



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)

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY JANUARY 26, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

...Jesus invites us to re-centered lives, fully integrated around ultimate loyalty and love of his very personal God, and in the love of our neighbors as ourselves. His is a humane, humanistic, humanitarian God.
— Rev. Dr. Robert A. Chesnut, ELPC Pastor Emeritus

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Beach Spring”

arr. Janet Linker

based on *Glory to God* #490

Johann Sebastian Bach

based on *Glory to God* #395

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

“Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier, BWV 731”

(Blessed Jesus, We Are Here)

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz

Everyone in worship today is encouraged to please sign your name in the red Friendship Books that are in each pew.

Doing so will help ELPC maintain a pastoral connection with all who worship with us. Thank you!

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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

Jim and Heather Eng

Leader: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

People: **We gather to hear God’s liberating word of love.**

Leader: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

People: May the Spirit of God work in us and through us.

Leader: May a vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

People: And may it be enacted in our lives!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #396

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

HOLY MANNA

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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

- *Children age 4-6th grade will go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents will pick up their kids after worship (age 4-3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207).*
- *Children age 3 and younger can play, sing songs and hear stories in the nursery from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.*

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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Jim and Heather Eng

Leader: In our day-to-day lives, we miss the mark in a multitude of ways — by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Confession allows us to unburden ourselves and lay before God our stark humanity. Let us offer our prayer, knowing that God is merciful and offers forgiveness to all.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS (*in unison*)

Jim and Heather Eng

Gracious God, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of: Adair Elizabeth O’Donnell, *child of Collyn Adair O’Donnell and Jameson McCoy O’Donnell*

Profession of Faith

Act of Baptizing

The Deacons and the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee partner to donate a tree seedling to *Tree Pittsburgh Heritage Nursery* for every baptism in our church.

* HYMN #482

“Baptized in Water”

BUNESSAN

FIRST READING

Words from Christina Cataldo

Jim and Heather Eng

Jesus finally traveled back to Nazareth, his hometown. This is the place where he was nurtured into adulthood. Maybe the reason Jesus went home was not because he expected a kind welcome and a gentle start to his ministry. Maybe he went home because he knew that if he could tell the truth about his mission to the people who had known him the longest – the people who knew him as a smart-mouthed kid, an awkward teenager, a peculiar young man – if he could tell them the truth, he could tell the truth to anyone. If he could be brave with these people, he could face anyone. So, he went home. He went to synagogue, and he told them his mission.

May God bless the hearing of these words. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #288 (*sing 3 times; remain seated*)

LIVING GOD

“Spirit of the Living God”

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:14-21

NT page 84
Jim and Heather Eng

SERMON

“Is the Spirit of the Lord upon you?”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

Allen Pote

*Many gifts, one spirit. Many songs, one voice. Many reasons, one promise. Many questions, one choice.
 O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above. In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.
 O God, remind us we are not alone. Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.
 Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
 We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.
 Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul into the beauty of a rainbow.
 Give us life, Lord, make us whole.*

* 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

Rev. Dr. Diaz
 Heather Eng

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 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:	We thank you, God, for loving us into the freedom of a generous life. Bless these gifts we bring in response to the blessing you have already given us with the gift of life. Form our lives anew into living offerings, sharing your love with a grace that frees others. Amen.	

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #772

“Live into Hope”

TRURO

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Postlude on Truro”

J. Wayne Kerr
based on Glory to God #772
 Dr. Moore, organ



Notes regarding the music sung in today's service is available on our website —

<http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>

You can also scan this QR code to be directed to that info on our website.



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.

Assisted listening devices are available for our Sanctuary worship. Please print your contact info and device number on the sign-out sheet if you need to use one.

Please silence all electronic devices before the service begins.

◆ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz (he/him/él)
Liturgists: Jim and Heather Eng
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Acolyte: Medhansh Reddy
Beadle: Liz Hopkins
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

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

◆ SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

ELPC's Membership & Outreach Committee is hosting a *Social Hour* in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome to join them for fellowship and refreshments! And please welcome the family of the newly baptized!

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Feb 2 — Rev. Dr. Diaz preaching.
11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Feb 2 — Rev. Dr. 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

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* on Sunday, Feb 9 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.

Sunday, 26 January 2025 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

The season of Epiphany goes from the Epiphany of the Lord on January 6 through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday this year is March 5, 2025.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/epiphany>

Prelude

The tune *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* was composed by Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625-1673). Ahle was an organist and composer from Mühlhausen, Germany. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) used the tune in several vocal and organ works, including the chorale prelude heard this morning.

Processional Hymn

The tune HOLY MANNA is named for the penultimate phrases in verses 1-3 of the hymn. The music first appeared in *Columbian Harmony*, published in 1825 with the subtitle “a choice collection of Psalm Tunes, Hymns, and Anthems, in three parts.” HOLY MANNA is set to three different hymn texts in *Glory to God*.

Offertory

Composer Allen Pote was born in Halstead, Kansas in 1945. He has published over 300 choral works and 14 musicals. *Many Gifts, One Spirit* was published in 1986.

Recessional Hymn

Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008) was a Presbyterian hymn writer and advocate for women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She has 6 hymns included in *Glory to God*.

Recessional Hymn/Postlude

TRURO is an anonymous tune first published around 1778 in a collection of Psalm and hymn tunes. The name comes from the city and cathedral of Cornwall, the most southwestern county of the United Kingdom.

TODAY AT ELPC

Social Hour

ELPC's Membership & Outreach Committee is hosting a *Social Hour* after today's 11 am service in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome to join them for fellowship and refreshments!

Tween Mini Golf

Today 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).

Today's Deacons On-Duty (DODs)

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



Open Hand Ministries Volunteer Opportunity — Feb 1

The next *Open Hand Ministries Workday* will be on Saturday, Feb 1. The current house rehabilitation is nearing completion but volunteers are still needed to finish things up. Both skilled construction labor and willing hands are welcome to participate. Feel free to participate for just a few hours or all day. If interested, please contact Frank Bauerle (fbauerle52@gmail.com) for more info.

PW Bible Study — Feb 3 and 4

Presbyterian Women's 2024-2025 Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: Climate Change* will meet on Monday, Feb 3 from 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom), and on Tuesday, Feb 4 from 10 am–Noon (hybrid). There will be a potluck lunch after Tuesday's Bible Study. Please bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. Email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.



INQUIRERS CLASS

Sunday, February 9

Attend an Inquirers' Class on Sunday, Feb 9 after the 11 am worship service to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222) to register or for info.

Cathedral Concert

St. Olaf Choir

Sunday, Feb 9 • 7:30 pm



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).

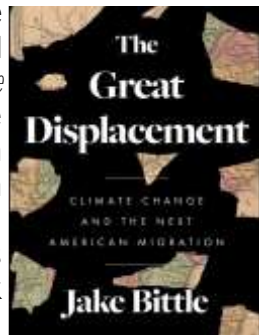


Children and Families Event — Feb 9

Our next family event is *Dog Treat Baking* on Sunday, Feb 9 after the 11 am sanctuary service. If you would like to participate, please contact Sara Hackett (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.



Even as climate change dominates the headlines, many of us still think about it in the future tense. Jake Bittle, a journalist who covers climate change and energy, gives us a human-based narrative of national scope. Contact Nancy Heastings for info and link (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Register for Hope Academy Classes

There is still time to register your children for the classes offered at Hope Academy. Please visit ELPC.church for more info and to register.





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

Tiffany Sudar's cousin's son Maks.

Condolences to Zo Zielinski and family on his father's passing. The service will be held today in the Chapel at 2:30 pm.

Condolences to Peta Harrigan Cole on the passing of her cousin's husband.

NO Committee Meetings This Week

Tuesday Morning Zoom Prayer Group

ELPC offers an online prayer group each Tuesday morning from 8-8:30 am, hosted by ELPC member Steve Evrad. 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.

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.



Vacation Church School — June 23 to 27

VCS at ELPC will be held on Monday, June 23 to Friday, June 27 from 9 am–3 pm for children in pre-K (age 4 and potty-trained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is LIVE it OUT: Discover How to Love like Jesus! LIVE it OUT VCS combines the spirit of camp—the camaraderie, the daily activities, the immersive nature—with Bible stories, worship songs, service projects, and small group activities that teach kids how to live out their faith. Teens in 6th-12th grade and adult volunteers are needed as storytellers, camp counselors, to help with games, art, lunch and to model to kids that learning to love like Jesus is an amazing lifelong adventure! Save the dates!



Taizé Prayer

WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM
AUDIO-STREAM AVAILABLE

In our

COMMUNITY



Beverly Harris-Schenz Launches Her New Book — Feb 8
ELPC's very own member Beverly Harris-Schenz debuts her latest book *Mary Martin: Black Government-Girl* at a book launch event on Saturday, Feb 8 from 1-3 pm at Everyday Café (532 N Homewood Ave, 15208). Learn about her mother's journey from small town America to Washington, DC. In the 1940s she joins 100,000 other Black Americans seeking a better life in the nation's capital. Hear about Mary's experiences as she followed her dream in the face of Jim Crow laws and segregation. This event is co-sponsored by the (sub)Verses Collective of Black Women Writers. All are invited to attend this special event!

Henry Highland Garnet Weekend — Feb 21 to 23

The 2nd annual *Henry Highland Garnet weekend* will be held Feb 21 to 23 at Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church (1025 Liverpool St, 15233). The theme of the weekend is *Empowering Ourselves with Unconventional Methods During Unconventional Times*. The events are sponsored by the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and Anti-Racism Transformation Team. For more info, please email HHGSPittsburgh@gmail.com, or call 412.447.1613.

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 Tuesday of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am–12 pm).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Feb 2 ♦ 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) — "Learn More than You Teach" by Susan Smith, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — Pastor Michael will be visiting, and the class will conclude its discussion of *Always a Guest* by Barbara Brown Taylor, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members