



# 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)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 2, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

The call for me was to get the word out that Christianity is not a slave religion, but Christianity is a liberating religion.

— Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon, Womanist Theologian and the first African American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (1974)

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Allegretto”  
“Adoration”

Florence Price  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

### 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

Bethany Bray

Leader: Remember the words of God who says, “Before I formed you, I knew you.”  
People: **We are appointed to speak God’s word.**  
Leader: We may believe we are too young or too old, too ignorant or too cynical.  
People: Still, the word of God comes to us.  
Leader: Let us open our hearts to worship and hear God’s voice.  
People: **We are filled with God’s praise and God’s glory!**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #716 “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

BEACH SPRING

### 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.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Bethany Bray

Leader: The Lord is our hope and our trust and our refuge. With confidence born out of faith in God’s power to deliver us, let us now collectively pray and confess.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Bethany Bray

Lord, we confess that we doubt your capacity to work through us. We hold on to fears that we are unworthy to speak your words and act on your love. Forgive us and help us to trust you. Amen.

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

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TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Bethany Bray

Leader: Friends, God is gracious and never leaves us.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.

¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE HYMN #70 (sung several times as led by the choir; remain seated)

MOON

“What Does the Lord Require of You?”

FIRST READING

A reading from “Black Liturgies” by Cole Arthur Riley

David Carl

Calling, for many of us, is not a question of what we should do, but whether our lives matter at all. I wanted the stability of a single purpose until death; I've never cared for life in its fogginess. But calling demands that we honor its fluidity. Not all calls are eternal. They ebb and flow with us — with our needs, our community, and our loves. If there is anything static in it, it is that we are called to whatever makes us more human. Not to what makes us matter — calling has no competency in this area. Its purpose is not to prove our worth, but to show us how we might practice it. Calling is a divine corridor with many doors, and no one can tell you how long each door will remain unlocked. No one can save you from having to turn the knob. *May God bless the hearing of these words. Amen.*

\* HYMN #691

“Lord, When I Came into This Life”

LAND OF REST

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 1:4-10

OT page 920

Bethany Bray

SERMON

“I Am With You”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING INVITATION

David Carl

*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, or visit [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).*



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“City Called Heaven”

arr. Josephine Poelinitz

*I am a pilgrim, a pilgrim of sorrow, I'm left in this wide world, this wide world alone.*

*Oh I ain't got no hope, got no hope for tomorrow. I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.*

*Sometimes I'm tossed and I'm driven, Lord. Sometimes I just don't know which way to turn.*

*Oh I heard of a city, a city called heaven. I'm trying to make it, make heaven my home.*

\* 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.

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



— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Dr. Diaz

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Diaz

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. 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 East Transept (the section near the Highland Entrance) will be directed by an usher to the walkway between the front and back section and will file in behind those in the first row of the back section. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.*

COMMUNION HYMN #770

“I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table”

WELCOME TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Diaz

God of everlasting Presence, we give you thanks that you have fed us with heavenly grape and grain. Empower us to trust you and to faithfully live our calling, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #66

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

PENTECOST

\* CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Adolphus Hailstork  
*based on Glory to God #66*  
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](http://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: Bethany Bray

David Carl

Sara Hackett (she/her)

*Director of Christian Education  
and Youth Ministries*

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)

*Director of Music and Arts*

ELPC Chancel Choir

Adrianna Cleveland, *Soloist*

Acolytes: Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt

Beadles: Heather Eng and Polly McQueen

Crucifer: Linda Davis

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, contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211). The cost is \$250.

#### ◆ 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.

*Feb 9 — Rev. Dr. Diaz preaching.*

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.

*Feb 9 — 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](http://www.ELPC.church).

## Sunday, 2 February 2025 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

### Black History Month

The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State University from January 2 to February 28, 1970. President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976. In a message on February 10, 1976, he urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

*Notes on this morning's music...*

### Prelude

Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1906. She was the first African-American woman composer to have a composition performed by a major symphony orchestra. Her *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor* was first performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933.

### Offertory

The spiritual *City Called Heaven* begins with a sense of despair, “I am a poor pilgrim of sorrow. I’m left in this wild world alone.” As the piece progress, the text moves to a feeling of hope and joy, “I heard of a city called heaven. I’m trying to make heaven my home.” This arrangement, by Chicago public school music teacher Josephine Poelinitz (b. 1942), was published in 1994.

### Communion Hymn

An early version of the spiritual *I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table* (also known as *The Welcome Table*) appeared in the collection *Hampton and Its Students* (1874) published by the Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) with the note “This was sung by a boy who was sold down South by his master; and when he parted from his mother, these were the words he sang.” The version we know today was recorded in 1922 by the Florida Normal Quartet. Alternate verses appeared during the Civil Rights Movement, including “I’m gonna sit at the Woolworth’s counter.”

### Postlude

Contemporary African-American composer Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) is Professor Emeritus of Music at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Hailstork’s compositions have been described “as a crossover hybrid of African-American and European-American music.” *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* fits this description, incorporating the syncopated rhythms of the spiritual amidst more traditional harmonies and dissonant chords. Speaking on his use of dissonance in his music, Hailstork said that he uses it to “create tension and suspend resolution.”

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Murals Hanging in Sanctuary

To read more about the two murals hanging in the front of the Sanctuary, visit <http://tiny.cc/elpcmurals>. Paper handouts are available beneath each mural.

### 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 Drew Simpson. He is seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).



### 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.

### Baking Valentine Cookies for Dogs — Feb 9

Children, youth, and families are baking and decorating dog treats in the Good Samaritan Room on Sunday, Feb 9 from 12–2 pm. We'll be making treats for Ellie's Pet Pantry, a program at Humane Animal Rescue. This event is open to any child with a parent/adult. Youth in grades 4–12 may attend on their own. Lunch from Chipotle will be provided to all. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

### Jam with the YAMs — Feb 9

Are you 18–40? Then join us for Jam with the YAMs (Young Adult Ministry) following the 11 am worship service on Sunday, Feb 9 in the Harambe Room for bagels, coffee, and fellowship. Contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

### Meet the Nominees Social Hour — Feb 16

On Sunday, Feb 16 after the 11 am worship service, Membership and Outreach and the Officer Nominating Committee will co-host a *Social Hour* in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. You will have a chance to meet this year's nominees, who will officially be presented on Feb 23 during the *Congregational Meeting*. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

### Survey of Your Favorite Hymns for Worship — Feb 16 and 23

ELPC's Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee would like to know what your favorite hymns are. You are invited to fill out the survey online at <http://tiny.cc/elpchymns>. Paper copies of the survey will be available Feb 16 and 23.

### 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.

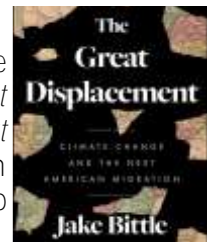
The choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier cappella ensembles and is renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound.

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).



### 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).

### Congregational Meeting — Feb 23

Session has scheduled the annual *Congregational Meeting* to take place on Sunday, Feb 23 following our Sanctuary worship service. All official members of the church are invited to participate and vote for new candidates for Elder and Deacon for this coming year. The meeting will be held in the Social Hall. Refreshments will be served.



## 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.

Register online using this QR code, or visit [elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member](http://elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member).

Please contact Jen King for more info:

(JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222)







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

Becky Boyer's daughter, Torrence Vaughan, and Tiffany Sudar's cousin's son Maks.

Condolences to Doris Dick on her uncle's passing.

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

Condolences to Zo Zielinski and family on his father's passing.

*A Note of Gratitude....*

The Chesnut family thanks Pastor Michael Diaz and all the friends who were on Zoom on Jan 22 to hear the memorial service for Rev. Dr. Robert Chesnut who died Dec 25, 2024 in Glen Allen, VA. Bob so appreciated the cards, emails and prayers that were sent while he was in hospice. I also thank you all for the sympathy cards and the loving messages. Bob is at rest and peace now. Thanks be to God for Bob's life and Christian witness.

— Jan, Andrew, and Fabiola Chesnut and Elizabeth Chesnut Kennedy and Paul Kennedy

Committee Meeting This Week

Property..... Tuesday, Feb 4 @ 7:00 pm

**LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering — Feb 23**

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sunday, Feb 23 after the 11 am worship service. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net) for more info or to attend.

Register for Hope Academy Classes

Register your children for the classes offered at Hope Academy by visiting ELPC.church. Soprano Anqwenique Kinsel and a string quartet from Hope Academy will be presenting *I Want to Go Home* by composer Jessie Montgomery during the 11 am service on Feb 16.

Ash Wednesday Services — March 5

A season where we reflect on repentance and our own relationship with God, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. Pastor Michael and Pastor BJ will lead a reflective time of word and prayer in the Chapel at 12 pm. They also will lead our evening Ash Wednesday Service in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. Both services will include the imposition of ashes.



Center for Creative Reuse Field Trip for Youth — March 16

On Sunday, March 16 from 12–2:30 pm, youth are meeting for lunch and a field trip to the Center for Creative Reuse—where they will learn about the benefits of reuse for the environment, community, and self. Please contact Sara Hackett to RSVP (SaraH@coh.net).

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. 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!

Documentary: Single-Use Planet — Feb 20

View the premiere of the eye-opening documentary *Single Use Planet* at the Harris Theater (809 Liberty Ave, Downtown) on Thursday, Feb 20. The movie goes upstream to SWPA where millions of tons of raw plastic are being made in Beaver County despite a global plastic waste problem. Can this powerful industry be persuaded to temper its production of single-use plastic? Our search for answers leads from local advocates in Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C. and finally internationally. Reserve your spot for this free viewing at: [www.eventbrite.com/e/single-use-planet-documentary-premieres-in-pittsburgh-on-feb-20-2025-tickets-1143178781509?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/single-use-planet-documentary-premieres-in-pittsburgh-on-feb-20-2025-tickets-1143178781509?aff=oddtcreator).

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](mailto:HHGSPittsburgh@gmail.com), or call 412.447.1613.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Feb 9 ♦ 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) — "Black Presbyterians and their Contributions to the Presbyterian Church" led by Alexander Payton, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — A session with Sr. Janice of Casa San Jose, the recipient of our class offering this year. Non-class members are most welcome to attend. Led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members