



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)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER’S DAY MAY 11, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

The practice of Mothering is deeply embedded in Indigenous communities and can be delivered by anyone who brings life, nurtures life, and cultivates the development of embodied love.

— Dawn Knickerbocker of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

MUSIC MINISTRY

“Meditation on Brother James’ Air”

Harold Darke
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz
Rev. BJ Woodworth

Everyone in worship today is encouraged to please sign your name in the red Friendship Books that are in each pew. Doing so will help ELPC maintain a pastoral connection with all who worship with us. Thank you!

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Carl

Leader: People of God, our Shepherd calls us to green pastures, to still waters, to paths of justice.

People: We come to be restored, to be guided, to be empowered for the work of love.

Leader: God calls forth leaders from among us — not to rule but to nurture.

People: We come to bless and to be blessed, to share leadership, to grow in care for one another.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who restores our souls and calls us to tend one another in love.

People: Love leads us. Love lifts us. Love calls us to lead with justice and joy!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #49

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

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.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

David Carl

Leader: Friends, we are called to lead and serve with hearts open and hands ready. Sometimes we hold too tightly to power. Sometimes we resist sharing heavy burdens. Sometimes we forget that leadership is love in action. Let us come honestly before God, trusting in divine grace.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Carl

Leader: Holy One, you invite us to still waters, but we cling to chaos.
People: We confess that we have not always followed where you lead.
Leader: You call us to share burdens, but we hold them tightly.
People: We are tempted by power, insecurity, and fear.
Leader: We neglect to see the God-given potential in our neighbor.
People: Teach us again to listen to wisdom from unexpected places.
Leader: Remind us that leadership is a gift to be shared, not a weight to be hoarded.
People: Forgive us, God. Restore us and lead us onward in love. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

David Carl

Leader: Friends, God knows your heart and lifts you up.
People: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #740 (*remain seated*)

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23

Rev. Woodworth

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Woodworth

The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (Ἕλ-ᾠ) in the Glory to God hymnal.

* **HYMN #187**

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

BRADBURY

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 18:13-22 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Linda Sanders

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Are you ready to give up?”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

OFFICER ORDINATION & INSTALLATION

Ordained Elders: Doug Booth, Mabel Buben, Pepo Mazingi
Installed Elders: Hollen Barmer, Sandy Brake, Carol Chonoska, Stephen Simpson-Hunt, Matt Stufft
Ordained Deacons: Brady Conley, Alexander Payton
Installed Deacon: Jeff Fritz

Leader: There are varieties of gifts,
People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.
Leader: There are different ways of serving,
People: But it is the same Christ who is served.
Leader: God works through each person in different ways.
People: But it is God's purpose that is accomplished.
Leader: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,
People: To use one's gift for the common good.
Leader: Together we are the body of Christ.
People: We are the manifestation of Christ's presence.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

People: **Y también contigo.**

Rev. Woodworth

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING INVITATION

Thanks to everyone who has made a pledge for 2025. Your timely giving to fulfill your pledge helps us fulfill our mission to show God's unconditional love to all.

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. Woodworth

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Ain’t That Good News”

arr. Moses Hogan

I got a crown up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!

I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross,

Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, ain't-a that good news!

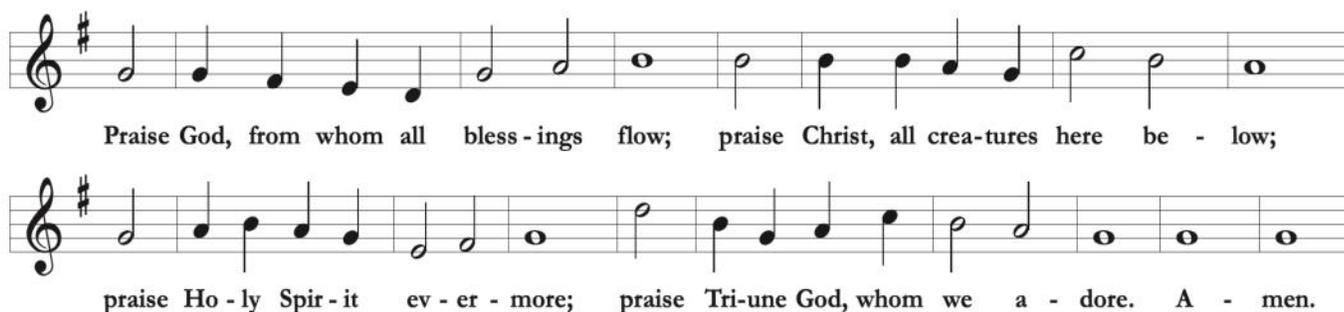
I got a robe up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!

I got a harp up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!

I got a song up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!

* **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.

People: **Y también contigo.**

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

People: **Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.**

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

People: **Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.**

Leader: Holy One, may the gifts and commitments we offer today help reach new people with a message that is truly good news. Empower us now to nurture and lead as your holy people.
Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #324**

“For All the Faithful Women”

NYLAND

* **CHARGE & BLESSING**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Tuba Tune”

C.S. Lang
Dr. Moore, *organ*

Notes regarding the music sung in today's service are 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: Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)

Sara Hackett (she/her)

*Director of Christian Education
and Youth Ministries*

David Carl

Linda Sanders

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

Director of Music and Arts

ELPC Chancel Choir

Denise Sheffey-Powell, *Soloist*

Jess Poeske, *Soloist*

Logan Williams, *Soloist*

Aдриanna Cleveland, *Soloist*

Beadle: Laura Ristau

Crucifer: Mario Seneca

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

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

A 35-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

10 am to 7 pm



◆ 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 **sign your name in our red Friendship Books, and to stop by the Highland 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* on **Sunday, June 8 after the 10 am service** to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. See Pastor Michael Diaz 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, 11 May 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is the fourth Sunday of the season of Easter. The season of Easter lasts seven weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday on June 8.

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

Prelude

Composer and organist Harold Darke (1888-1976) was born in London and died in Cambridge. One of his best-known compositions is a choral setting of Christina Rossetti's *In the Bleak Midwinter*. The hymn tune BROTHER JAMES' AIR was composed by Scottish composer James Leith Macbeth Bain (1840-1925) in 1915. It is most often sung to a paraphrase of Psalm 23 from the *Edinburgh Psalter*, 1650.

Processional Hymn

The text of *The God of Abraham Praise* is based on the 13 principles of faith formulated by Moses Maimonides (1138-1204). The hymn tune LEONI is a traditional Yigdal melody, a Jewish hymn. Literally translated, Yigdal means *to be exalted*.

Offertory

Moses George Hogan (1957-2003) was born in New Orleans and studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Juilliard School of Music. His arrangements, over seventy in number, of spirituals are performed regularly by choirs around the world. Hogan's arrangement of the spiritual *Ain't That Good News* was published in 1997.

Postlude

Craig Seller Lang (1891-1971) was born in New Zealand and made his career in England as an organist, teacher, and composer.

May 11, 2025 • Mother's Day



TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome Visitors!

Please stop by the Highland 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.

Children and Family Event

Families are invited to join us today from 12:15–2 pm to volunteer at Garfield Community Farm. Lunch will be provided at the farm — please bring a water bottle filled with water. Tools and gloves will be provided. Contact Sara Hackett after the service to participate (SaraH@coh.net).

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.

Hope Academy's Recital Schedule – Today and May 15

- Today at 1:30 pm — *Music Recital* in the Sanctuary
- Thursday, May 15 at 6 pm — *PBT Dance Recital* in the Social Hall



Notice: Phishing Scam

If you receive an email from Pastor Michael Diaz or any ELPC church employees requesting that you contact them to chat or to take care of a sensitive or financial matter, please disregard it. Our staff will NEVER contact you with an email with such requests. The actual email address of the sender will also be a clue that the email is not valid.

Calling All Grads – Respond by May 12

Are you graduating from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, etc. this spring? We would like to celebrate these achievements together! Submit your name, degree, and school attended to Jen King by May 12 (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

New Mom's Group – Begins May 13

Are you a mom of a new baby (ages birth–2) and looking to get connected with other moms at church? Come as you are as we meet up for the first time on Tuesday, May 13 at 11:30 am. We will meet in the church Nursery for a casual time of fellowship. Text Bethany Bray for more details (610.680.7357).

Club 116 – Concludes May 14

Our last day of Club 116 this year will be on Wednesday, May 14. Join us for our year-end party! For more info, contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

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 him as Senior Pastor of ELPC. A *Pittsburgh Cookie Table Reception* will follow the service in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. If you want to donate your favorite cookies (sweet or savory) to the reception and/or help with setup/cleanup, contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

Youth Sunday Worship – May 18

We want to feature youth voices, gifts, and ideas—as well as honor our graduating high school students—in worship on Sunday, May 18. Please join us to celebrate our youth!

Alternative Transportation Challenge – May 18

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee would like to challenge the ELPC congregation to lower its transportation carbon footprint, which is one of the largest contributors to carbon emissions. We can make an impact by working together to care for God's creation, and help reverse inequities caused by climate change.



Join the challenge on Sunday, May 18 to get to ELPC by biking, walking, carpooling, using public transportation, or driving a hybrid or electric vehicle. If you are already doing this, great! Your carbon savings will be included! If you can't do one of these, we have alternate ways that you can participate. **Information will be available after services today, May 11, to assist you in making a plan or sign up to carpool with others in your area.**

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. Secure indoor bicycle parking will be available in the Harambe Room. Members with electric vehicles and a biking champion will be present to demonstrate and provide information.

Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net) for more information.



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

Jean, Jon and struggling combat veterans,
Linda, Matthew, Miriam, Rachel, Rudo, Sandy Blackburn,
Nicholas Genger-Boeldt, Ahmad Ghaznavi,
Joe Kennedy, Suzan Krauland,
Barbara Lockie-Brown, Gail Mallory's cousin Rose,
Tricia Mire, Lisa Petrilli,
Michael Stapleton, and Pastor BJ Woodworth.

Committee Meetings This Week

Deacons Tuesday, May 13 @ 7:00 pm
Worship, Music & Arts Tuesday, May 13 @ 7:30 pm
Membership & Outreach.. Thursday, May 15 @ 6:00 pm

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

LGBTQIA+ Ministry's Spiritual Gathering – May 18

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sunday, May 18 at 12:30 pm. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks are welcome! Contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net). *Note: Please wear your rainbow tie-dyed shirt to worship on Sunday, May 18 to show your support.*

Tower Tour – May 25

Please join guide Steve Evrard for a tour of the tower on Sunday, May 25. Wear closed-toe shoes to participate, and gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am sanctuary worship service to join the tour.

New Book Study: A Children's Bible – May 29

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee has selected *A Children's Bible* by Lydia Millet for their next book study. Lydia Millet's prophetic and heartbreaking story of generational divide offers a haunting vision of what awaits us on the far side that might overwhelm us.

The book discussion will be held on Thursday, May 29 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Room and on Zoom. For more info and the Zoom link, contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Summer Worship Schedule – Begins June 1

Our summer worship schedule begins on Sunday, June 1, with a combined service beginning at 10 am in the Sanctuary. Due to necessary repairs, we will not worship in the Courtyard this summer.

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.

In our

COMMUNITY



Allegheny County Ballot Drop Boxes

The county is offering ballot drop boxes. You may securely return your own completed, signed and sealed ballot at any of the locations listed at this web page (includes dates and hours): www.alleghenycounty.us/Government/Elections/Ballot-Return-Sites. *Pittsburgh Voters: Remember that all voters can vote on the three Home Rule Charter Amendments.*

Pittsburgh Pride 2025 March and Festival – June 1

Our congregation is a proud participant in LAMP – LGBTQIA+ Affirming Ministries of Pittsburgh. While there are many Pride events sponsored by different groups in different neighborhoods around the area, the ONE big Pride event ELPC and LAMP will be participating in this year is *Pittsburgh Pride March and Festival* on Sunday, June 1. The March will begin at noon on Liberty Ave, concluding at Allegheny Commons Park West where the Festival will take place. Sign up to volunteer at the booth on Saturday, June 1 (both lay and pastoral volunteers) at www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48ADAB2DA4FAC25-56672328-pride. More info is available in the Highland Lobby.

Labyrinth Available

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. It is available on:

Wednesdays and Thursdays
10 am—7 pm in McKelvy Room
(with the exception of June 12, 19, 25 and 26)

Volunteers Needed

We need 3 to 6 more people on our team to help with the set up and teardown of the labyrinth. Set up happens on Wednesdays from 9-10 am; teardown is Fridays from 9-10 am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

May 18 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

- Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm+Zoom)** – Lectionary scriptural passages, facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers
- Seekers (Fellowship Rm+Zoom)** – “The Lost Art of Scripture: Rescuing the Sacred Texts” video by Karen Armstrong, facilitated by Gwen Puza
- Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm+Zoom)** – A discussion of chapter 9 of *Necessary Risks* by Teri McDowell Ott, led by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members