

GOOD FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

APRIL 18, 2025
7:00 PM



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

116 South Highland Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

The *Stations of the Cross* images used in this bulletin and in our livestreamed service slides of this service are from the artist
Jennifer Norton.
(www.jennortonartstudio.com)



All readings are from “Sounding the Seasons:
Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year” by Malcolm Guite.

A NOTE ABOUT THE ARTWORK USED IN THIS SERVICE:

The *Stations of the Cross* images used in this bulletin and in our livestreamed (and archived) service slides of this service are from the artist **Jennifer Norton**. (www.jennortonartstudio.com)

An excerpt from her Artist Statement —

Perfectionism is over-rated. To believe in labels other people give you is to disconnect from who you are meant to be. To be too fearful to act is to deny God’s plan for your life. I am Jen. Sometimes Jennifer. No longer Jenny, although I am grateful for her strength and fortitude and history. I am an introvert, but no longer shy. I am smart enough to know I don’t know everything. I am kind, but have no patience with someone who lacks integrity. I try not to judge without context (but sometimes I do). I am passionate about color and pattern and stories with meaning. I am an Artist.

If it weren’t for art, I might never be able to share my story. Without art, you probably wouldn’t hear me anyway.

I don’t make art because I’ve been endowed with some divine knowledge that I must bestow on humanity. I create in order to figure out my own truths and story. I create to understand. I choose beauty over fear. Somewhere in the telling and making and sharing, a purpose has begun to emerge, and that makes all the difference. My intent in my painting and design is to:

- Honor the characteristics of the quieter side of the heart: Wisdom, Service, Stillness, and Generosity.
- Inspire Commitment and Service to Home and Family as essential elements of a strong community and peaceful world.
- Remind us all that Love is a Decision, not a feeling. It took me a long time to learn this, but once I did, everything else made sense.
- Show that God is present in the details, the everyday things we do on the way to wherever we think we’re going.
- Tell my story so you can tell yours so we both know we’re not alone.
- I look forward to sharing this art conversation with you!



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)

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS APRIL 18, 2025 — 7 PM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Were You There”

Craig Phillips
based on *Glory to God* #228

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael 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!

* OPENING HYMN #220 (verses 1 and 2; printed on page 20)

REDHEAD 76

“Go To Dark Gethsemane”

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. BJ Woodworth

SUNG RESPONSE #227 (sing 3 times)

“Jesus, Remember Me”

REMEMBER ME

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1981

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1981

Text and Music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) OneLicense.net #A-700877

REMEMBER ME

Irregular

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

Station #1

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

(Matthew 27:2, 11-26; Mark 15:1-16; Luke 23:1-3, 13-25; John 18:28-19:16)

Leader:

Rev. Woodworth

The very air that Pilate breathes, the voice
With which he speaks in judgement, all his powers
Of perception and discrimination, choice,
Decision, all his years, his days and hours,
His consciousness of self, his every sense,
Are given by this prisoner, freely given.
The man who stands there making no defense,
Is God. His hands are tied, his heart is open.
And he bears Pilate's heart in his and feels
That crushing weight of wasted life. He lifts
It up in silent love. He lifts and heals.
He gives himself again with all his gifts
Into our hands. As Pilate turns away
A door swings open. This is judgement day.



People:

Lord, grant us the ability to put our trust in you
when an unjust world abandons us.

Candle is extinguished

SUNG RESPONSE #223 (verse 1)

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

1 When I sur-vey the won-drous cross on which the
Prince of glo-ry died, my rich-est gain I
count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Glory to God 223

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1707

MUSIC (HAMBURG, LM): Lowell Mason, 1824

Station #2

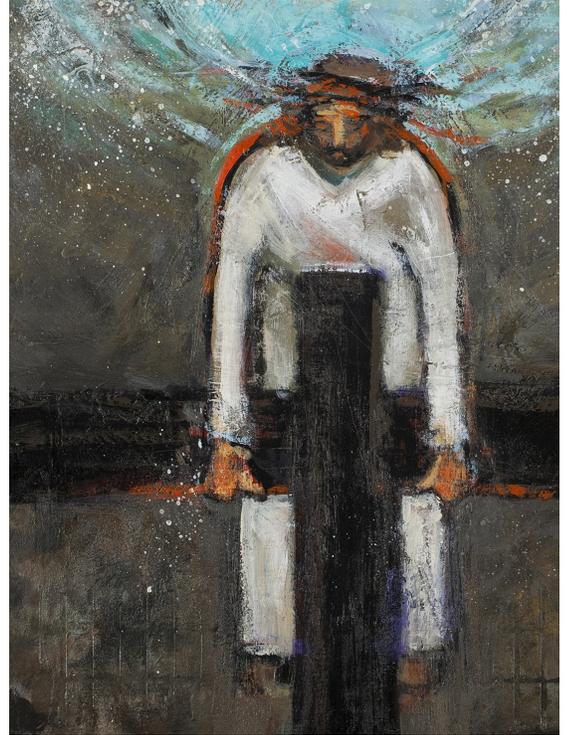
JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

(John 19:6, 15-17)

Leader:

Alexander Payton

He gives himself again with all his gifts
And now we give him something in return.
He gave the earth that bears, the air that lifts,
Water to cleanse and cool, fire to burn,
And from these elements he forged the iron,
From strands of life he wove the growing wood,
He made the stones that pave the roads of Zion,
He saw it all and saw that it is good.
We took his iron to edge an axe's blade,
We took the axe and laid it to the tree,
We made a cross of all that he has made,
And laid it on the one who made us free.
Now he receives again and lifts on high
The gifts he gave and we have turned awry.



People:

**Lord, grant us strength of purpose that we may faithfully
bear our crosses each day.**

Candle is extinguished

SUNG RESPONSE #216 (verse 1)

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ST. CHRISTOPHER

1 Be-neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my
stand, the sha-dow of a mighty rock with - in a wear-y
land; a home with-in the wil - der - ness, a
rest up-on the way, from the burn - ing of the
noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.

TEXT: Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane, 1868, alt.
MUSIC (ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6): Frederick Charles Maker, 1881

Station #3

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

(Luke 4:1-4; 1 Peter 5:8-11)

Leader:

Linda Sanders

He made the stones that pave the roads of Zion
And well he knows the path we make him tread
He met the devil as a roaring lion
And still refused to turn these stones to bread,
Choosing instead, as Love will always choose,
This darker path into the heart of pain.
And now he falls upon the stones that bruise
The flesh, that break and scrape the tender skin.
He and the earth he made were never closer,
Divinity and dust come face to face.
We flinch back from his *via dolorosa*,
He sets his face like flint and takes our place,
Staggers beneath the black weight of us all
And falls with us that he might break our fall.



People:

Lord, when the burden is so heavy that we crumble to the ground in weakness, help us to embrace life's moments of falling and failure.

Candle is extinguished

SUNG RESPONSE #218 (verse 4)

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

4 For me, kind Je-sus, was thine in-car-na-tion, thy mortal
sor-row, and thy life's o-bla-tion, thy death of an-guish
and thy bit-ter pas-sion, for my sal-va-tion.

TEXT: Johann Heermann, 1630; trans. Robert Seymour Bridges, 1899, alt.
MUSIC (HERZLIEBSTER JESU 11.11.11.5): Johann Crüger, 1640

Station #4

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

(Luke 2:34-35; John 19:26-30)

Leader:

David Jennings-Smith

This darker path into the heart of pain
 Was also hers whose love enfolded him
 In flesh and wove him in her womb. Again
 The sword is piercing. She, who cradled him
 And gentled and protected her young son
 Must stand and watch the cruelty that mars
 Her maiden making. Waves of pain that stun
 And sicken pass across his face and hers
 As their eyes meet. Now she enfolds the world
 He loves in prayer; the mothers of the disappeared
 Who know her pain, all bodies bowed and curled
 In desperation on this road of tears,
 All the grief-stricken in their last despair,
 Are folded in the mantle of her prayer.



People:

Lord, fill our hearts with gratitude that even in our darkest moments, we are loved beyond measure.

Candle is extinguished

SUNG RESPONSE #205 (*sing 3 times*)

“Live in Charity”

UBI CARITAS

Live in char-i - ty and stead - fast love.
 U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

Live in char-i - ty; God will dwell with you.
 u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; English trans. Taizé Community, 1991; © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
 MUSIC (UBI CARITAS (Taizé), Irregular): Jacques Berthier, 1979; © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Station #5

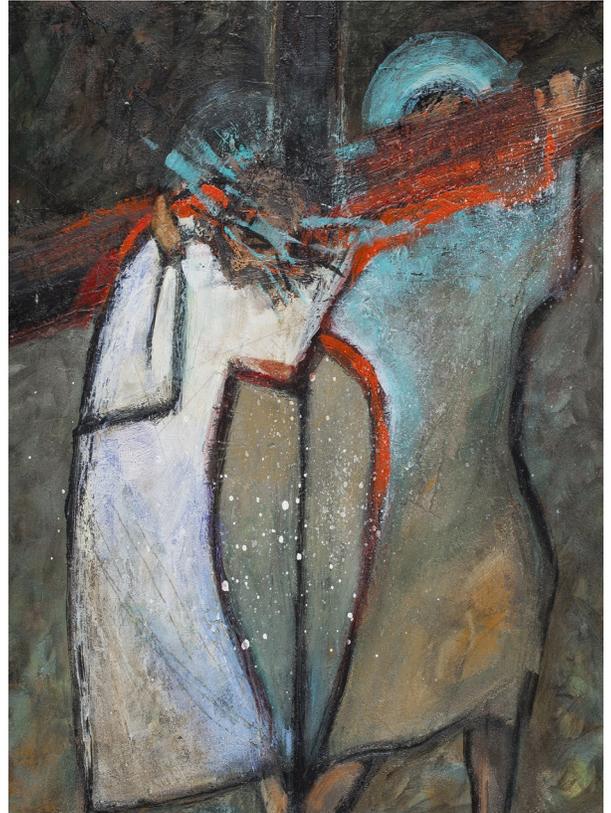
SIMON OF CYRENE CARRIES THE CROSS

(Matthew 16:24; 27:31-32; Mark 8:34; Luke 23:26-31)

Leader:

Caroline Hough

In desperation on this road of tears
Bystanders and bypassers turn away
In other's pain we face our own worst fears
And turn our backs to keep those fears at bay
Unless we are compelled as this man was
By force of arms or force of circumstance
To face and feel and carry someone's cross
In Love's full glare and not his backward glance.
So Simon, no disciple, still fulfilled
The calling: 'take the cross and follow me'.
By accident his life was stalled and stilled
Becoming all he was compelled to be.
Make me, like him, your pressed man and your priest,
Your *alter Christus*, burdened and released.



People:

Lord, grant us the strength to ease the burdens of
others when we can, knowing that we can never
ease them all.

Candle is extinguished

SUNG RESPONSE #194 (*sing 3 times*)

“When Jesus Wept”

WHEN JESUS WEPT

When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy
flowed be - yond all bound. When Je - sus groaned, a
trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round.

TEXT: Perez Morton, 1770
MUSIC (WHEN JESUS WEPT, LM): William Billings, 1770

Station #6

VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

(Matthew 25:40; Revelation 7:17)

Leader:

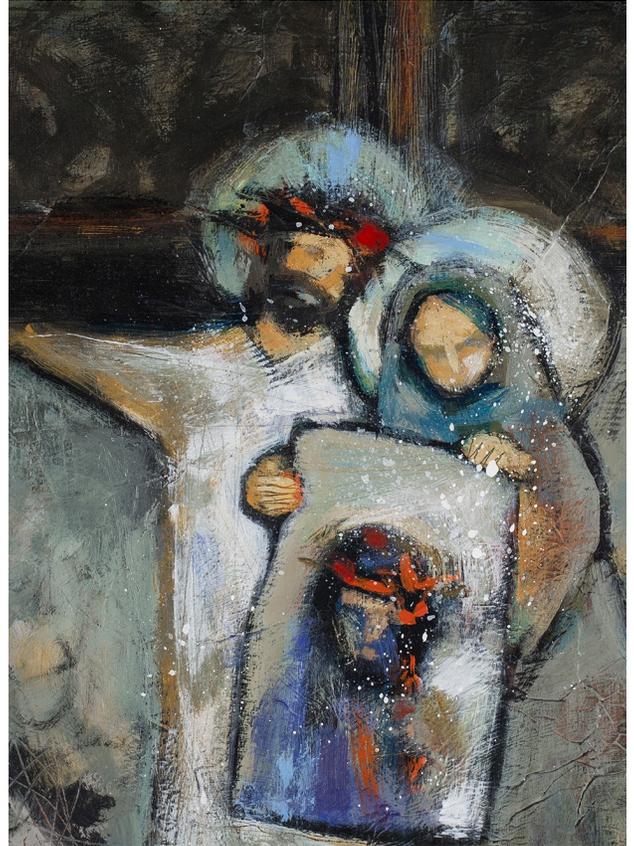
Dan Ridley

Bystanders and bypassers turn away
And wipe his image from their memory
She keeps her station. She is here to stay
And stem the flow. She is the reliquary
Of his last look on her. The bloody sweat
And salt tears of his love are soaking through
The folds of her devotion and the wet
folds of her handkerchief, like the dew
Of morning, like a softening rain of grace.
Because she wiped the grime from off his skin,
And glimpsed the godhead in his human face
Whose hidden image we all bear within,
Through all our veils and shrouds of daily pain
The face of God is shining once again.

People:

**Lord, as we move out from the crowd, help us to stand
against injustice and embody simple acts of mercy.**

Candle is extinguished



OFFERING INVITATION

Today's offering will support the Mission Board's work of justice in our community.

Please remember to write your name on your offering envelope.

You can also scan this QR code to give online or visit www.ELPC.church/donate.



Rev. Dr. Diaz

OFFERTORY

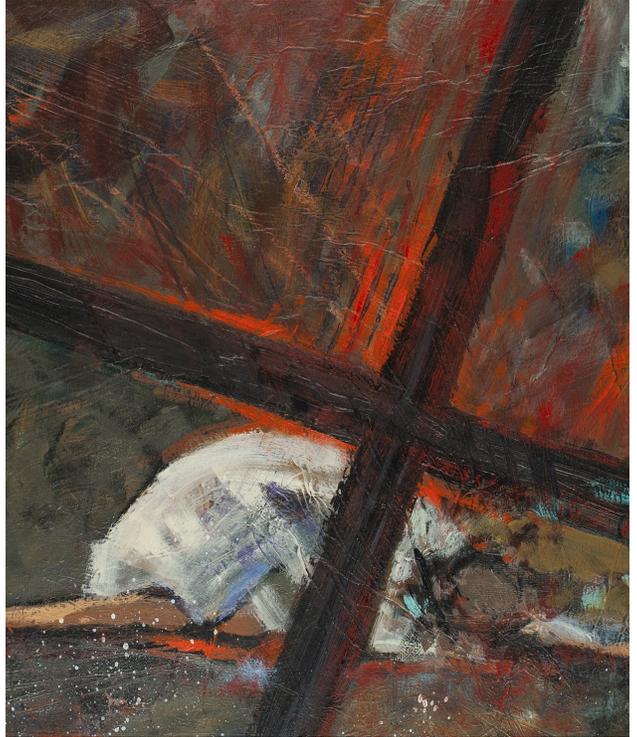
“Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727”

Johann Sebastian Bach
based on Glory to God #221

Station #7
JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

(Isaiah 53:4-5)

Leader: Adrianna Cleveland
Through all our veils and shrouds of daily pain,
Through our bruised bruises and re-opened scars,
He falls and stumbles with us, hurt again
When we are hurt again. With us he bears
The cruel repetitions of our cruelty;
The beatings of already beaten men,
The second rounds of torture, the futility
Of all unheeded pleading, every scream in vain.
And by this fall he finds the fallen souls
Who passed a first, but failed a second trial,
The souls who thought their faith would hold them whole
And found it only held them for a while.
Be with us when the road is twice as long
As we can bear. By weakness make us strong.



People:
**Lord, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that
clings so closely.**

Candle is extinguished

SUNG RESPONSE #204 (*sing 3 times*)

“Stay With Me”

STAY WITH ME

Stay with me; re - main here with me;
watch and pray. Watch and pray.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982; © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
MUSIC (STAY WITH ME, Irregular): Jacques Berthier, 1982; © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

Station #8

JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

(Matthew 27:59; Luke 23:26-31; Revelation 7:17, 21:4)

Leader:

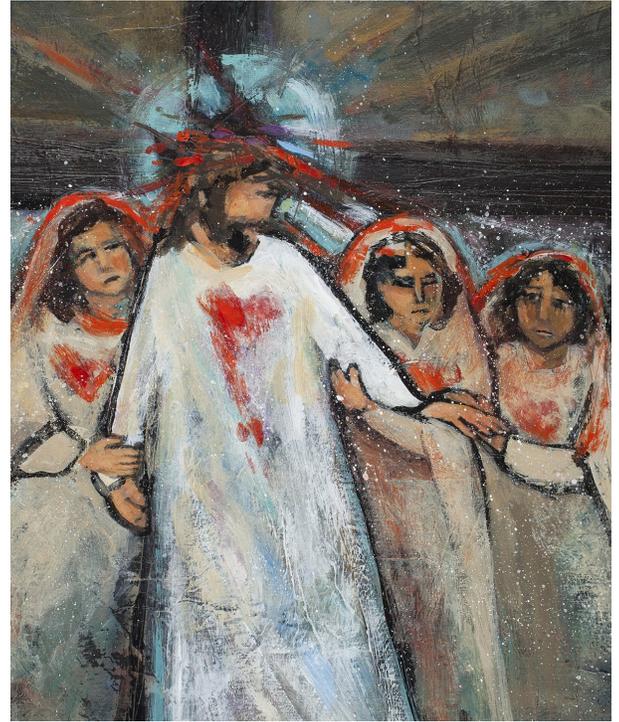
Todd Farwell

He falls and stumbles with us, hurt again
But still he holds the road and looks in love
On all of us who look on him. Our pain
As close to him as his. These women move
Compassion in him as he does in them.
He asks us both to weep and not to weep.
Women of Gaza and Jerusalem,
Women of every nation where the deep
Wounds of memory divide the land
And lives of all your children, where the mines
Of all our wars are sown: Afghanistan,
Iraq, the Cote d'Ivoire... he reads the signs
And weeps with you and with you he will stay
Until the day he wipes your tears away.

People:

Lord, grant us gentle spirits that we may comfort
those who mourn.

Candle is extinguished



SUNG RESPONSE #221 (verse 1)

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

1 O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed
down; now scorn-ful-ly sur-round-ed with thorns, thine on-ly
crown; O sa-cred head, what glo-ry, what bliss till now was
thine! Yet, though despised and gor-y, I joy to call thee mine.

TEXT: Latin, 12th or 13th cent.; trans. James Waddell Alexander, 1830, alt.
MUSIC (PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6 D): Hans Leo Hassler, 1601; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1729

Station #9

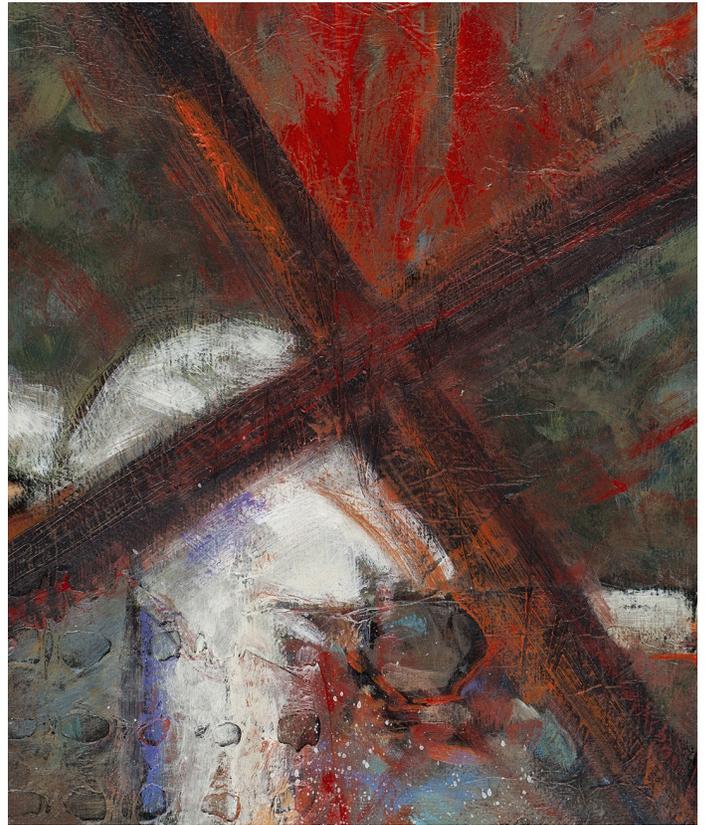
JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME

(Psalm 37:23-24; Lamentations 3:27-32)

Leader: Denise Sheffey-Powell
He weeps with you and with you he will stay
When all your staying power has run out
You can't go on, you go on anyway.
He stumbles just beside you when the doubt
That always haunts you, cuts you down at last
And takes away the hope that drove you on.
This is the third fall and it hurts the worst
This long descent through darkness to depression
From which there seems no rising and no will
To rise, or breathe or bear your own heart beat.
Twice you survived; this third will surely kill,
And you could almost wish for that defeat
Except that in the cold hell where you freeze
You find your God beside you on his knees.

People:
**Lord, as we fall down again and again, may
your grace be sufficient for us in our weakness.**

Candle is extinguished



SUNG RESPONSE #228 (*verse 1; printed on page 18*)

“Were You There”

Cantor sings verse, congregation joins on refrain.

WERE YOU THERE

Station #10

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

(Matthew 27:31-32; John 19:23-24; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:5-8)

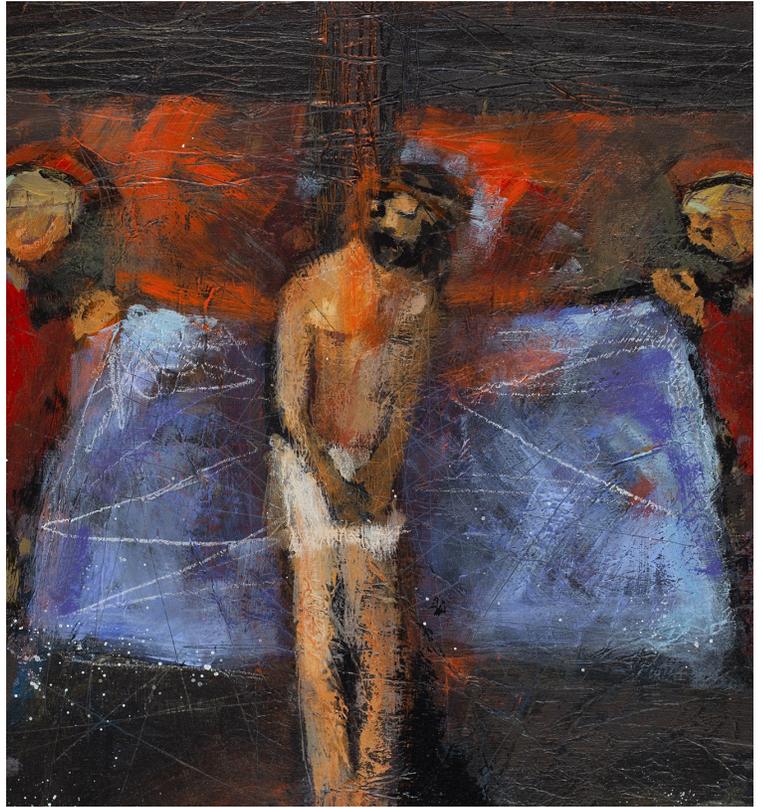
Leader: Logan Williams

You can't go on, you go on anyway
He goes with you, his cradle to your grave.
Now is the time to loosen, cast away
The useless weight of everything but love
For he began his letting go before,
Before the worlds for which he dies were made,
Emptied himself, became one of the poor,
To make you rich in him and unafraid.
See as they strip the robe from off his back
They strip away your own defenses too
Now you could lose it all and never lack
Now you can see what naked Love can do
Let go these bonds beneath whose weight you bow
His stripping strips you both for action now.

People:

**Lord, let us see Jesus in all those who
experience sexual violence, shame, and
dehumanization.**

Candle is extinguished



SUNG RESPONSE #228 (*verse 2; printed on page 18*)

“Were You There”

Cantor sings verse, congregation joins on refrain.

WERE YOU THERE

Station #11

CRUCIFIXION (JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS)

(Matthew 27:31-32, 45; Mark 15:32-33; Luke 23:44-46; John 12:32; 19:18; Ephesians 3:14-19)

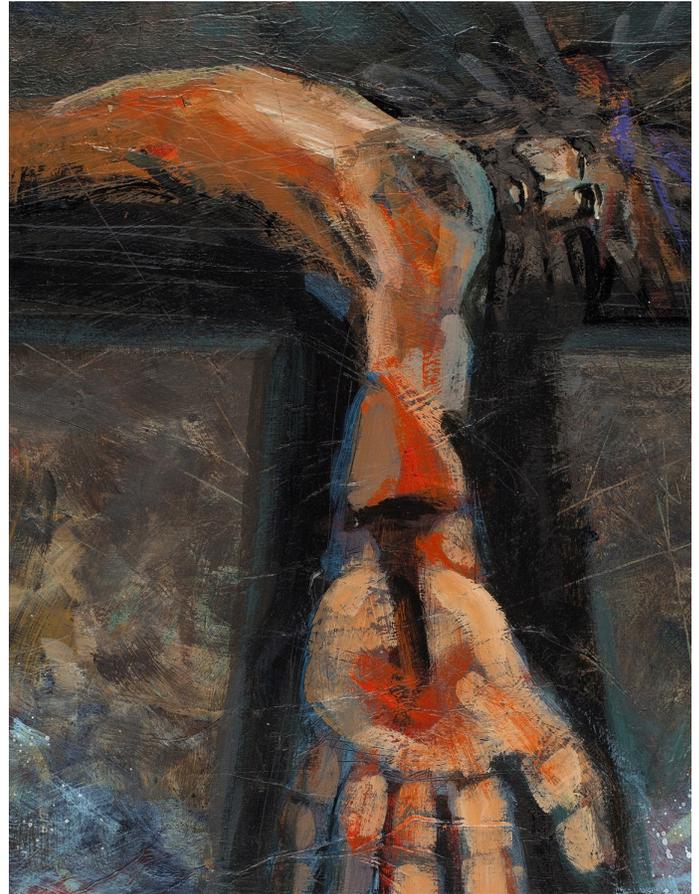
Leader: Andrea DeVries

See, as they strip the robe from off his back
And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,
And love is firmly fastened onto loss.
But here a pure change happens. On this tree
Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.
Here wounding heals and fastening makes free
Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.
And here we see the length, the breadth, the height
Where love and hatred meet and love stays true
Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light
We see what love can bear and be and do,
And here our Saviour calls us to his side
His love is free, his arms are open wide.

People:

**Lord, please forgive us for we know not
what we do.**

Candle is extinguished



SUNG RESPONSE #228 (*verse 3; printed on page 18*)

WERE YOU THERE

“Were You There”

Cantor sings verse, congregation joins on refrain.

Station #12

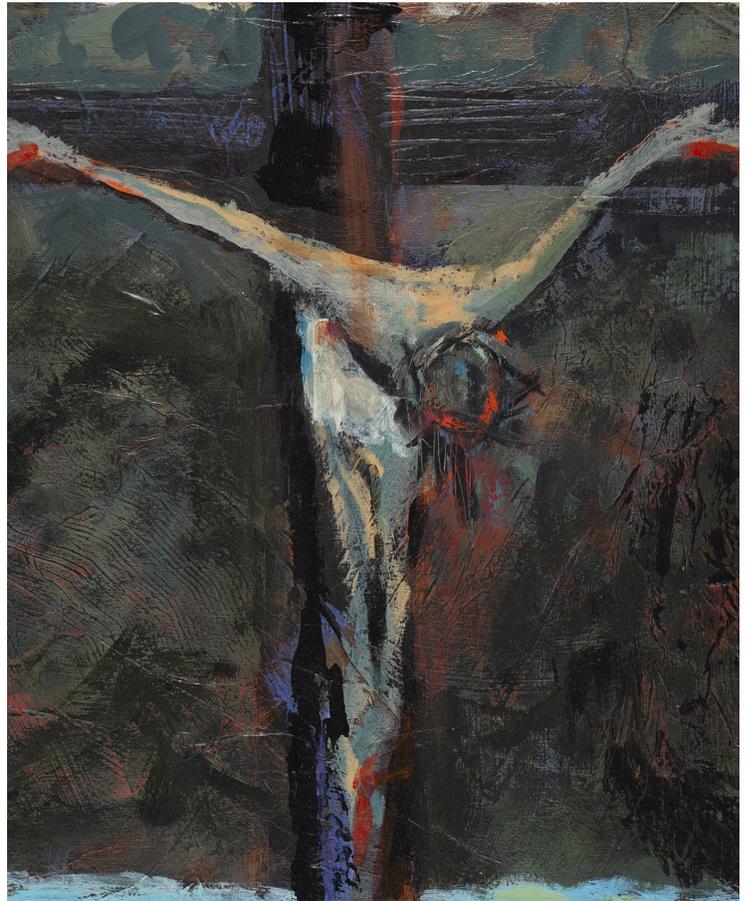
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

(Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:37-38; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:26-30)

Leader: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black
We watch him as he labours to draw breath
He takes our breath away to give it back,
Return it to it's birth through his slow death.
We hear him struggle breathing through the pain
Who once breathed out his spirit on the deep,
Who formed us when he mixed the dust with rain
And drew us into consciousness from sleep.
His spirit and his life he breathes in all
Mantles his world in his one atmosphere
And now he comes to breathe beneath the pall
Of our pollutions, draw our injured air
To cleanse it and renew. His final breath
Breathes us, and bears us through the gates of death.

SILENCE IS HELD

Candle is extinguished



SUNG RESPONSE #228 (*verse 4; printed on page 18*)

“Were You There”

Cantor sings verse, congregation joins on refrain.

WERE YOU THERE

Station #13

JESUS' BODY IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

(Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:37-38, 46; Luke 23:44-46, 52-56; John 19:26-30)

Leader: Gretchen Chapman
His spirit and his life he breathes in all
Now on this cross his body breathes no more
Here at the centre everything is still
Spent, and emptied, opened to the core.
A quiet taking down, a prising loose
A cross-beam lowered like a weighing scale
Unmaking of each thing that had its use
A long withdrawing of each bloodied nail,
This is ground zero, emptiness and space
With nothing left to say or think or do
But look unflinching on the sacred face
That cannot move or change or look at you.
Yet in that prising loose and letting be
He has unfastened you and set you free.



SILENCE IS HELD

Candle is extinguished

SOLO

“Take My Mother Home”

HALL JOHNSON

I think I heard him say when he was struggling up the hill,
I think I heard him say, take my mother home.
Then I'll die easy, take my mother home.
I'll die so easy, take my mother home.

I think I heard him say, when they was raffling off his clothes,
I think I heard him say, take my mother home.

I think I heard him cry when they was nailing in the nails,
I think I heard him cry, take my mother home.

I'll die this death on Calvary, ain't gonna die no more,
I'll die on Calvary, ain't gonna die no more.
Ain't gonna die no more.

I think I heard him say, when he was giving up the ghost.
I think I heard him say, please, take my mother home.
Please, take my mother home.

Station #14

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

(Matthew 27:59-60; Mark 15:46; 16:1; Luke 23:52-56; John 19:39-42)

Leader: Rev. Dr. Diaz
Here at the centre everything is still
Before the stir and movement of our grief
Which bears its pain with rhythm, ritual,
Beautiful useless gestures of relief.
So they anoint the skin that cannot feel
Soothing his ruined flesh with tender care,
Kissing the wounds they know they cannot heal,
With incense scenting only empty air.
He blesses every love that weeps and grieves
And makes our grief the pangs of a new birth.
The love that's poured in silence at old graves
Renewing flowers, tending the bare earth,
Is never lost. In him all love is found
And sown with him, a seed in the rich ground.

SILENCE IS HELD

Candle is extinguished



SUNG RESPONSE #228 (*verse 5; printed on page 18*)

WERE YOU THERE

“Were You There”

Cantor sings verse, congregation joins on refrain.

FINAL WORDS

Tonight, we have lingered in the shadow of sorrow, bearing witness to the unjust suffering of Christ. Amidst our heartache and our fear, we recall the words of Jesus in John 19:30 - “It is finished.”

(The Bible is slammed shut to recall that the Word of God was slain and to symbolize the tomb being sealed.)

DEPART IN SILENCE

At the direction of the ushers, please recess from the back of the sanctuary to the chapel where you are invited to leave a votive candle near the cross.

THE STORY CONTINUES ON EASTER SUNDAY AT 8:45 AM AND 11 AM.

#228 – Were You There

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you
 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you
 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine? (Were you
 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you

there?) Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 there?) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 there?) Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 there?) Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 there?) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O! Some-times it caus - es me to

trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you

Few hymns from any culture have captured the pathos of Jesus' crucifixion as movingly as this African American spiritual. Its emotional climax (and highest pitch) comes in the great "O!" at the center of each stanza, a moment that moves beyond anything words can convey.

TEXT: African American spiritual

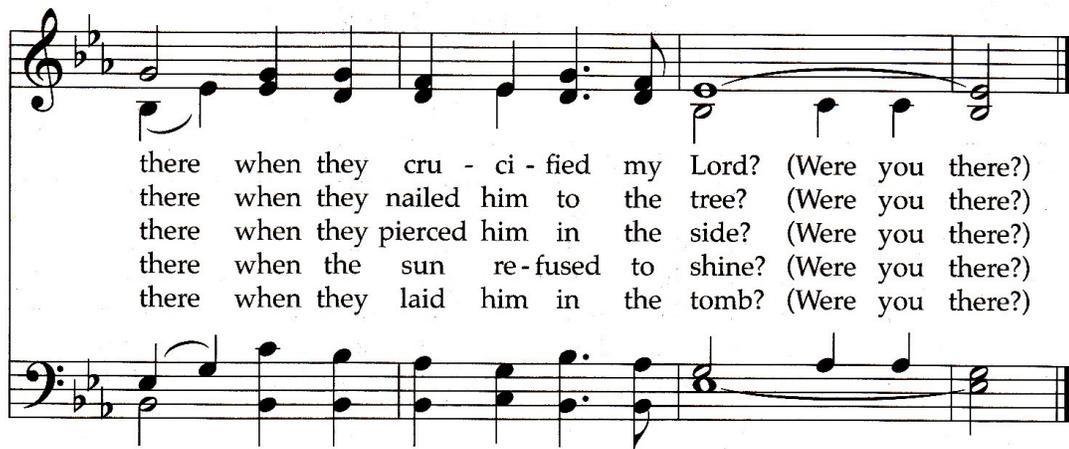
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

WERE YOU THERE

Irregular

CCLI #689547



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
there when the sun re - fused to shine? (Were you there?)
there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)



#220 – Go to Dark Gethsemane (verses 1 and 2)

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of

tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
life ar - raigned; O the worm - wood and the gall!

watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fer - ing,

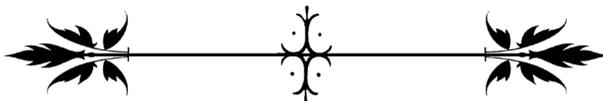
griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Glory to God 220
TEXT: James Montgomery, 1820, 1825, alt.
MUSIC (REDHEAD 76 7.7.7.7.7): Richard Redhead, 1853

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 Usbers' 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)
Gretchen Chapman
Adrianna Cleveland
Andrea DeVries
Todd Farwell
Caroline Hough
David Jennings-Smith
Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Alexander Payton
Dan Ridley
Linda Sanders
Denise Sheffey-Powell
Logan Williams
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him),
Director of Music and Arts
Cantors: Adrianna Cleveland, Todd Farwell,
David Jennings-Smith,
Denise Sheffey-Powell, Logan Williams
Beadle: Tim Engelhardt
Crucifer: Jan Herzer
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

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

Cathedral Yoga

Yamuna will lead yoga in-person in the Sanctuary.

Wednesdays, 6 to 7 pm

(before Taizé)

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month

6:30-7:45 pm

Tween Kickball – April 25

Youth in grades 4–6 will be gathering for pizza and kickball on Friday, April 25 from 5–7 pm. Friends are always welcome. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Tool Drive for GCF – April 27

As part of ELPC's celebration of Earth Day, the Neighbors Committee is sponsoring a *Tool Drive* for Garfield Community Farm (GCF) on Sunday, April 27. You can view GCF's wish list and sign up to donate new or gently used items at tiny.cc/gcf-tool-drive. A representative from GCF will be here after the 11 am service on April 27 to provide more info and sign up volunteers.

Church Tour – April 27

Jo Ellen Aleshire will lead a *Sanctuary and Chapel* tour on Sunday, April 27. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service to join.

Embodying the Spirit Retreat – May 2 to 4

Join us for a weekend of quiet, rest, prayer, community and embodiment from Friday, May 2 at 6 pm to Sunday, May 4 at 11 am at Villa Maria Retreat Center. We will paint, walk, dance, sing, lament, sleep, eat, chant, swim, bend and bow. Our retreat leader is Joanne Spence, D.Min. RSVP to Norma by Easter Sunday, April 20 (412.441.3800 x221).

Costs Options: (Contact Pastor BJ to discuss scholarships)

1. One Night: (*Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun*)
Private Room/Common Bath | \$100
2. One Night: (*Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun*)
Private Room/Private Bath | \$125
3. Two Nights (*Friday-Sunday*)
Private Room/Common Bath | \$150
4. Two Nights (*Friday-Sunday*)
Private Room/Private Bath | \$175
5. Saturday Day | \$50



INQUIRERS CLASS Sunday, April 27

Attend an Inquirers' Class after the 11 am service on Sunday, April 27 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.

Please contact Jen King for more info:
(JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222)



Earth Day Services – April 27

Join us as we celebrate caring for creation at our 8:45 am Journey and 11 am Sanctuary worship services on April 27.

No Worship Services on Marathon Sunday – May 4

Due to the route of the Pittsburgh Marathon, ELPC will not have any worship services on Sunday, May 4. The church building will be closed.

Hope Academy's Recital Schedule – May 8, 11 and 15

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, Hope Academy students have had many wonderful opportunities to attend great performances this season. The students now invite everyone to attend their upcoming recitals:

- Thursday, May 8 at 6 pm
Sing + Dance Recital with Shana Simmons Dance in the Social Hall
- Sunday, May 11 at 1:30 pm
Music Recital in the Sanctuary
- Thursday, May 15 at 6 pm
PBT Dance Recital in the Social Hall

For more info, please visit sites.google.com/view/hopeacademy2024-2025/home.

Garden Crew Work Day – May 10

If you enjoy outside yard work, and want to help clean up the church grounds, please join Don Breitbarth and the Garden Crew on Saturday, May 10. Work begins at 9 am, and typically goes until Noon. Please bring garden gloves. Please contact Don Breitbarth for more info (412.225.7649; don.breitbarth@gmail.com).

Children and Family Event – May 11

The next family event is volunteering at Garfield Community Farm on Sunday, May 11. The Children and Families Ministry team is hosting monthly family events to foster a caring community of families at ELPC, where kids and adults feel loved and empowered to explore their faith.

Vacation Church School – Volunteers Needed

Student registration is currently full, BUT please email Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net) if you would like to have your child added to the waitlist. Volunteers are still needed for Vacation Church School at ELPC on June 23-27 from 9 am-3 pm. Our theme this summer is LIVE it OUT: Discover How to Love like Jesus! Teens in 6th-12th grade and adult volunteers are needed; register at ELPC.church.



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

Adelaide and Liam, Amanda, Jean, Miriam, Doris Dick and her son Dylan Geibel, Edward Copeland, Nicholas Genger-Boeldt, Suzan Krauland, Barbara Lockie-Brown, Brenda Nalubega, Lisa Petrilli, and Judy Winstead Foster.

*Condolences to **Brandy Berner** on her grandmother's passing.*

*Condolences to **Janet Pollard** on a family member's passing.*

*Condolences to **Jason Van Ness** on his grandfather's passing.*

Alternative Transportation Challenge – May 18

Transportation is one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions and plays a crucial role in ensuring equitable access to services and opportunities for all communities. The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee would like to challenge the ELPC congregation to consider lowering its transportation carbon footprint. We can make an impact by working together to care for God's creation.

Join the challenge on Sunday, May 18 if you are able, to get to ELPC by biking, walking, running, carpooling, using public transportation, or driving a hybrid or electric vehicle. Secure indoor bicycle parking will be available in the Harambe Room. Information will be available after worship services on Sundays, April 27 and May 11 to assist you in making a plan!

On Sunday, May 18 we will gather data as people arrive, and report on the total carbon emissions saved compared to single occupancy gas vehicles. Members with electric vehicles will be present after both services to demonstrate and provide information. Contact Nancy Heastings for more info (n.heastings@comcast.net).

New Signs, Same Policy, more RADICAL Hospitality

You'll notice new signs at our Highland Ave entrance, asking everyone who comes into our building to sign in – unless you are coming for worship or a large public event like a concert. This has been part of our *Child Safety Policy* for many years, but we are renewing our commitment to welcome everyone who enters our building by name. ELPC has implemented a *Safety & Security Advisory* to review and revise our *Emergency Response Plan*, updating emergency equipment and training of staff and church leadership. Writing your name will help us keep the most vulnerable safe, better understand how our building is being used, and create a point of connection and welcome for each person who comes through our doors.



Download Our New App

ELPC recently published a mobile app to serve as a hub for all ELPC-related news, events, and digital offerings. On the app, you can stream live and archived worship services and concerts, watch sermons, listen to our Taizé podcast, download bulletins, browse events, connect with our social media pages, read up-to-date news, and more. The app is available for free on Google Play™ and on the App Store®. Search for “East Liberty Presbyterian.” Google Play is a trademark of Google LLC. App Store is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.

Pastor Michael's Installation Service – May 18

All are invited to the installation service of Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz on Sunday, May 18 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary, when the Pittsburgh Presbytery will officially install Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz as pastor of ELPC. A reception will be held in the Social Hall following the service.

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), or you may call in by dialing 929.205.6099.

Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market needs:

- **spring and summer clothes**
- **diapers (sizes 3-7)**
- **full-sized toiletries items** (soap, body wash, toothpaste, toilet paper, toothbrushes, lotion etc.)

Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel

Market when open (on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am–12 pm).

If you would like to volunteer in the Chapel Market, please contact Gerald McClendon (GeraldM@coh.net).



East Liberty
Presbyterian Church

www.ELPC.church

