



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)

VISITOR SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it. — Rumi

PRELUDE

“Abide with Me” J.S. Bach
“When Love Is Found (O Waly Waly)” Emma Lou Diemer
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

Annette Bassett

Leader: Rejoice with me, people of God.
People: God has gathered us in from the wilderness.
Leader: Rejoice with all of humanity, people of God.
People: God is awakening us to new possibilities.
Leader: Rejoice with heavenly hosts, people of God.
People: Today, we celebrate divine joy and love in our midst. Alleluia!

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #366** “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” HYFRYDOL

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Carmen Blanco, Sara Hackett

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Afterwards:

- *Children age 4-6th grade go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents pick up their kids after worship (age 4- 3rd grade in Room 206; grades 4-6 in Room 207). If this is your child’s first time attending, please accompany your child upstairs and check in with the teachers.*
- *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

Annette Bassett

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to bring liberation. With confidence born out of faith in Christ’s power and example, let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Annette Bassett

God of loving kindness, have mercy on us. We acknowledge our transgressions as we distort your love and corrupt your creation. Forgive us for separating ourselves from the way of love, by what we have done and by what we left undone. Teach us wisdom and cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Annette Bassett

Leader: Friends, God creates a clean heart within us.
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

HANDBELL ANTHEM

“What Was I Made For?”

arr. Sandra Zylstra

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51:10-12 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Annette Bassett

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-10 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Woodworth

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

* HYMN #693

“Though I May Speak”

GIFT OF LOVE

SERMON

“Love is Seeking You Out”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & RESPONSIVE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Woodworth

Originally published in 1989, The New Zealand Prayer Book (created by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa) was re-published in a new version by Harper Collins in 1997. This prayer book was celebrated by clergy and lay people alike for the way it combined the traditional Anglican prayers and forms of worship with the rich earth-based spirituality of the Maori and other Pacific Island cultures. It is eloquent in its wonderful simplicity and diversity. This alternate version of the Lord's Prayer is included within The New Zealand Book of Prayer, which demonstrates the unique character of the New Zealand Anglican Church and the impact that Polynesian culture has had upon it.

Leader: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

People: **Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,**

Leader: Loving God, in whom is heaven:

People: **The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

Leader: The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

People: **Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

Leader: With the bread we need for today,

People: **Feed us.**

Leader: In the hurts we absorb from one another,

People: **Forgive us.**

Leader: In times of temptation and test,

People: **Strengthen us.**

Leader: From trials too great to endure,

People: **Spare us.**

Leader: From the grip of all that is evil,

People: **Free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Rev. Woodworth

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **Y también contigo.**

And also with you.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Connections Group

Emily Snoek

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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Love Is Little"

arr. Mark Schweizer
Traditional Shaker Tune

Love is little, love is low, Love will make our spirits grow, grow in peace, grow in light, Love will do the thing that's right.

Love is gentle, love is small, Love will find the best of all, find the peace, find the light, Love will do the thing that's right.

Love is silent, love is strong, Love will sing a quiet song, sing of peace, sing of light, Love will do the thing that's right.

Love is wonder, love is grace, Love will bind all in its place; bind the peace, bind the light, Love will do the thing that's right.

* 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. Woodworth

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 resurrection, you have blessed us with unique and abundant gifts. As we present these offerings to you, we do so with thankful hearts, grateful for your sustaining grace. Empower us to be faithful followers of Jesus and to share the good news in word and deed. **Amen.**

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #625

"How Great Thou Art"

HOW GREAT THOU ART

This hymn was the number one vote getter in our favorite hymns survey.

Read more about it in this week's worship notes: <http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>.

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

"Tocatta"

David Hegarty



Notes regarding the music sung in today's service are available on our website — <http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>.

Our full worship service is being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. 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: Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Annette Bassett
Carmen Blanco
Sara Hackett
Emily Snoek
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
ELPC Ringers
Beadle: Jason Van Ness
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
Sound: Tim Benedict and 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 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

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

(held at Oaks Theatre in Oakmont at 7 pm on Sept 19)

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

Visitor Sunday & Social Hour

Today is *Visitor Sunday* at ELPC. We are so glad you are here! Visitors are encouraged to complete a contact card (*New Here?*) found in the pews, and to stop by our *Welcome Table* to receive a gift bag after either worship service (on Social Hall balcony after Journey service; in Narthex and Highland Ave hallway after 11 am service).

The Membership & Outreach Committee is sponsoring a *Social Hour* after the 11 am service. All are welcome to join them in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms for refreshments!

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.

Sanctuary & Chapel Church Tour

Tom Morton will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel today. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am worship service to participate.

Connections Groups are Forming this Fall – RSVP Today

Connections Groups are small groups of about 10 people who meet about once a month for an event such as a potluck dinner, restaurant meal, trip to a museum or cafe, walk the Reservoir, etc, to build community. Sign up at tiny.cc/elpc-connections by today.



MusikGarden – Begins Sept 21

MusikGarden is taught by Carmen Blanco for children age 2-5 and their parents/grownups from 10-10:45 am on Sundays. Families are welcome to check out the class by visiting in September. MusikGarden's *The Cycle of Seasons* class celebrates your child's growing independence and love of nature. Developed to build attention and self-expression, activities include singing, chanting, moving, focused listening, musical games, exploring musical instruments, creative movement, and storytelling in a supportive community of students and parents. Offered in conjunction with *Hope Academy*. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

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.

Contemplative Prayer – Mondays

Join us for our Monday morning *Contemplative Prayer* sessions at 7:30 am. Together on Zoom (Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992; Passcode: bestill), we will spend 20–30 minutes, quieting our souls, breathing, listening to and for that still small voice within through guided scripture meditation, silence, and music—all in community with others.

Youth Group – Thursdays

Together with youth in grades 7–12 from Sixth Presbyterian Church, we share dinner, pray, play, and explore faith through service projects, arts and crafts, conversations, silly games, and whatever else we dream up on Thursdays from 4:30-7 pm. Register online at ELPC.church, or contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Young Adult Happy Hour – Sept 15

Kicking off at Pastor BJ's house in East Liberty on Monday, Sept 15 and continuing on the third Monday of every month from 6–7:30 pm, anyone in their 20s and 30s is invited to join the Young Adult Ministry for appetizers and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks). Contact Sara Hackett for an invite (SaraH@coh.net).

JourneyDance is Going on the Road – Sept 19

On Friday, Sept 19, JourneyDance will dance in community with others to the music of Buffalo Rose (also Jobi Riccio) who will be performing at a WYEP FREE concert at Oaks Theatre in Oakmont. Doors open at 5:30 pm; music from 7-9 pm. No tickets required. Contact Yamuna for more info (domorgens@gmail.com).



INQUIRERS' CLASS Sunday, Sept 28 after 11 am worship

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* after the 11 am service on Sunday, Sept 28 in the Fellowship Room 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

Sunday, 14 September 2025 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Sundays after Pentecost (like the Sundays after Epiphany) are sometimes called Ordinary Time - not because they are routine or mundane, but because their primary rhythm has to do with following the Sundays “in order.” Indeed, each Sunday is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection from the dead on the first day of the week, and it is this holy mystery that animates, renews, and transforms our life of faith. – *The Book of Common Worship*, 2018

Prelude and Sermon Hymn

O WALY WALY is a traditional English melody associated with the song "O Waly, Waly, gin love be bony," the words of which date back at least to Ramsay's *Tea Table Miscellany* (1724-1732), and as the setting for a folk ballad about Jamie Douglas. It is also well known in the Appalachian region of the United States. The hymn version of this tune appears three times in our purple *Glory to God Hymnal*, #202, *An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare* and #302, *When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace*, and #847, *Our Hope, Our Life*. Hal H. Hopson adapted and arranged O WALY WALY as an anthem in 1971 for his setting of 1 Corinthians 13. The hymn setting of this arrangement appears in our hymnal at #693, *Though I May Speak*, with the tune name GIFT OF LOVE.

Handbell Anthem

What Was I Made For? by the sister and brother team of Billie Eilish and Finneas O’Connell, won numerous awards, including the Academy Award for best original song and the Grammy for song of the year in 2024.

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy is the spiritual leader of Congregation Kol Emet in Yardley, Bucks County, PA. She referenced the song in a [sermon](#) on September 18, 2023:

In the movie, Billie Eilish sings:
I used to float, now I just fall down
I used to know but I’m not sure now
What I was made for
What was I made for?

What is it that makes someone human? Is it that we have feelings, are mortal, have memory? That we have a sense of selfhood apart from others’ perceptions of us, that we have hopes/dreams?

As humans, we are made of feelings. We often live in our mind and heart. About experiencing humanity, Ruth says to Barbie: “Take my hand, close your eyes. Now, feel.” Close your eyes, she says, because it isn’t in the seeing that we experience being human; it is in the feeling. The joy, the pain of loss, even confusion.

It strikes me that **being human is to have an internal experience no one else can fully know.**

New Zealand Lord's Prayer

Originally published in 1989, The New Zealand Prayer Book (created by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa) was re-published in a new version by Harper Collins in 1997. This prayer book was celebrated by clergy and lay people alike for the way it combined the traditional Anglican prayers and forms of worship with the rich earth-based spirituality of the Maori and other Pacific Island cultures. It is eloquent in its wonderful simplicity and diversity, and is worthy addition to anyone's book of prayers.

An alternate version of the Lord's Prayer is included within The New Zealand Book of Prayer, which demonstrates the unique character of the New Zealand Anglican Church and the impact that Polynesian culture has had upon it.

Offertory Anthem

Love Is Little is a Shaker tune from 1834. It comes from the South Union Shaker Village in South Union, Kentucky. The South Union village was founded in 1807 in Auburn, Kentucky in 1807 and closed in 1922.

Recessional Hymn

Earlier this year we conducted a survey of favorite hymns. 58 people responded to the survey and submitted 139 different hymns from 253 submissions. The hymn receiving the most submissions was...drum roll, please...

How Great Thou Art

Carl P. Daw, Jr. writes about this hymn in [*Glory to God: A Companion*](#)

“The starting point appears to be the summer of 1885, when a Swedish editor, Carl G. Boberg (1859–1940), moved by the beauty of creation around him and stimulated by the ringing of church bells, wrote a text beginning “O store Gud” (O great God).

A German translation by Manfred van Glehn (1867–1924) beginning “Wir gross bist Du” (How great art Thou) was published in 1907 and became popular throughout Germany.

Twenty years later, I. S. Prokhanoff (1869–1933) made a Russian translation based on the German version, and it was printed in a large hymnal (1,233 hymns!), *Kimvali* (Cymbals), published by a Baptist press in Lutz, Poland.

Stuart K. Hine (1889-1989) encountered this Russian version when he was working as a Methodist missionary in the Ukraine; he was not aware of its Swedish origins. Some years later Hine was serving in the Carpathian mountains of Czechoslovakia when, in the midst of a thunderstorm, he made an English translation of the first stanza of the Russian text. Later he added two more stanzas, largely of his own creation. After World War II broke out in 1939, Hine returned to England, where he used the three-stanza version in preaching campaigns. He added a fourth stanza in 1948 and printed that version in leaflet form.

This was the version of the hymn that came to the attention of George Beverly Shea during the Billy Graham Crusade in London in 1954.”



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

Brandon and family, Chuck, Dino,
Kevin's friends, Pam and family, Richard, Stan's partner
John, Zachary, Linda Benedict,
Rev. Henk and Michele Bossers, Linda Dorsey,
Sharon Geibel's mother Ruth, Marti Moore,
Jeff and Mary Pat Parson's daughter Meaghan,
and Donald Smith.

Committee Meeting This Week

Membership & Outreach.. Thursday, Sept 18 @ 6:00 pm

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

Monthly Family Events – Sept 21

Families are invited to join the *Children and Families Ministry Team* after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service on the third Sunday of each month for a family friendly event! On Sunday, Sept 21, we will gather together for a picnic and games in the play yard. Contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Book Talk by Sung Yoo – Sept 28

Seekers' class member Sung Yoo will discuss her recent book *From North Korea to America Through Three Wars: A Nurse's Journey* on Sunday, Sept 28 at 9:45 am in the McKelvy Room. The book chronicles her experience living through World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and her work as a nurse in South Korea, Vietnam, and the United States. In the book, she describes the three wars, insights she gained into nursing as a career, and her faith journey. Books will be available for purchase for \$25.



World Communion Sunday & International Lunch – Oct 5

On Sunday, Oct 5, the ELPC Board of Deacons will be hosting *A Taste of Nations International Lunch* commemorating World Communion Sunday. Join us in the McKelvy Room after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service for a sample of global cuisine. There will be sign-up sheets at the Penn and Highland Ave doors for the congregation to indicate their donations representing their favorite ethnic dish. For more info, please contact Deacon Linda Sanders or Peta Harrigan Cole.

Cathedral Concerts Series Kicks Off 15th Season – Oct 12

The *Cathedral Concerts* series at ELPC has announced its slate of concerts for the 2025–2026. For more information on each concert, please visit tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts.

On Sunday, Oct 12 at 3 pm, Windfluence, a Pittsburgh-based professional woodwind quintet, will join organist Dr. Edward Alan Moore for a dazzling performance featuring the *Concerto for Organ and Wind Quintet* by Daniel Pinkham.

In our

COMMUNITY



PADP Virtual Event – Sept 18

Pennsylvanians Against the Death Penalty invites you to join the webinar *When the Death Penalty Became Personal* on Thursday, Sept 18 from 7-8:30 pm. Vicki and Syl Schieber will share their journey of grief for their daughter and advocacy for life. Contact Vivienne Selia for more info (vselia@comcast.net; 412.334.4148).

Join ELPC in Celebrating Disability Pride – Sept 20

Once again, ELPC is proud to participate in the annual Disability Pride Pittsburgh on Saturday, Sept 20 from 11 am–4 pm in Schenley Plaza (4100 Forbes Ave, Oakland). Join members of ELPC's Justice Committee for this fun family event! Contact Alex (alexlynn423@gmail.com).

Friday Night @ Kelly Strayhorn Theater – Sept 26

On Friday, Sept 26, join us for a special evening of Pittsburgh history and dance theater. From 5:30–7:30 pm, there will be an opening reception and gallery showcasing East Liberty's queer history from the 1970s. Then at 7:30 pm, dance-theater artist David Roussève performs in the world premiere of *Becoming Daddy AF*, a moving portrait of a queer African American man defying death while struggling to embrace the fullness of life. The gallery reception is free, but donations are welcome. Tickets start at \$20 for the dance-theater performance. Please write ELPC in the comment section when purchasing tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/BecomingDaddyAF>

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

September 21

– Adults –

*Adult classes are held from 9:45-10:45 am
in the rooms indicated below:*

Journey with Scripture – Highland Room + Zoom

Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers

Seekers – Garth Overlook Room + Zoom

“Israel / Palestine: The War That Cannot Be Seen.”

Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

A discussion of *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

– Children –

Sign up kids using this QR Code. Kids leave worship during Moments With Our Children. Parents pick up their children after worship in the rooms indicated below:



Children (age 4-grade 3) – Room 206

Tweens (grades 4–6) – Room 207

Teens (grades 7-12) – meets the 1st and 3rd Sunday of month