



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)

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 16, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Faith shouldn’t perpetuate fear, it should confront fear and lead us to lean more fully into love, into each other. — Rozella White

MUSIC MINISTRY

“I Love Thee, My Lord”
“Amazing Grace”

George Shearing
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.
People: Y también contigo.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Brianna Hackett

Leader: Friends, take delight in the Lord, who satisfies the desires of your heart.
People: **Commit your way to the Lord and trust in God’s actions.**
Leader: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.
People: For the Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble. Let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #700

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

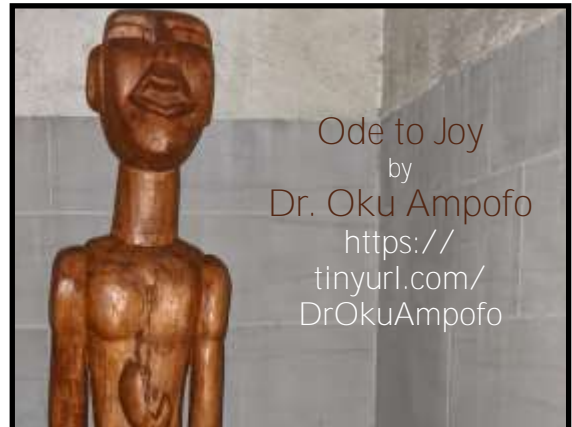
I’M GONNA LIVE

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.

Feb 16 • 6th Sunday after Epiphany

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Karen Beasley

Leader: With hearts open, we bare our souls. Who can understand the heart? Only God. Let us confess the ways we have turned from the One who knows us and saves us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Karen Beasley

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We acknowledge we sometimes miss the mark. Forgive us, Lord. Speak to us your plain truth. Help us take down our barriers. Fill our hearts with selfless love. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Karen Beasley

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.

¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE HYMN #688 *(verse 1 only)*

MORECAMBE

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

FIRST READING

A Reading from “The Autobiography of Frederick Douglass”

Lenore Williams

For between the Christianity of this land, and the Christianity of Christ, I recognize the widest possible difference — so wide, that to receive the one as good, pure, and holy, is of necessity to reject the other as bad, corrupt, and wicked. To be the friend of the one, is of necessity to be the enemy of the other. I love the pure, peaceable, and impartial Christianity of Christ: I therefore hate the corrupt, slaveholding, women-whipping, cradle-plundering, partial and hypocritical Christianity of this land. Indeed, I can see no reason, but the most deceitful one, for calling the religion of this land Christianity. I look upon it as the climax of all misnomers, the boldest of all frauds, and the grossest of all libels.

May God bless the hearing of these words. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Want to Go Home”

Jessie Montgomery

There's no rain to wet you, o yes, I want to go home.

There's no sun to burn you, o yes, I want to go home.

There's no hard trials, o yes, I want to go home.

There's no whips a-crackin' (no), o yes, I want to go home.

There's no stormy weather, o yes, I want to go home.

There's no slavery in the kingdom, o yes, I want to go home.

All is gladness in the kingdom, o yes I want to go home, want to go home.

Our guest musicians this morning are made possible by the Norma Noden Music Fund.

SCRIPTURE READING *(NRSV translation)*

Luke 6:17-25

NT page 108

Rev. Dr. Diaz

SERMON

“Just Plain Talk”

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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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, or visit www.ELPC.church/donate.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Invocation”

Rollo Dilworth

Lord, send your anointing to this place.

Lord, send us your mercy and your grace.

Send us your love, let it rain down above.

Hear our prayer today.

Send us your peace so that all pain will cease.

Send it, send it. Send your anointing.

Send it, Lord.

Hear our prayer today. Amen.

* 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
Brianna Hackett

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: God, you have sustained us in lean times and led us to sources of living water. Take these gifts and multiply their blessings for those who are hungry, hurting and in need of your strength. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #313

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Festal March”

Florence Price
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.



Our full worship service is 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 in the Ushers' Room. 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*

Karen Beasley

Brianna Hackett

Lenore Williams

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

Director of Music and Arts

ELPC Chancel Choir

Hope Academy Guest Musicians:

Anqwenique Kinsel, *soprano*

Omari Imhotep Abdul-Alim, *violin*

Shannon Lock, *violin*

Gloria Wide, *viola*

Ahmer'e Blackman, *cello*

Beadle: Laura Ristau

Crucifer: Jan Herzer

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

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!

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

◆ 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

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, and to stop by either the Highland Ave or Penn Ave entrance to be greeted by an ELPC welcomer. They will be happy to answer any questions and to offer you more info about our programs, church activities, and volunteer services - and to offer you a small welcoming gift.

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; 412.441.3800 x222).

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

Sunday, 16 February 2025 – Sixth 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...

Processional Hymn

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me was first published in *The Negro Sings a New Heaven* in 1930. The arrangement of the hymn in our hymnal is by Wendell P. Whalum, (1931-1987), a leading scholar in black hymnody and spirituals. He was the choral director for the world premiere of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* in 1972.

Special Music

Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981) was raised in Manhattan's Lower East Side and began her violin studies at The Third Street Music School Settlement. She received her bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Juilliard School and a master's degree in composition for film and media from New York University. Montgomery's arrangement of the spiritual *I Want to Go Home* was first composed in 2015 and revised in 2021 as part of her *Five Freedom Songs*.

From the composer: *I Want to Go Home* originates from the Southeastern slave states. My setting is inspired by the simple way it was transcribed as a simple seven-note melody without an indicated rhythm, which inspired me to write it in a hybrid Gregorian chant/spiritual style.

I Want to Go Home was recorded in the ELPC Chapel by Anqwenique Kinsel and the Kassia Ensemble for an online concert in May 2021 during the COVID pandemic.

Offertory

Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970) was born in St. Louis, Missouri and studied at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Since 2009 Dr. Dilworth has been a faculty member in the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. *Invocation* is an original piece composed in 2015 with words by Dilworth.

Recessional Hymn

Lord, Make Us More Holy was first published in *Slave Songs of the United States* in 1867. In this collection the spiritual is identified as coming from Charleston, South Carolina.

Postlude

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.

TODAY AT ELPC

Meet the Officer Nominees Social Hour

After today's 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!

Guest Musicians from Hope Academy

Soprano Anqwenique Kinsel, interim director of Hope Academy, and a string quartet from Hope Academy are providing special music today by presenting *I Want to Go Home* by composer Jessie Montgomery. Register your children for the classes offered at Hope Academy by visiting ELPC.church. See today's insert for more info.

Survey of Your Favorite Hymns for Worship

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>, or fill out the paper copy of the survey today or next Sunday.

Reports Available

Copies of the 2024 *Annual Report* and *Officer Nominees* are available today, both around the church and on our website. We ask that you take one copy per family please.

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 Susan Wadsworth Booth.

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



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.

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.

YAM Book Club — Begins March 2

The Young Adult Ministry will be reading *Take this Bread* by Sara Miles across 7 Sundays this spring. Join us on March 2 in the Harambe Room after the 11 am service to discuss the first 4 chapters. The remaining sessions will be March 9 and 16 at 7:30 pm (Zoom), March 23 after the 11 am service (Harambe Room), March 30 at 7:30 pm (Zoom), April 6 at 7:30 pm (Zoom), and April 13 after the 11 am service (Harambe Room). Contact Sara for the Zoom link (SaraH@coh.net).

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 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).

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 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,
Linda Reneberg and her daughter, Tom Sturgill and
Torrence Vaughan.

Condolences to Bill Buchanan on his brother's passing.
Condolences to Zo Zielinski on his grandmother's passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Session..... Tuesday, Feb 18 @ 7:00 pm
Membership & Outreach... Thursday, Feb 20 @ 6:00 pm

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

Volunteer as an Usher!

Ushers are an important part of the Sanctuary worship service. We welcome worshippers, distribute bulletins, take the collection, and lead people forward for communion. Becoming an usher is a great way to engage in the radical hospitality that ELPC is known for! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lynne Chadwick (LynneNChadwick@gmail.com).

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).



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, email 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, email 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, or call 412.447.1613.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Feb 23 ♦ 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 (Fellowship Rm+Zoom) — “Confronting “Everyday Racism” (subtle and not so subtle), led by Beverly Harris-Schenz, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — A beginning discussion of our next book, *Necessary Risks* by Teri McDowell Ott, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members