



# 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)*

## TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD MARCH 2, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

True self is the self that simply wants us to be who we were born to be. True self tells us who we are, where we are planted in the ecosystem of life, what “right action” looks like for us, and how we can grow more fully into our own potential. — Parker Palmer

### MUSIC MINISTRY

“Vater unser im Himmelreich (Lord’s Prayer)”  
“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Georg Böhm  
Dale Wood  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

*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!*

Rev. BJ Woodworth

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The call of the Holy One has brought us together.  
People: We have been called to pray and to praise.  
Leader: We are called to worship and to holy wonder.  
People: May the light of Love burn brightly in us.  
Leader: May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.  
People: May it become a beacon of hope for others.

Sandy Brake

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #189

“O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair”

DEO GRACIAS

### MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

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

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

Heather Lawrence

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: On Transfiguration, on the holy mountain of God, we see Jesus as he truly is. But in confession we let Jesus see us as we truly are. We name our sins, our faults, and the things we’ve gotten wrong, and we do so in faith that Jesus wants to see us as we are. Let us now tell the truth together...

Sandy Brake

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

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**March 2 • Transfiguration of the Lord**

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In unison)*

Sandy Brake

Almighty God, you see us as we are and know our inmost thoughts.

**You know the ways we've fallen short. You know the work we've left undone.**

**You know the arrogance, pride and violence that we've chosen.**

Help us to choose your path of forgiveness and reconciliation.

You know who we are. Help us to see who we might be.

Forgive us, and transform us, that we might become who you imagine us to become. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Sandy Brake

Leader: Friends, God sees you and loves you.

People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.

¡Alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSIVE HYMN #406 *(remain seated; sung 2x)*

HOLY GROUND

**"We Are Standing on Holy Ground"**

FIRST READING

A reading from "In the Margins" by Shannon T.L. Kearns

Wil Forrest

One reason people are so strongly drawn to Jesus is his humanity: the depth of it, the way it expanded their own notions of what it means to be human. Jesus was only able to be fully human by also claiming his full divinity. By being all of who he was and declaring that to others. He knew that he was taking a risk and that to claim his identity, walk off that mountain, and set his face toward Jerusalem were risky endeavors. He knew his truth might get him killed, and yet he also knew declaring it was something he had to do. This knowing—of the truth of ourselves, of the reality of the risk, and of the willingness to live into the truth anyway—is a holy space. When someone invites you into this space, walk as if you are on sacred ground. *May God bless the hearing of these words.* Amen.

\* HYMN #452

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

OPEN THE EYES

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:28-36 *(The Inclusive Bible)*

NT page 95

Rev. Woodworth

SERMON

"Be True to You"

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

RESPONSIVE HYMN #490 *(remain seated; verse 3)*

BEACH SPRING

**"Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters"**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Presentation of:* Kevin Harvey

*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.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS & FRIENDS

*Members:* Carol Burgman, Jayme Burgman, Edward Copeland, Marissa Cozza, Kevin Harvey, Kate Lindholm, Amanda Litzinger, Kathy Mayle-Towns, Darby McCarty, Jill Standley, Sam Studebaker, Mary Studebaker, Grace Taylor, Theodore Towns

*Friends:* Andrea D'Alessandro, Robert D'Alessandro, Paulette Silver

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**March 2 • Transfiguration of the Lord**

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

\* SHARING GOD'S PEACE Rev. Woodworth  
Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes. The peace of Christ be with you.  
People: Y también contigo. And also with you.

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



OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Christus Paradox” Sylvia Dunstan/Alfred Fedak  
Text found in *Glory to God* hymnal #274

\* DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607 OLD HUNDREDTH  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Christ, all creatures here below.  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore. Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE Rev. Dr. Diaz and Rev. Woodworth

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. Please raise your hand and/or make eye contact with the roaming Communion server.*

COMMUNION HYMN #517 “Here, O Our Lord, We See You” MORECAMBE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Rev. Woodworth  
O Spirit of Life, thank you for feeding us with spiritual food and drink for the journey ahead. Shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to your holy mystery and your sacred call. Amen.

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #190 “Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory” GENEVA

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE “Deo Gracias” Aaron David Miller

## March 2 • Transfiguration of the Lord

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. Dr. Michael A. Diaz (he/him/él)

Liturgists: Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)

Sandy Brake

Wil Forrest (he/him)

Heather Lawrence

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

*Director of Music and Arts*

ELPC Chancel Choir

Beadles: Heather Eng

Liz Hopkins

Crucifer: Jason Van Ness

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

Please join us in the Fellowship Room for a *Social Hour* to celebrate our new members and friends being received today. Sponsored by the Membership & Outreach Committee.

### ◆ 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, 2 March 2025 – Transfiguration of the Lord

The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is the Transfiguration of the Lord, recounting when Jesus ascended the mountain with Peter, James, and John and was transfigured before them. From the Latin word *transfiguratio*, it means a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state.

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

### Prelude

Georg Böhm (1661-1733) was a German Baroque organist and composer who was influential on Johann Sebastian Bach. The melody line (right hand) in this setting of the German chorale *Vater unser* was elaborated (ornamented) by Johann Gottfried Walther, Bach's cousin.

### Processional Hymn/Postlude

The hymn tune *Deo Gracias* is also known as *The Agincourt Song*. It is originally an English folk song from the early 15<sup>th</sup> Century that tells of the 1415 Battle of Agincourt, in which Henry V's English army defeated the French army of Charles VI.

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972) is Director of Music/Organist at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. The tune *Deo Gracias*, also known as "The Agincourt Song" is found three times in our *Glory to God* hymnal, #189, 258, 618.

### Offertory

*Christus Paradox* is based on the hymn tune Picardy (*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*) and was commissioned for the Calvin College Campus Choir. Composer Alfred Fedak (b. 1953) is Minister of Music and Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany, NY. Lyricist Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993) was an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada. The hymn version of this setting is in our *Glory to God* hymnal, #274.

### Recessional Hymn

Theologian and hymn writer Thomas Troeger (1945-2022) based this text on the account of the Transfiguration that appears in all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 17:1-8, Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36). It was written in 1985 and first published in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 1990. He wrote the text to be sung to the hymn tune GENEVA, composed by George Henry Day (1883-1966). The tune is unique in that it has two distinct sections, moving from the key of F Minor to F Major.