



# 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)*

## SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY FEBRUARY 23, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

Love your enemies... because hate distorts the personality of the hater. We usually think of what hate does for the individual hated or the individuals hated, or the groups hated. But it is even more tragic, it is even more ruinous and injurious to the individual who hates... For the person who hates, the true becomes false and the false becomes true. That's what hate does. — Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“I Love to Tell the Story”  
“When Love Is Found (O Waly Waly)”

Emma Lou Diemer

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

Alexander Payton

Leader: 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: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
People: For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.  
Leader: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.  
People: The Lord is our salvation and our refuge in times of trouble.

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #410

“God Is Calling through the Whisper”

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

### 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

Alexander Payton

Leader: Jesus promised us that God is kind even to the ungrateful and the wicked, even to us. Trusting in God's kindness and love, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Alexander Payton

Merciful God, we confess that we have not followed your ways or trusted your promises. We have loved only those who love us; we show kindness only to those who are kind to us; we give only when we expect to receive. Forgive us, Lord. Fill our hearts with selfless love. Change our lives by your matchless grace. In your mercy receive our silent confessions this morning.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Alexander Payton

Leader: Children of the Most High God, through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace in good measure - spilling out and running over.

People: Thanks be to God. Now let us live as Christ commands: being merciful, as God is merciful; relinquishing our judgement and forgiving, as we have been forgiven. Amen!

RESPONSIVE HYMN #799

"I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry"

I LOVE THE LORD

PSALTER

Psalm 37:1-11

OT page 687

*Cantors sing verses – Congregation sings refrain.*



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\* HYMN #795

"Healer of Our Every Ill"

HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL

GOSPEL READING

Luke 6:27-38

NT page 89  
Rev. Dr. Diaz

SERMON

"A fierce labor of love... for our enemies"

Rev. BJ Woodworth

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.*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Open Hand Ministries

Laura Ristau

OFFERING INVITATION

Laura Ristau

*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](http://www.ELPC.church/donate).*



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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Our Love Can Mend a Broken World”

William Penn/Tom Trenney

*The world seems so eager to threaten, but love remains patient and kind.  
The world strives for wealth, might, and power, but love longs for soul, heart and mind.  
The world plays a loud clanging cymbal, but love sings its still, small voice.  
The world delights in bearing false witness, but love, in the truth, will rejoice!  
Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.  
The world makes our genders unequal, but love treasures every design.  
The world lets our colors divide us, but love makes the rainbow its sign.  
The world harms with guns and with weapons, but love gives the captive release.  
The world often hungers for violence but love always thirsts for our peace.  
Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.  
The world shuns the immigrant's hunger, but love feeds the poor refugee.  
The world argues, "They're not my children," but love says, "My child, come to me."  
Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.  
Our love can mend a broken world.*

\* 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, you have given us the earth where we live, grow and thrive, you have given us food for survival and pleasure, you have given us air and water, fire and cold. Stir in us a gratitude that blooms forth into the lives of others, in the name of the One who gave everything for us. Amen!	

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #339

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LIFT EVERY VOICE

\* CHARGE & BLESSING

Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“To God Be the Glory”

arr. W. Patrick Alston Sr.  
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](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 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. BJ Woodworth (he/him)  
Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz (he/him/él)  
Sara Hackett (she/her)  
*Director of Christian Education  
and Youth Ministries*  
Alexander Payton  
Laura Ristau  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),  
*Director of Music and Arts*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Cantors: Adrianna Cleveland  
Logan Williams  
Beadle: Liz Hopkins  
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt  
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

Please join us in the Social Hall for the annual *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

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, 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](http://www.ELPC.church).

## Sunday, 23 February 2025 – Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

### **Psalter**

In Colossians 3:16 Paul tells us to

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”

The psalms are meant to be sung. Singing the psalms is one of the richest treasures of both Jewish and Christian worship. The Reformation brought about a renewed interest in, and appreciation for, the singing of psalms, which played an important role in the formation of Reformed Christians. With this being the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, here is what Martin Luther said of the Psalms:

“The psalter ought to be a precious and beloved book, if for no other reason than this: it promises Christ's death and Resurrection so clearly--and pictures His kingdom and the conditions and nature of all Christendom--that it might well be called a little Bible.”

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there was resurgence in metrical Psalmody with the publication of a Psalter by the American Presbyterians in 1912. Metrical Psalmody is when the psalm text is set to music similar to a hymn tune. By mid-20<sup>th</sup> century the tradition of singing psalms had once again waned, when Psalms were included in worship more as responsive readings than as sung settings. The tradition of singing the psalms in the Presbyterian Church was once again revived with the publication of a new Presbyterian Psalter in 1993.

### **Offertory**

*Our Love Can Mend a Broken World* – from composer Tom Trenney:

“We can sometimes find ourselves frustrated with the spirit and attitude of our world, and we can think there is precious little we can do to make a difference. The problems of the world seem so big, but we must have faith that the little we can do is precious. We can, each in our own unique way, love others in a way that no one else ever has and no one else ever could. And heart by heart, hand in hand, our love can mend a broken world.”

### **Recessional Hymn**

*Lift Every Voice and Sing* – often called The Black National Anthem – was written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson. It was first performed in public in Johnson's hometown of Jacksonville, Florida as part of a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900 by 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal. Johnson's brother, John Rosamond Johnson, later set the poem to music. In 1919, the NAACP adopted and labeled the song as The Negro National Anthem.

### **Postlude**

A native Baltimorean, W. Patrick Alston teaches keyboard and international baccalaureate music theory at Baltimore City College High School. He also teaches The Gospel Music Tradition of Baltimore at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University as an adjunct professor. He has served as organist, pianist, and music administrator for various churches in Baltimore City and has been active in church music for 30 years. He currently serves as the worship music consultant for New Shiloh Baptist Church.

## TODAY AT ELPC

### Congregational Meeting

All are invited to join us in the Social Hall after the 11 am service for our annual *Congregational Meeting*. Join in-person or on Zoom (Meeting ID: 824 2903 4526). Refreshments will be served.

### LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering today 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.

### 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.

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



### 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).

### PW Bible Study — March 3 and 4

Presbyterian Women's 2024-2025 Bible Study *Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters: Economic Climate Justice* will meet on Monday, March 3 from 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom), and on Tuesday, March 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.

### Social Hour — March 2

Please join us in the Fellowship Room on Sunday, March 2 after the 11 am service for a *Social Hour* to celebrate our new members and friends being received that day. Sponsored by the Membership & Outreach Committee.

### 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, and an evening Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. Both services include the imposition of ashes.

### Living Love: Reading the Bible Queerly — March 11 to April 8

Are you frustrated with how some people use the bible as a tool against LGBTQIA+ people? What does the bible really say about same-gender relationships? This introductory offering is for anyone seeking to reconcile and **affirm one's sexuality with one's faith**, as well as those interested in understanding more. Join us as we study a few supposed "clobber passages" through the lens of love and current biblical scholarship. This study will be held on five Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 pm from March 11 to April 8 in the McKelvy Room in an environment that openly welcomes and celebrates queer people as beloved children of God.\* Please register to participate at <https://tinyurl.com/ReadingBibleQueerly>.

March 11 ..... Introductions and Judges 19

March 18 ..... Genesis 19

March 25 ..... Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13

April 1 ..... Romans 1:17- 2:4

April 8 ..... 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

\* *Content Warning: Although this offering is primarily a study of scripture, some of the scriptures will necessitate conversations relating to homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, violence, and sexual assault.*

## • CHURCH TOURS •

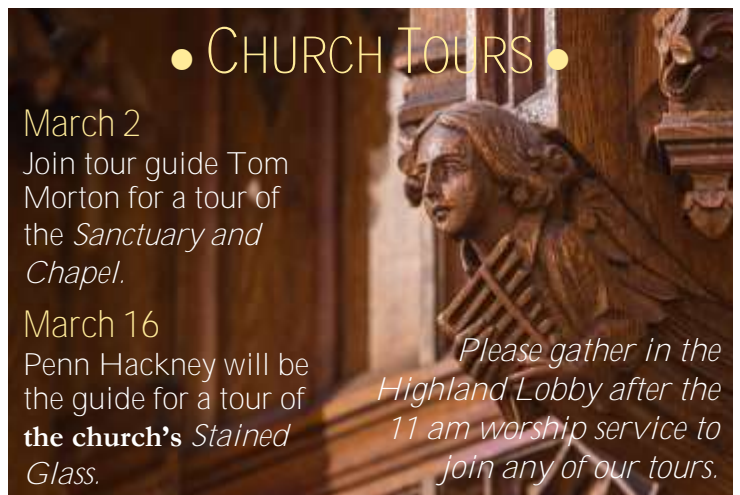
### March 2

Join tour guide Tom Morton for a tour of the *Sanctuary and Chapel*.

### March 16

Penn Hackney will be the guide for a tour of **the church's Stained Glass**.

*Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am worship service to join any of our tours.*







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

Mike Anderson, Becky Boyer's daughter,  
Kelly Kinsey's friends, Rhonda Perroz, Sam Studebaker,  
Linda Reneberg and her daughter, Tom Sturgill and  
Torrence Vaughan.

*Congratulations to Meri Long and John Miller  
on the birth of their son.*

*Condolences to Bill Buchanan on his brother's passing.  
Condolences to the family of Leroy Peeples on his passing.*

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Committee Meetings This Week

Mission.....Wednesday, Feb 26 @ 5:00 pm  
Peace.....Thursday, Feb 27 @ 5:30 pm

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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).

Join the Visual Enhancement Subcommittee (VES)  
From the folks who bring you Worship, Music, and the Arts comes an exciting, new team: the *Visual Enhancement Subcommittee* (VES). This new group will coordinate the seasonal decoration schemes (such as banners, paraments, Christmas trees, Lenten crosses, and other visual aids to worship) throughout our church. VES's focus will be the Sanctuary and Journey spaces, as well as the Narthex and Information Desk area. We would particularly love to have the gifts of our youth and young adults represented in VES. VES will meet about four times a year to prepare for each upcoming religious season, then decorate the church to bring our visions into reality. If you're interested in joining the VES team and influencing the look and feel of worship at ELPC, please contact the Chair, Mario Seneca (724.328.1926; seneca459@hotmail.com).

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SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

**March 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 (Fellowship Rm+Zoom) — "J Street — a Jewish organization working for a 2-state solution" led by Ronnie Cook Zuhlke and Mark Fichman, facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom) — A discussion of chapter 1 of the book, *Necessary Risks* by Teri McDowell Ott, led by The Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

In our

COMMUNITY



**ELPC's Michael Hellman to Receive Allies for Health + Wellbeing's 2025 Kerry Stoner Award** — March 2  
Member Michael Hellman is being presented with the *Allies for Health + Wellbeing's annual Kerry Stoner Award* for his work with people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS.

Stoner was one of the founders of the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force and died of complications of AIDS in 1993. The Kerry Stoner Award is presented annually by Allies for Health + Wellbeing to someone who has shown commitment to Stoner's legacy and vision.

The award will be presented at a luncheon in Mike's honor on Sunday, March 2. More info can be found at <https://qburgh.com/2025-kerry-stoner-award-michael-hellman>.

Protect Anti-Hunger Programs

Congressional leaders and the current administration are proposing extreme cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that could result in millions of people not being able to access the healthy food they need to survive.

The Republican Study Committee's proposal calls for a 22% cut in SNAP by rescinding the most recent modest update of the Thrifty Food Plan—the program used to determine SNAP benefit amounts—and would take food away from 41 million people per year. This year, the SNAP benefit averages only \$6.20 per person per day. That's what they want to slash.

Write Congress today by visiting [www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/121577/Respond](http://www.votervoice.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/121577/Respond).



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).