



# 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)*

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 10, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

When we speak of God’s will, we are usually speaking only of some recognizable sign... The signpost that points to a distant city is not the city itself, and sometimes the signs that point to a great place are in themselves insignificant and contemptible. But we must follow the direction of the signpost if we are to get to the end of our journey. — Thomas Merton

### GATHERING HYMNS

*(printed in bulletin)*  
#358

“Give Me Jesus”  
“Steal Away”

STEAL AWAY

### WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz, Lynne Chadwick

*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 *(based on Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16)*

Jason Van Ness

Leader: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

People: **Like Sarah and Abraham, let us follow God, even when we do not know where we are going.**

Leader: By faith, let us look forward to the place of belonging, whose architect and builder is God.

People: **Let us worship God whose promises call and claim us.**

Leader: Let us bring our questions, hopes, and trust.

People: **Let us journey by faith and worship with joy. Alleluia!**

### \* OPENING HYMN #350

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

### 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.*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Jason Van Ness

Leader: Friends, God welcomes us. We are not outsiders trying to get in. We are part of the family of God, beloved and already claimed. Yet, we forget. We live as if we are on the margins of God’s grace. We fear and cling to doubt. Let us come before God, not to grovel for a place at the table, but to remember who we are and whose we are. Let us confess, trusting in grace that welcomes us home again and again.

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

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**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Jason Van Ness

**God of Hope, we admit that our faith sometimes falters. We acknowledge that our doubts and grievances often overwhelm. We struggle to comprehend our own suffering and that of others. Pardon us when we lose faith in you and in ourselves. Guide us back to harmonious relationships. Encourage us to stay engaged and committed to meaningful dialogues filled with grace. Amen.**

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Jason Van Ness

**Leader:** Friends, God's grace is given freely.  
**People:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** (*printed in bulletin; sing 3x*)

"Hear Our Prayer"

**READING FROM CHOCTAW ELDER STEVEN CHARLESTON**

Lynne Chadwick

*Now is the moment for which a lifetime of faith has prepared you. All of those years of prayer and study, all of the worship services, all of the time devoted to a community of faith: it all comes down to this, this sorrowful moment when life seems chaotic and the anarchy of fear haunts the thin borders of reason. Your faith has prepared you for this. It has given you the tools you need to respond: to proclaim justice while standing for peace. Long ago the Spirit called you to commit your life to faith. Now you know why. You are a source of strength for those who have lost hope. You are a voice of calm in the midst of chaos. You are a steady light in days of darkness. The time has come to be what you believe.*

**Leader:** May God bless the reading of these words.  
**People:** Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 12:32-37

Jason Van Ness

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

\* **HYMN** (*printed in bulletin*)

"Cast Your Cares"

**SERMON**

"If You Stay Ready ..."

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**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.*

**SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**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. Dr. Diaz

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



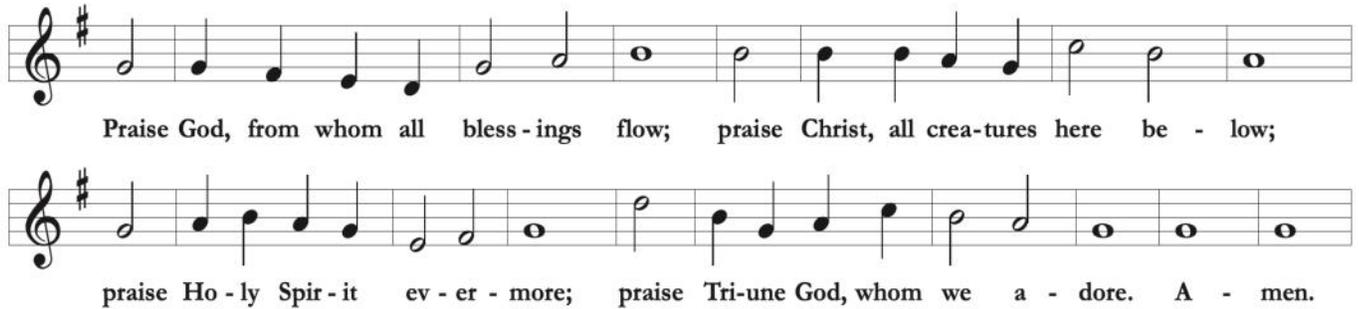
\* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“I Give Myself Away”

\* 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 DEDICATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz  
Lynne Chadwick

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: God of abundant love, everything we have comes from you. Help us be good stewards of all your precious resources. Bless these gifts we give in return that they might, in turn, be a blessing to others. **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.**

\* CLOSING HYMN (*printed in bulletin*)

“The Lord Is Blessing Me Right Now”

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz



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.

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 Diaz (he/him/él)  
Liturgists: Sara Hackett (she/her)  
*Director of Christian Education*  
Lynne Chadwick  
Jason Van Ness  
Musicians: Gerald Savage  
*Journey Music Director*  
Journey Praise Team  
Sound: Wayne Gaines  
Keith Irvin  
Bobby Jarsulic  
Lenore Williams

#### ◆ 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 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



#### ◆ 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

## 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. Please see one of the pastors to attend, or contact Jen King to register or for 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](http://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.

### LGBTQIA+ Spiritual Gathering

All are invited to today's monthly spiritual gathering at 11:30 am to share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Contact Wil Forrest, *LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator*, for info and to RSVP (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).



### Exterior Church Tour – Aug 17

Penn Hackney will lead a tour of the exterior of ELPC on Sunday, Aug 17. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 10 am worship service to participate.

### ELPC Fire Safety Training and Drill – Aug 17

ELPC's Safety & Security Advisory Committee (SSA) will be presenting a series of trainings concerning important issues to create a safer church for us all.

Following worship on Sunday, Aug 17, all are invited to stay for a fire safety training and drill presented by our very own Isaiah Wilson, who is a fire safety professional. The congregation will be invited to stay in the Sanctuary after worship ends for this session. Please note that this training will include a fire drill which includes a loud alarm.

Over the next few months, we will have trainings on 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 the fire safety/fire drill and intruder threat, will include sessions intended for all congregation members to attend.

### PW Bible Study Book Distribution – Aug 24

How do we find our resilience and joy in the midst of stressful life circumstances? In our 2025-2026 PW bible study, we will learn from women in the Gospels, the writers of the Epistles and Jesus himself. These witnesses can help us fully embrace and celebrate who we are as faithful disciples.

Bible study begins on Tuesday, Sept 2 at 10 am (in person at ELPC and on Zoom), and on Monday, Sept 8 at 7 pm (on Zoom).

You may pick up a bible study book after worship on Sunday, Aug 24. For more information, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

### Connections Group Gathering – Aug 24

The ELPC *Connections Groups Ministry* invites everyone to grab your blanket or chair and join us for a free outdoor concert at the Highland Park Reservoir on Sunday, Aug 24 for a *Reservoir of Jazz* performance by Paul Cosentino's Boiler Maker Jazz Band. Music starts at 5 pm and ends at 7 pm. Bring a picnic, buy food from the vendors, relax, enjoy music and talk with EPLC folks! RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

### Choir Rehearsals Resume – Sept 4 and 16

If you are interested in joining any of the choirs at ELPC, please contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net). Rehearsals for each of the 3 choirs resume on:

- *Journey Praise Team* — Thursday, Sept 4 at 5:30 pm
- *Chancel Choir* — Thursday, Sept 4 at 7 pm
- *Handbell Choir* — Tuesday, Sept 16 at 6 pm

### Registration is Open for Hope Academy's Fall Term

Hope Academy of Music and the Arts is now accepting registrations and scholarship applications for the 2025 Fall Term. Learn more about our classes and private instrument lessons online at [tiny.cc/hope-academy](http://tiny.cc/hope-academy).

### ELPC Seeking Associate Pastor for Connection and Care

The process has begun to seek a new Associate Pastor for ELPC who will oversee connection and care and be the liaison for the Board of Deacons and M&O Committee. The position description is listed at [elpc.church/careers](http://elpc.church/careers).

### Summer Sunday School for Kids

This summer, we are offering *Sunday School* for kids aged 4–grade 3. Tweens are encouraged to join in our Summer worship service, but if they would like to help out with the younger kids' class, contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Summer *Sunday School* will have a different format and take place in Room 205. The *Invitations to Play* curriculum follows the lectionary texts we are using in worship and uses sensory and imaginative play materials to make space for the Holy Spirit to do its work of transformation. Together, we will make meaning of sacred texts and theological concepts through play!

### 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. Email Jo Ellen Aleshire (joaleshire@gmail.com).



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

Conley and family, Joan Mukogosi, Marti Moore, Henry Petrilli, Linda Lane, Beth Urbaitis, Courtney McCrimmon's father, Sonia, Scott and Josh, and Dino.

Condolences to the family of **Pat Valoon** on her passing.

### Committee Meetings This Week

APNC ..... Today @ 11:15 am  
Worship, Music & Arts ..... Tuesday, Aug 12 @ 7:30 pm  
Mission Board..... Thursday, Aug 14 @ 5:30 pm

For more info about how to join a meeting, please contact Jen King ([JenK@cob.net](mailto:JenK@cob.net); 412.441.3800 x222).

## Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market needs:

- **summer clothes**
- **diapers (sizes 5-7)**
- **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).

### Volunteer as an Usher!

Ushers are an important part of the Sanctuary worship service. Becoming an usher is a great way to engage in the radical hospitality that ELPC is known for! If interested, contact Lynne Chadwick ([LynneNChadwick@gmail.com](mailto:LynneNChadwick@gmail.com)).



### Labyrinth Prayer Walk

The Labyrinth is available on:  
**Wednesdays and Thursdays**  
**10 am—7 pm in McKelvy Room**

### 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.

In our

## COMMUNITY



### All Together Now! Music Festival Concludes Today @ ELPC

Ted Cmarada and Susan Spangler have organized the *All Together Now! Music Festival* to benefit our immigrant community. The music festival began Aug 7 at various venues around Pittsburgh, and concludes today. Join them at 3 pm today with *An Afternoon of Storytelling and Multicultural Music and Dance* in the ELPC Sanctuary.

All proceeds will go to the Collaborative for Immigrant Impact to help immigrants access legal services, housing, healthcare, education, English classes, career development, food assistance, and more, ensuring our immigrant neighbors have the opportunity to thrive.

Please visit [www.alltogetherpgh.com](http://www.alltogetherpgh.com) for more info.

### Prayer Vigil for Immigrants – August 15, 22 & 29

The ELPC Mission Board encourages participation in the weekly *Prayer Vigil for Immigrants* held on the sidewalk adjacent to the ICE offices at 3000 Sidney St, 15203. Prayers begin on Fridays at 8 am and conclude at 10 am. The interfaith vigil is sponsored by Pax Christi, Casa San Jose and the Sisters of Saint Joseph. If you wish to bring a sign, please use a message from your faith about welcoming the immigrant. Parking is available in the public garage two blocks west of the ICE offices. For more information, text Michele Bossers (412.303.9243).

### Pittsburgh Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop – Aug 19

Pittsburgh is undergoing significant changes, and for the first time ever, our city is creating one comprehensive plan encompassing all 90 neighborhoods. This presents a unique opportunity for us to ensure that these changes benefit everyone. On Aug 19, a public workshop will be held on the *State of a Just Pittsburgh* — our city's current conditions, our strengths and things we celebrate, our most urgent challenges and risks, and perhaps most importantly, the forces driving change in Pittsburgh over the next 5, 10, 25 years. Register at [pgh2050.com/upcomingevents](http://pgh2050.com/upcomingevents). This workshop will be held at 5 Hot Metal St.

### Renaissance City Choir Comes Out with New Name for 40th Anniversary

Western Pennsylvania's only LGBTQIA+ and allies choral group proudly announces its new name: Pittsburgh Pride Choir. The choir has been a cornerstone of Pittsburgh's LGBTQIA+ cultural community since 1985. The name change marks a new era — one that clearly reflects the group's identity and mission in a vibrant, visible, and proudly queer-forward way. The Pittsburgh Pride Choir is an artist in residence at ELPC. To learn more, please visit [www.pittsburghpridechoir.org](http://www.pittsburghpridechoir.org).

# GIVE ME JESUS

1. I heard my moth-er say, I heard my moth-er  
 2. Dark mid-night was my cry, Dark mid-night was my  
 3. Oh, when I come to die, Oh, when I come to

say, I heard my moth - er say, Give me Je -  
 cry, Dark mid - night was my cry, Give me Je -  
 die, Oh, when I come to die, Give me Je -

sus.  
 sus. Give me Je - sus. Give me Je -  
 sus.

sus, You may have all this world, Give me Je - sus.

# HEAR OUR PRAYER *(sing 3 times)*

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Musical notation for the first system, featuring a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: Hear our prayer, O Lord; hear our prayer, O Lord; In -

Musical notation for the second system, continuing the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: cline Thine ear to us and grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Text: Psalm 143:1  
Music: George Whelpton, 1847-1930

# CAST YOUR CARES

♩ Refrain

Cast your cares up - on

The first system of music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by four measures of chords. The piano accompaniment starts with a quarter rest, followed by a series of chords and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Cast your cares up - on' are written below the vocal line.

Him! Cast your cares up - on

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with the word 'Him!' followed by four measures of chords. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and eighth notes. The lyrics 'Him! Cast your cares up - on' are written below the vocal line.

*Continued on next page*

Him! He knows, He cares, God real - ly

cares. God cares for you!

*Last time*

Verse

I am learn - ing to put

all my trust in Him, For He knows the

road up a - head. I must not com -

plain, I must learn to trust in His name. He knows,

He cares, God real - ly cares. God

cares for you! D.S.

# THE LORD IS BLESSING ME RIGHT NOW

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting with a whole rest followed by a quarter note G4, then a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics "The Lord is" are written below the notes. The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, starting with a whole rest followed by a quarter note G2, then a double bar line and a repeat sign. The bottom staff is the piano accompaniment, starting with a whole rest followed by a quarter note G2, then a double bar line and a repeat sign.

The Lord is

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, with lyrics "bless - ing me right now, Oh, right" and "now,". The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, and the bottom staff is the piano accompaniment.

bless - ing me right now, Oh, right  
now,

The third system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, with lyrics "now!" and "The Lord is". The middle staff is the piano accompaniment, and the bottom staff is the piano accompaniment.

now! The Lord is

bless - ing me right now, Oh, right  
now,

The first system of the musical score features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is written in a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are "bless - ing me right now, Oh, right now,". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a simple bass line. The music is in a 4/4 time signature.

now! He woke me up this  
morn - ing,

The second system continues the musical score. The vocal line has the lyrics "now! He woke me up this morn - ing,". The piano accompaniment continues with similar chordal textures and a steady bass line. The key signature remains one flat.

And start - ed me on my

The third system concludes the musical score on this page. The vocal line has the lyrics "And start - ed me on my". The piano accompaniment continues with the same style. The key signature remains one flat.

*Continued on next page*

way; The Lord is

1.  
bless - ing me right now!

2. rit.  
The now! rit.