & Rev. BJ Woodworth

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God
thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. BJ Woodworth

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

SHARING BREAD & CUP

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles to partake of the elements. Those seated in the transepts are asked to join the procession to the front to receive communion by entering one of the pews from the outside and proceed to the center aisle after those seated in the row. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

COMMUNION HYMN #142

“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

God, our Light, we give you thanks that you have strengthened us with this heavenly grape and grain. As we seek you and serve you, empower us to live in the joy of your Good News, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #147

“The First Nowell”

THE FIRST NOWELL

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

POSTLUDE

“In Dir ist Freude”, BWV 615
(In You is Gladness)

Johann Sebastian Bach
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*



Jan 5 • Epiphany Sunday

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: Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz
Liturgists: Sara Hackett
Beverly Harris-Schenz
Michael Schenz
Rev. BJ Woodworth
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),
Organist / Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadles: Polly McQueen
Laura Ristau
Crucifer: Jason Van Ness
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ 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).

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

Coffee and water are available in the Balaka Room.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....**Journey Worship.** An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Jan 12 — Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz preaching.

11 am.....**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Jan 12— Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz 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 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

or you may call in by dialing 929.205.6099

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

(before Taizé)

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month

6:30-7:45 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 see one of the pastors to attend, or contact Jen King for 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

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 Gretchen Chapman. The 11am *Sanctuary service* DOD will be seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).

Cody Conley and Friends – this afternoon

ELPC's own Cody Conley is home from school for Christmas break and will be presenting concert in the sanctuary with some of his friends on Sunday, Jan 5 at 1pm. Featured on the program will be piano quintets by Schumann and Dohnyani. Piano quintets are compositions for string quartet with piano. The concert is free and open.

PW Bible Study – Jan 6 and 7

Presbyterian Women's 2024-2025 Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: Air Justice* will meet on Monday, Jan 6 from 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom), and on Tuesday, Jan 7 from 10 am–Noon (on Zoom and in Fellowship Room). There will be a potluck lunch after Tuesday's Bible Study. Please bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. For more info, email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

Children & Families Volunteer Event – Jan 12

Families with children and teens are hosting an afternoon of bingo and crafts at Shadyside Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation on Sunday, Jan 12. We'll eat lunch and coordinate tasks here at ELPC after worship and then go to Shadyside Nursing to set up and welcome residents from 2–3 pm. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering – Jan 19



You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sun Jan 19 after the 11 am worship service. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

Wrestling with Our Hopes and Fears – Jan 19

You are invited to *Wrestle with Our Hopes and Fears* in a community of faith on Sunday, Jan 19 from 3-4 pm on Zoom. That Sunday is the eve not only of the Inauguration of Donald Trump as President but also Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day. The Zoom gathering will be hosted by Presbyterian Women. You do not need to be Presbyterian or a woman to participate! Email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

ELPC Epiphany Retreat

January 31 – February 2

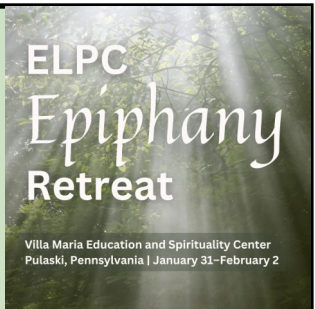
RSVP to Norma Meyer,
norma@coh.net

by Sunday, January 19th

Costs Options (Contact Pastor BJ to discuss scholarships)

1. One Night: (Fri.-Sat. or Sat.-Sun.) Shared Bath | \$85
2. One Night: (Fri.-Sat. or Sat.-Sun.) Private Bath | \$100
3. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) Shared Bath | \$120
4. Two Nights (Friday-Sunday) Private Bath | \$155
5. Saturday ONLY (just meals for the day) | \$25

Epiphany is a season where we celebrate and remind ourselves that God still speaks, communicates, and reveals God's Self. God desires to be known and to know us. On this retreat, we will reflect together on four ways in which God still communicates, speaks and reveals God's Self directing, guiding, and granting us wisdom. We will explore, ponder and experience how God gives "epiphanies" to us: 1) within us, in our souls and spirits, 2) in the natural world of creation, 3) in the written words of scripture, and 4) through other people in community. Join us for a time of solitude, silence, community, rest, prayer and discovery.



Teen Snowtubing at Boyce Park – Jan 19

Youth in grades 7–12 are going snowtubing at Boyce Park on Sunday, Jan 19 from 12–3:15 pm. The cost is \$10, but scholarships are available. Lunch will be served at ELPC before heading to Boyce Park. RSVP online or to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).



Tween Mini Golf – Jan 26

On Sunday, Jan 26 from 12:30–2 pm, all tweens are invited to help create a mini golf course around the church and then play a round. Bonus points if you get a hole in one in the bell tower! Friends are welcome and lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Environmental Team Book Study – Feb 20

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee invites you to read *The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration* by Jake Bittle, and then join a book discussion on Thursday, Feb 20 at 7 pm on Zoom.

For more info and the Zoom link, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).



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

Pepo and Francine Mazingi's son Emmanuel,
Dwayne Parker, Rhonda Perroz, and Lisa Petrilli.
Tiffany Sudar's cousin's son Maks

Condolences to:

† **Betty Dell and family** on her niece *Anne Smith's* passing.
† *Family & friends of Pastor Emeritus, ELPC Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut, who passed away on December 25th.*

THANK YOU

from the Worship, Music & Arts Committee

to EVERYONE who contributed to the meaningful and beautiful Christmas season.

We appreciate all efforts during this holy season.

Committee Meetings This Week

Membership & Outreach..... TODAY Jan 5 after service
Faith Formation.....Tuesday, Jan 7 @ 6:00pm
Property.....Tuesday, Jan 7 @ 7:00pm
Justice Wednesday, Jan 8 @ 5:30pm
If you are not already a Justice member, but are interested in attending, please contact Carol Chonoska carolchonoska@gmail.com
Mission Board.....Thursday, Jan 9 @ 5:30pm

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Jan 12 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm+Zoom) —Join us as we relate to the year “C” liturgical calendar, which includes the Gospels of Luke and John. The Scriptures will expand and deepen our understanding of our 500-year, “Reformed, Ever Reforming” faith legacy and ELPC 217 Sanctuary’s stained-glass windows. Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers and other class members.

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm+Zoom) — “Common Cause: Fighting for “The Democracy We Deserve”- Emily Holmes, Senior Pennsylvania State Program Officer.

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — We will be discussing chapters 25–30 of *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor. For more information, please contact the Rev. Joe Hajdu at hajdu625@comcast.net.

Gatherings for Kids – Wednesdays and Thursdays

- **Club 116:** Kids in **grades 1–6** are invited to our mid-week ministry on **Wednesdays from 4:30–6:30 pm** for Bible study, crafts, games, and dinner. (*not Dec 25*)
- **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.

Cathedral Concert: St. Olaf Choir – Feb 9

The highly acclaimed St. Olaf Choir will perform in the ELPC Sanctuary on Sunday, Feb 9 at 7:30 pm. The choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles and is renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound.



This is a ticketed event and will not be livestreamed. Discounted tickets are available for ELPC members and friends. Contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net).

In our

COMMUNITY



Listening Sessions to Black Members of Pittsburgh Presbytery – Jan 27 and 28, Feb 3

The *Alliance for Honor and Repair* has been charged by Pittsburgh Presbytery to engage in a thorough review of the experience of our historically Black congregations through history and to offer recommendations on actions of repair or reparations.

This past year the Alliance has been hosting listening sessions at our historically Black churches to hear the stories and experiences of their members. Sessions have happened at Bidwell, Grace Memorial, Bethesda, and Valley View. But not all Black members of Pittsburgh Presbytery go to these churches and some members of those communities have moved on to other churches in the Presbytery.

With that in mind, an invitation is extended to the Black members of Pittsburgh Presbytery to tell their stories to the Alliance. Sessions will be held on Jan 27 and 28, and Feb 3 at 6:30 pm over Zoom. If you have a story to tell or would like to share your experience as a Black member of Pittsburgh Presbytery please sign up for a time by Friday, Jan 24 at <https://tinyurl.com/Alliance4HonorRepair>. Learn more at: honorandrepair.com.

Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market is in need of **winter clothing (especially men's)** and **full-sized toiletries items** (soap, body wash, toothpaste, toilet paper, toothbrushes, lotion etc.) Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open (on the first and third Tues of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thurs from 10 am–12 pm).

If you would like to volunteer please contact Gerald McClendon (GeraldM@coh.net).