



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)

JUNE 22, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TIME OF PREPARATION

“There is something to being chosen that is uniquely healing. It communicates to the soul that one is desired not passively but with an active longing.”

— Cole Arthur Riley

PRELUDE

“Prelude in C”
“Morning Has Broken”

David N. Johnson
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
arr. Sondra K. Tucker
ELPC Ringers

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. Dr. Michael Diaz

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Beloved of God, God calls you forth to be whole, worthy, and wonderfully free.

People: **We come with our stories, our scars, and our longing to be made new.**

Leader: The Spirit is calling us out of tombs of fear, out of systems that shackle, into truth and life.

People: **We hear the call of liberation, singing freedom’s song before us.**

Leader: This is the day to remember what God has done, and to testify, sing, and dance.

People: **So let us worship the Liberating One—who breaks our chains, restores our lives, and sets us free.**

Dr. Charma Dudley

* OPENING HYMN #761

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

BEECHER

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Sara Hackett

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 in Room 206.*
- *Tweens are encouraged to stay in summer worship.*
- *Children age 3 and younger can play, sing songs and hear stories in the nursery during worship.*

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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Dr. Charma Dudley

Leader: Jesus crossed deserts, mountains, and the sea to meet people who were being dehumanized.
People were searching.
Jesus called them not by their wounds, but by their worth as children of God.
Let us now approach the One who still liberates as we confess what keeps us unwell and what we've allowed to remain unchallenged.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Charma Dudley

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TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Dr. Charma Dudley

Leader: Friends, God desires and promises reconciliation to all of creation.
People: **In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. Amen.**

HANDBELL ANTHEM

"Thine is the Glory"

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 8:26-39 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Joe Hajdu

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

* **HYMN #796**

"We Come to You for Healing, Lord"

LAND OF REST

SERMON

"Pigs or People: What Panics You More?"

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

LITURGICAL DANCE

"Brokenhearted"
Adrianna Cleveland, *liturgical dancer*

Kirk Franklin

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION &

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in the language or version closest to your heart*)

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.

RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS

Members: Becky Boyer, Molly Gunson, Quinn Hull, Nate Kegel, Dino Rothrauff, John Spiewak, & Dorothea Ward

Friend: Sarah Gilmer

*Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

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.

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Joe Hajdu

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.



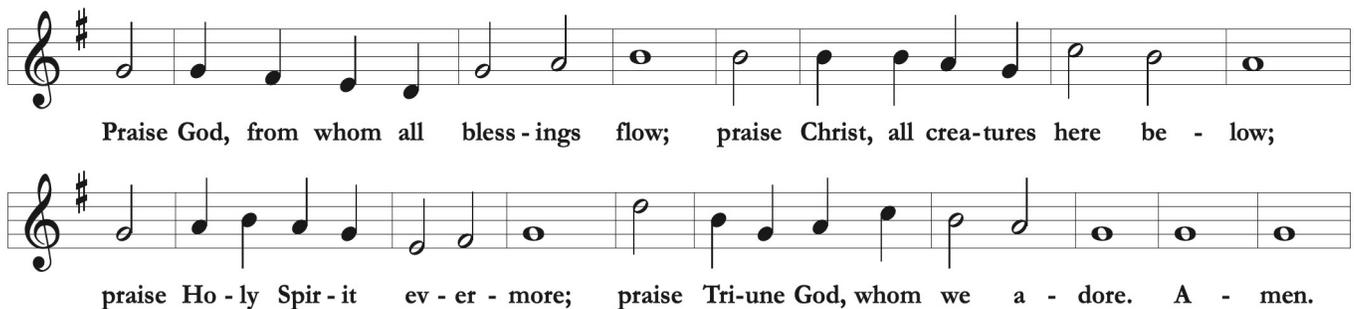
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“God Be in My Head”

Andrew Carter

* **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

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.

People: **With these gifts, O God, we remember with thanksgiving the life you offer us. May gratitude fill our hearts every day as we offer gifts for the well-being of all creation. Amen.**

* **CLOSING HYMN #634**

“To God Be the Glory”

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz



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.

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: Dr. Charma Dudley
Sara Hackett (she/her)
*Director of Christian Education
and Youth Ministries*
Rev. Joe Hajdu
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/ Music Director
ELPC Summer Choir
ELPC Ringers
Liturgical Dancer: Adrianna Cleveland
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, please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211). The cost is \$250.

◆ SUNDAY SUMMER WORSHIP

10 am.....**Summer 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

(with the exception of this week June 25 & 26)



◆ WEEKLY SPIRITUAL LIFE OFFERINGS

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 to 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

3rd Friday of month, 7 to 8:30 pm

◆ SOCIAL TIME

TODAY following service there will be a *Social Time* in the Fellowship Room, sponsored by ELPC's Membership & Outreach Committee. All are welcome!

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** in each pew.

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. See Pastor Michael Diaz to attend, or contact Jen King to register for future classes and more info (JenK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x222).

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

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome Visitors!

If you are joining us for the first time, we're glad you are here! Please do not forget to write your name and contact info in the RED friendship book in your pew. Pastor Michael will reach out to you for any prayer requests and to answer any questions you might have.

Advocating for Legislative Justice

Let's keep the energy of last weekend's *No Kings* rallies going. The Justice Committee will provide two opportunities for you to lobby your Legislators' support this week by signing postcards in the Garth Overlook room after worship.

The first is our effort to abolish the Death Penalty in PA by moving HB 888 out of the Judiciary onto the House floor for a vote! These cards are being signed by citizens all over the state and will be personally delivered to legislators by Pennsylvanians Against the Death Penalty (PADP) in the next few weeks.

The second is joining The Majority Project to let our elected officials know the real majority in the United States stands for progress and decency. We have postcards ready to be addressed with a quick personal message to Senators McCormick and Fetterman, as well as your House Representative, and if you leave them with us we will add postage and send them on to Washington.



Social Hour – after worship TODAY

ELPC's Membership and Outreach Committee will host a *Social Hour* today after worship in the Fellowship Room. Please join them for snacks and fellowship!

Interested in Being a Tour Guide?

Are you interested in joining one of the ministries of ELPC by leading members and visitors as a tour guide of our Gothic Sanctuary and Romanesque Chapel, stained glass windows, or views from the landmark central tower? The tours include the church's 206 year history, architectural details, beauty and symbolism designed by famed architect Ralph Adams Cram. Training will be provided. Contact Jo Ellen Aleshire (joaleshire@gmail.com) if interested.



Labyrinth Prayer Walk The Labyrinth is available on:
Wednesdays and Thursdays
10 am—7 pm in McKelvy Room
(with the exception of THIS WEEK June 25 & 26)

Vacation Church School Volunteer Training

For those who are volunteering this week at VCS, or those who registered, we will be holding a *Child Safety Training* TODAY following worship in the Social Hall with Sara Hackett. She will be reviewing VCS specifics and ELPC's *Child Safety Policy*.

Safety and Security Trainings

ELPC leadership has been working on and revising our *Emergency Response Plan* with local first responders to evolve and address our changing environment and the times in which we live. To further this effort and to better prepare our staff and congregation, the *Safety & Security Advisory Committee* (SSA) will be presenting a series of trainings over the next several months concerning important issues to create a safer church for us all.

In upcoming months, we will have trainings on mental health, fire safety, first aid, Stop the Bleed, AED, CPR, and intruder threat. All these trainings will be attended by staff members and open to church leaders. Some, such as fire safety/fire drill and intruder threat, will include sessions intended for all congregation members to attend.

In addition to these trainings, the SSA Committee is working on enhancing safer, clearer egress paths and emergency communication systems around the church building. We believe that part of being radically hospitable is keeping all who enter our building as safe as possible.

We invite you to pray for us in our work and to keep an eye out for training sessions in coming months in which you can participate. *The SSA Committee is Sandy Brake, Don Breitbarth, Lynne Chadwick, Carol Chonoska (chair), Carol Chontos, Pastor Michael Diaz, Wil Forrest, Sara Hackett, Tom Morton, Rev. Jim Tinnemeyer, Isaiah Wilson, and Nancy Wright.*

Connections Group Gathering – June 27

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to attend their next summer gathering. Grab your blanket or chair and join us for this free outdoor concert! Bring a picnic, buy food from the vendors, relax, enjoy music and talk with ELPC folks! RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

- Friday, June 27: *Fridays at Frick* — Enjoy an evening of music across genres with a performance by Barrels to Beethoven. Grounds open at 5 pm; music starts at 6:30 pm and ends around 8 pm.

Dates of other summer gatherings: July 25 and August 24.

Parking / Church Access Restricted – NEXT Sunday June 29

OpenStreetsPGH, hosted by BikePGH, is a free community event that opens miles of Pittsburgh streets for people to walk, run, bike, and explore spaces that are usually taken up by motor vehicles. This event will take





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

Joe Kiewra, Paul Bray, Shannon, Christine, Torrie, Jim, Beth Urbaitis, George Stone, Nelson, USA, Michael Stapleton, Sam, Susan, Gloria Hahn, Edith Battle, Carl, Jess, and Ashley & Emily and their newborn.

Condolences to the family of Frederick W. Clothey on his passing.

Committee Meeting This Week

Justice (on Zoom only) Wed July 25 @ 5:30 pm
Peace (on Zoom only) Thurs July 26 @ 5:30pm

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

place on Sunday, June 29 from 10 am—2 pm.

Part of their route will close the South Highland Ave entrance to ELPC, so please give yourself a little more time when attending worship that Sunday. For more details on the road closures, visit <https://openstreetspgh.org/route>.

Reckoning with ELPC’s Tie to Enslavement – June 29

In 2022, our church family learned that one of our most revered founders and donors enslaved and sold two women, Nell and Poll, in the early 1800s.

Join the Facing Systemic Racism Committee after the 10 am service in the Social Hall on Sunday, June 29 for a presentation on what we have learned about Nell, Poll, and their family, and for a time of discussion and reflection on what we must do to reckon with this part of our church’s legacy. A light lunch will be provided.

Church Tour – June 29

On Sunday, June 29, a *Tower tour* will be led by Steve Evrard and Tom Morton.

High above the bustle of the streets below, you will have an opportunity to view the entire East Liberty valley and beyond from the 300 foot spire of ELPC. The climb requires a bit of stamina, as there are 333 steps total (equivalent to about 13 stories), many of which are very narrow and circular. Please wear pants and comfortable, closed-toe shoes. The tour is not recommended for children under 12, those with heart or respiratory conditions, people with fear of heights or small enclosed spaces.

The tour capacity is limited to a total of 20 participants. You must pre-register for the tour online at <https://tinyurl.com/TowerTourELPC>, or scan this QR code.



There is no cost to participate but free-will donations are gratefully accepted. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 10 am Sunday worship service to participate, and allow 45-60 minutes for the tour.

In our

COMMUNITY



RCC Concert – June 27 and 28

The Renaissance City Choir, Pittsburgh's LGBTQIA+ choir, presents its annual Pride Concert: #THIS IS ME on Friday, June 27 and Saturday, June 28 at 7:30 pm. The new location for this 40th anniversary concert is Point Park University’s Pittsburgh Playhouse (350 Forbes Ave, downtown) with reserved seating.

For in-person and live-stream tickets, please visit www.rccpittsburgh.com. RCC rehearses at ELPC.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – July 6

Please plan on joining us at our next Spiritual Gathering on Sunday, July 6 at 11:30 am when we will share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Please contact Wil Forrest for info (Wil@coh.net).

Day Retreat for LGBTQIA+ Folks and Allies – July 19

Balancing self-care with care for our loved ones while reaching out to those in need in our community can be challenging, especially in these ever-changing and divisive times. Take a step away from your regular schedule and come together with others who are seeking this “care” balance as well. Members of the ELPC community are invited to this day retreat sponsored by ELPC’s Justice Committee and LGBTQIA+ Ministry for LGBTQIA+ folks and their allies at a local queer establishment for a day of exploration, laughter, reflection, creativity, and food – there is always food. Saturday, July 19 from 9am to 3pm we will gather at Harold’s Haunt in Millvale for this time together and be led by a special guest presenter, Debra Flint. Cost is \$25 for the entire event. RSVP by July 13 to Wil at wil@coh.net or 412-441-3800 x 218 to attend, with dietary considerations, and/or with questions about financial support to attend.



Middle School Camp at Crestfield – July 20 to 25

Youth in grades 6–8 are invited to attend *Service Adventure Camp* from July 20 to 25, which combines Crestfield adventure with local missions and service opportunities. Campers will be sent out to local non-profits to learn about and assist those agencies, then swim or rest.

The cost is \$400 and scholarships are available. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Our Adult Sunday School classes will resume on Rally Day in September.