



# 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)*

## FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 9, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

If the concept of God has any validity or any use, it can only be to make us larger, freer, and more loving. — James Baldwin

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Richard Billingham  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

arr. Lloyd Larson  
ELPC Ringers

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. BJ Woodworth

*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. Woodworth

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

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

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Coleman and Linda Lane

Leader: Jesus promises that when we gather, God is present.  
People: God is with us here. God is with us today.  
Leader: Jesus calls us, but will we follow?  
People: Through the clouds of doubt and fear, we hear the call.  
Leader: Just as weary fisher folk were surprised by Jesus at their boat,  
People: God calls us to leave what we must and follow Jesus.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #726

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

KELVINGROVE

### 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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**Feb 9 • 5th Sunday after Epiphany**

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Coleman and Linda Lane

Leader: God calls us to live our lives in the way of Jesus, who humbly and justly loved God and neighbor. Because the salvation of the world is ongoing, we fall short. In order that we may be free to live into our purpose again, let us collectively confess our shortcomings.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Coleman and Linda Lane

God, you ask us to look to the margins and care for the lost. Yet, we center on ourselves. You ask us to give away, and we grab for more. You ask us to love one another, but we are siloed by our divisions. Forgive us. Hear our silent confessions now.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Coleman and Linda Lane

Leader: Friends, God is merciful and truly loves you.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.

¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

HANDBELL ANTHEM

“Allegro Spiritoso”

Greg Underwood

FIRST READING

*A Reading from “Breaking Old Rhythms” by Amena Brown*

Coleman and Linda Lane

God is the DJ and my life is the dance floor. Sometimes, right as I'm getting into the groove of a particular tune, the DJ of All DJs switches the song, forcing me to find a completely new rhythm to dance to. I began my relationship with Jesus at 12 years old. Unfortunately, I also accepted a safe Christianity that involved more boredom than risk, more cliché than creativity, more of a narrow mind than an open one. By the time I reached my mid-twenties I was swiftly arriving at disillusionment. I took a long, hard look at this Jesus... Maybe he's been waiting for me to get tired of the same old song. Now, the closer I get to Jesus, the more I want him to show me his turntables, teaching me how to do a dance that requires more guts than my boring two-step.

*May God bless the hearing of these words. Amen.*

\* HYMN #350

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

SCRIPTURE READING *(New Living translation)*

Luke 5:1-11

NT page 85

Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

“Leaving Everything and Following Jesus”

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. 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.*

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Woodworth

*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).*



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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“The Storm Is Passing Over”

Charles Albert Tindley  
arr. Barbara Baker

*Have courage, my soul, and let us journey on.  
Though the night is dark and I am far from home.  
Thanks be to God, the morning light appears.  
The storm is passing over, Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
The storm is passing over,  
Hallelu.*

\* 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  
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 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:	Holy God, we give you thanks for your generosity to us and the persistence of your call that reaches our very souls. Bless these gifts and multiply them, for the sake of those in need around us. Amen.	

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #729

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Siyahamba”

Robert Buckley Farlee  
*based on Glory to God #853*  
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: Sara Hackett (she/her)  
*Director of Christian Education  
and Youth Ministries*

Musicians: Coleman and Linda Lane  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),  
*Director of Music and Arts*

ELPC Chancel Choir

ELPC Ringers

Beadle: Jason Van Ness

Crucifer: Mario Seneca

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

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 16 — Rev. Dr. Diaz preaching.*

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.  
*Feb 16 — 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* TODAY in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the pastors to attend. Contact Jen King ([JenK@coh.net](mailto:JenK@coh.net)).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church).

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Inquirers Class

Attend an **Inquirers' Class** in the Fellowship Room after the 11 am worship service to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided. Please see one of the Pastors immediately **after the service if you want to join the group and haven't** already registered. Please contact Jen King for more info on future classes (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

### Baking Valentine Cookies for Dogs

Children, youth, and families are baking and decorating **dog treats for Ellie's Pet Pantry**, a program at Humane Animal Rescue, in the Good Samaritan Room today from 12–2 pm. 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. See Sara Hackett after the service if you would like to participate.

### Jam with the YAMs

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

### Purchase Café Justo Coffee

Stop by the Highland Ave hallway after the 11 am worship service to purchase a bag of Café Justo coffee. All varieties are available in ground and whole bean bags for \$10 (cash or check only). If you are unable to pick up your coffee in person, contact Ryan Booher (rabooherc@gmail.com).

### St. Olaf Choir in Concert

The highly acclaimed St. Olaf Choir will perform in the Sanctuary today at 7:30 pm. The choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles. This is a ticketed event and will not be livestreamed. Discounted tickets are available; contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net).

### 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 Dana Carl.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is Nate Stephens. He is seated in the East Transept (Highland Ave entrance).

### Register for Hope Academy Classes

Register your children for the classes offered at Hope Academy by visiting [ELPC.church](http://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.



### Meet the Officer 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 ELPC officer 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.

### 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](mailto: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. Copies of the annual report will be available next Sunday, Feb 16, both in print and on our website.

### 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](mailto:Wil@coh.net)) for more info or to attend.



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

Becky Boyer's daughter,  
Kelly Kinsey's friends, Sam Studebaker,  
Tom Sturgill and Torrence Vaughan.

Condolences to Doris Dick on her uncle's passing.

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

*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 Meetings This Week

Finance..... Tuesday, Feb 11 @ 5:30 pm  
Deacons..... Tuesday, Feb 11 @ 7:00 pm  
Worship, Music, Arts..... Tuesday, Feb 11 @ 7:30 pm  
Mission Board ..... Thursday, Feb 13 @ 5:30 pm

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

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.



ELPC Labyrinth Ministry Team

For decades the Labyrinth at ELPC has been a vital and creative spiritual path for our church and neighbors and during the pandemic we had to suspend its weekly offering. The Spiritual Life Committee desires to revive this ministry starting in March and we need your help! We are looking for 6-8 people who would serve as a team and come to ELPC once a month to set up the labyrinth at the beginning of the day and take it down at the end of the day. The specific day of the week (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) and the times of the day would be determined based on the availability of the team. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

In our

COMMUNITY



Support for Immigrants and Refugees

- THRIVE is a community of people who practice hospitality by connecting newly arrived immigrants and refugees via e-crowdsourcing with neighbors in the Pittsburgh community. Visit [www.thrivepittsburgh.org](http://www.thrivepittsburgh.org), email [thrive7801@gmail.com](mailto:thrive7801@gmail.com), or call 412.366.2662.
- Hello Neighbor improves the lives of recently resettled refugee and immigrant families by matching them with neighbors to guide and support them in their new lives. They need volunteers and have trainings coming up. Visit [www.helloneighbor.io](http://www.helloneighbor.io), email [info@helloneighbor.io](mailto:info@helloneighbor.io), or call 412.567.3946.

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? Reserve your spot for this free viewing at: <https://tinyurl.com/SingleUsePlanet>.

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 16 ♦ 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 (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — “The Long Black Quest for Reparations, A Brief History,” led by Linda Lane, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — Combined with Seekers class in the Good Samaritan Room



## Sunday, 9 February 2025 – Fifth 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

Frederick Douglass (1818–1895) describes spirituals as “those simple and apparently incoherent songs” with “strong, long and profound accents” that “breathed the prayers and complaint of souls suffering the most cruel anguish. Each voice was a witness against slavery and a prayer that God would deliver us from our chains. . . I often found myself in tears listening to them.” – *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* (1845)

### Sermon Hymn

The first published version of the African American Spiritual *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* was in 1867. The spiritual was popularized by the Jubilee Singers of Fisk University in their fund-raising concerts throughout Europe in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Offertory

Charles Albert Tindley (1851-1933) was Methodist minister and composer whose father was a slave, but mother was free. Tindley was pastor of Tindley Temple United Methodist Church in Southwest Center City Philadelphia. Dr. Barbara Wesley Baker arranged Tindley's hymn *The Storm Is Passing Over* for SATB choir and piano. An active composer, conductor, and clinician, she was for many years choral director at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Maryland.

### Postlude

*Siyahamba* is a South African freedom song. The freedom songs give voice to protest, struggle, and solidarity. Swedish composer Anders Nyberg (b. 1955) helped introduce these freedom songs to the west after taking his choir to South Africa in the 1970s. This eventually led to the publication of Nyberg's collection *Freedom Is Coming: Songs of Protest and Praise from South Africa* (1984). Since then, several of the songs have found their way into hymnals, including our *Glory to God Hymnal*. *Siyahamba* is #853 in *Glory to God* and other freedom songs included in the hymnal include #359 – *Freedom Is Coming* and #746 – *Thuma Mina*.