



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)

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST AUGUST 17, 2025 — 10 AM SUMMER WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

My journey to the truth of God cannot be parsed from my journey to the truth of who I am.

A fidelity to the true self is a fidelity to truth.

— Cole Arthur Riley

PRELUDE

“Preludio (Partita No. 3)”
“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

Johann Sebastian Bach
Cody Conley, *violin*
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

Doris Dick, Sharon Geibel

Leader: This is the day our God has made!

People: We will rejoice! We will be glad in it!

Leader: God invites all people to a banquet of joy!

People: We will rejoice! We will be glad in it!

Leader: Liberation is here. Tears are wiped away. Love has the final word!

People: We will rejoice! We will be glad in it!

Leader: God is our help and hope, now and forever.

People: We will rejoice! We will be glad in it!

* OPENING HYMN #687

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ST. ANNE

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

Doris Dick, Sharon Geibel

Leader: Jesus says the kin-dom of God is like a small mustard seed that grows into shelter for all. Yet we have limited God’s welcome, resisted change, and chosen the road of comfort over the way Jesus taught us—the way of love. Let us come before God in humility and truth.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Doris Dick, Sharon Geibel

Merciful God, your kin-dom is wide enough for all people, yet we have closed doors. Your Spirit works quietly to transform us, yet we resist your movement. You call us to journey the way of love, yet we take the easier path. Forgive us. Plant your grace deep within us, that we may grow in welcome, trust, and faithfulness.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Doris Dick, Sharon Geibel

Leader: Friends, God is quick to forgive all of God's children.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE #399 (*sing 3x*)

"God Welcomes All"

THEMBA AMEN

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 25:1-9 (NRSVUE)

Rev. Woodworth

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

* **HYMN #378**

"We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"

MERLE'S TUNE

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:18-29 (NRSVUE)

Doris Dick, Sharon Geibel

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Jessica McClure Archer

"The Kingdom of God Is Like...Mustard Seeds, Yeast, and the Last Who Are First"

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO ANOINTING AND PRAYER

Are you in need of an affirmation that God is journeying with you? Do you desire for someone to pray alongside you? If so, please come forward as we sing. You may receive anointing with oil and/or visit one of our prayer stations. Volunteer prayer partners will be present to listen, intercede, and hold you in God's love.

HYMN #471

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (*first verse only, repeat multiple times*)

HEAR MY PRAYER

HYMN #472

"Kum ba Yah"

KUM BA YAH

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. Woodworth

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.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

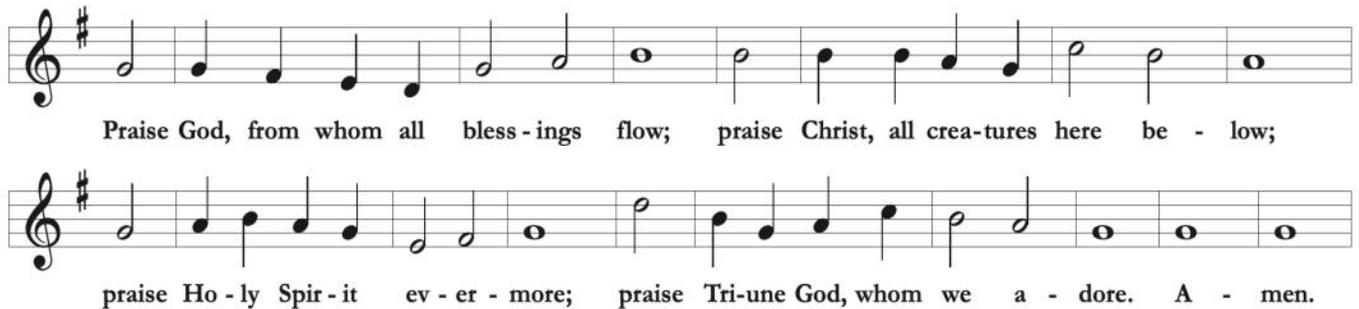
“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

Allen Pote

*Many gifts, one spirit. Many songs, one voice.
Many reasons, one promises. Many questions, one choice.
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.
O, God, remind us we are not alone.
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.
Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.
Take our many ways of working,
blend the colors of each soul into the beauty of a rainbow.
Give us life, Lord, make us whole.*

* **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
Rev. McClure Archer

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.
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.	

* **CLOSING HYMN #242**

“Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded”

IN DIR IST FREUDE

* **CHARGE & BENEEDICTION**

Rev. McClure Archer

POSTLUDE

“In Dir ist Freude, BWV 615”
(In You is Gladness)

Johann Sebastian Bach
based on Glory to God #242



Please remain seated in the Sanctuary after the service to participate in the fire safety training and drill.

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 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. Jessica McClure Archer
- Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz (he/him/él)
Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Director of Christian Education
- Doris Dick
- Sharon Geibel
- Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Summer Choir
Cody Conley, *Violin*
- Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

If you would like to sponsor flowers for our weekly worship service in honor or memory of a loved one, contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211). The cost is \$250.

◆ SUNDAY 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* on **Sunday, Sept 28 after the 11 am sanctuary service** 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.

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome to our Preacher Rev. Jessica McClure Archer!

Rev. Jessica serves as the General Minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery, guiding its mission and vision and leading its staff. With over 15 years of pastoral experience both as an associate pastor outside Washington, D.C., and a solo pastor in the Mon Valley, she brings wisdom, creativity, and a deep love for the church. Jessica is married to Andy, a cartographer with the U.S. Department of the Interior, and is mom to two young adults, Evan and Cami. She is passionate about coming alongside ministry leaders to empower and equip them, strengthening our 120 congregations, new worshipping communities, and fresh expressions of church. Her hope is to see every faith community become a vibrant, relevant witness to the good news of Jesus Christ in their own neighborhood.



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.

ELPC Fire Safety Training and Drill

Following today's worship service, 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.

ELPC's Safety & Security Advisory Committee (SSA) will have trainings on first aid, Stop the Bleed, AED, CPR, and intruder threat.

Exterior Church Tour

Penn Hackney will lead a tour of the exterior of ELPC after today's service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate. *The next tour will be of the Sanctuary and Chapel on Sunday, Sept 14.*

Assisted Listening Devices

If you would like to use an assisted listening device to better hear the liturgy of our sanctuary worship service, please see one of our ushers. Please don't forget to return the device and headphones after the service. Please note the device will only work in the sanctuary.



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.

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. RSVP to connectelpc@gmail.com.

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.

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.



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

Dino, Pam and family, Scott and Josh,
Sonia and family, Zachary,

Linda Benedict, Rev. Henk Bossers, Linda Dorsey,
Sharon Geibel's mother Ruth, and
Jeff and Mary Pat Parson's daughter Meaghan.

Condolences to Laura Ristau and Betty Rieley on the passing of their sister and daughter, Cathy Rieley-Goddard.

Condolences to Courtney McCrimmon on her father's passing.

Committee Meeting This Week

Session Tuesday, Aug 19 @ 7:00 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 – Sept 7

You are invited to attend the LGBTQIA+ Ministry's spiritual gathering on Sunday, Sept 7 after the 11 am worship service. Join us to share lunch and conversation. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest to RSVP (Wil@coh.net).



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.

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).

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).

Liturgists Invited

Would you like to serve as a liturgist for the Journey and Sanctuary worship services? If you want to participate (reading Call to Worship, scripture lessons, etc.), please contact Norma (412.441.3800 x211) to be added.

In our

COMMUNITY



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. This workshop will be held at 5 Hot Metal St.

Prayer Vigil for Immigrants – August 22 and 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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Our Adult Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, September 7.

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).