



# 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)*

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## PEACEMAKING SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

If we work for peace out of anger, we will never succeed. Peace is not an end. It can never come about through non-peaceful means. — *Thich Nhat Hanh*

### PRELUDE

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” Willam Bolcom  
“Dove of Peace - I Come with Joy” David Cherwien  
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

Bill Johnson

Leader: A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace,  
**People: For those who make peace.**  
Leader: Seek peace and pursue it.  
**People: Let mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to all.**

### UNISON PRAYER OF ADORATION

Bill Johnson

**Living God, you are the light and the life of all peoples. In an anxious world, we turn our hearts and minds to you. At Jesus’ birth, the angels proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill to all. Let us hear not only comfort in those words, but become your children and make peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.**

### CHORAL INTROIT

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

*Please rise in body or spirit for the Processional Hymn following the Choral Introit.*

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #340

“This Is My Song”

FINLANDIA

*This hymn was the number seven vote getter in our favorite hymns survey. Read more about it in this week’s worship notes: <http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>*

### 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 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.*

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

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**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Bill Johnson

Leader: “Come to me,” Jesus says, “all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest.” Let us humbly admit our resistance to God’s invitations and cast our cares upon God, who cares for us. Together let us pray:

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Bill Johnson

**O God, our hearts are weighed down by so many things. We carry burdens that were never meant to be ours. We worry about the future. We fret about the past. We feel anxiety for the state of our world. Our judgment is clouded by old commitments to this group or that. And yet, your call is to peace: in our lives and between people. Forgive us for dedicating our efforts to lesser things and doubting your word. Give us that peace which passes understanding, so that we might carry it into our relationships and into your world, through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

Bill Johnson

Leader: “I will give you peace, and you shall lie down in safety, and none shall make you afraid.” Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ:

**People: In Christ, we are forgiven; go now, and walk in the ways of peace. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #430**

“Remember Not, O God”

Southwell

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 122 (“*Psalms for Praying*” by Nan Merrill)

Bill Johnson

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* **HYMN** (*see insert*)

“God, Our Nation Feels the Loss”

PILOT

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Jeremiah 29:4-7 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“Proximity + Prayer = Peace”

Rev. Woodworth

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**INVITATION TO ANOINTING AND PRAYER**

Rev. Woodworth

*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. You may also light a candle in prayer at the entrance to the Trinity Chapel.*

**HYMN** (*see insert*)

“Give Peace to Every Heart” (*multiple times*)

GIVE PEACE

**HYMN #466**

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” (*multiple times*)

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

**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.**

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

**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).*



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace”

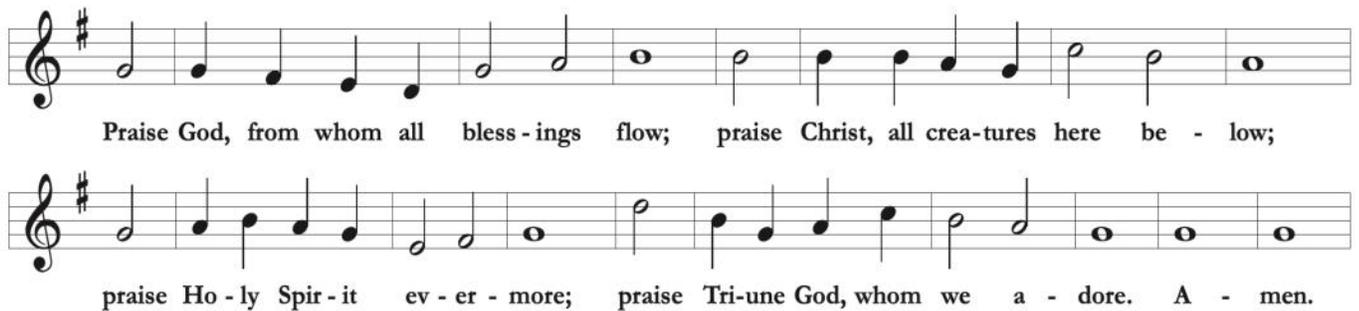
Philip WJ Stopford

text: The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

*Today's anthem was donated in 2024 to the ELPC Choir Library in memory of Richard C. Depperman, loving husband of member Carla D. Depperman. Richard greatly appreciated the music of our choir.*

\* **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.

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, thank you for making peace in and through Christ and gifting us with the peace of the Holy Spirit. We offer these gifts in humility and gratitude. Use them and us to make peace in the places of conflict and discord in ourselves, our neighborhoods and the broader world. **Amen.**

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #821**

“My Life Flows On”

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Woodworth

**POSTLUDE**

“Fanfare & Processional (for Kathleen)”

Ryan Croyle, *organ*



## 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.

### 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.

### Family Picnic and Games

Join us after worship for a picnic, face painting, and games in the play yard on Balm Blvd as we kick off the year and share information about the Children and Families Ministry Team's 2025/2026 program year. Contact Sara (SaraH@coh.net) for more info.



### MusikGarden – Sundays

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](https://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.



## 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](https://elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member).



Please contact Jen King for more info:

JenK@coh.net • 412.441.3800 x222

### Book Study – Sept 25

The Environmental Team, a subcommittee of Justice, will have a book study on *Human Nature: Nine Ways to Feel About Our Changing Planet* by Kate Marvel, in the Highland Room (and online) on Thursday, Sept 25 at 7 pm. Contact Nancy Heastings for info ([n.heastings@comcast.net](mailto:n.heastings@comcast.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.



### Tower Tour – Sept 28

A tower tour will be held next Sunday, Sept 28. 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 11 am worship service to participate, allow 45-60 minutes for the tour, and wear closed-toe shoes.



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

Brandon and family, Chuck and Jake, Dino, Gayle, John, Kevin's friends, Michael, Pam and family, Richard, Stan's partner John, Zachary, Henk and Michele Bossers, Carol Chontos' friend Braelynn, Linda Dorsey, Bob Forloines, Sharon Geibel's mother Ruth, Linda Lane, Gary Marzolf, Jean McGuire, Jeff and Mary Pat Parson's daughter Meaghan, and Donald Smith.

*Condolences to Mario Seneca on the passing of his father.*

### Committee Meetings This Week

**Neighbors** ..... Wednesday, Sept 24 @ 6:00 pm  
**Peace** ..... Thursday, Sept 25 @ 5:30 pm  
**Justice**..... Sunday, Sept 28 @ 12:00 pm

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

### 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](http://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.

### Giving Our Deaths Away Retreat – Oct 31 to Nov 2

From Friday–Sunday, Oct 31–Nov 2, join us for a Spiritual Life retreat on Halloween, All Saints Day, and the Day of the Dead at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Pulaski, PA. Amid our normal retreat rhythms of solitude and community, silence and conversation, stillness and activity, we will explore our mortality, our hopes and fears surrounding death, and what our tradition(s) have to say about death and eternal communion we have with saints and ancestors. According to the Spanish mystic John of the Cross, we have three essential struggles in life: 1) To get our lives together, 2) To give our lives away, and 3) To give our deaths away.

RSVP to Norma by Sunday, Oct 19 (412.441.3800 x211). For cost info, visit [tiny.cc/giving-our-deaths-away](http://tiny.cc/giving-our-deaths-away). Scholarships available; contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Sun Day – Today!

Third Act, a nationwide climate action group started by Bill McKibben, is sponsoring *Sun Day* to celebrate renewable energy (solar and wind) which is being deployed globally to fight climate change. Join us at 1:30 pm today at the Frick Environmental Center for a news conference and tour of the solar arrays. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/SunDayAtFrick>.

### 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 Rousseve 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. Purchase tickets at <https://tinyurl.com/BecomingDaddyAF>

### Help Fund Eddie Willson's Journey to Malawi

In July 2019, ELPC member Dr. Eddie Willson took a group of youth to Malawi. In Dec 2019, he became the moderator for the Pittsburgh Presbytery's *International Partnership* between South Sudan, Malawi, and Pittsburgh. In March 2023, he again travelled there. He will travel with a small group to Malawi later this year to meet up with a delegation from South Sudan. Visit [www.pghpip.org](http://www.pghpip.org) for *International Partnership* info. If you want to help Eddie with the trip cost, please visit <https://gofund.me/ca331808>.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

September 28

### – Adults –

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

**Journey with Scripture** – Highland Room + Zoom

Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers

**Seekers** – McKelvy Room + Zoom

“From North Korea to America Through Three Wars: A Nurse's Journey” by Sung Yoo. Facilitated by Gwen Puza

**Soul Food** – McKelvy Room + Zoom

Will join Seekers in the McKelvy Room to hear Sung Yoo speak about her life journey and her recent book. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

### – Children –

*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

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](http://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. BJ Woodworth (he/him)  
Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz (he/him/él)  
Sara Hackett  
Bill Johnson  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)  
*Director of Music and Arts*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Ryan Croyle, *Guest Organist*  
Beadle: Heather Eng  
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt  
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

#### ◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are from the wedding ceremony of Rebecca Dilla and Abraham Levkoy, held yesterday at ELPC.

#### ◆ 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

## 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](mailto: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).

## Sunday, 21 September 2025 – Fifteenth 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

William Bolcom (b. 1938) composed 12 *Gospel Preludes* between 1979-1984, divided into four books of three each. No. 11, *Sweet Hour of Prayer* is the second prelude in book four. Bolcom was professor of composition at the University of Michigan from 1973-2008. His compositions and performances have earned him the Pulitzer Prize, the National Medal of Arts, and two Grammy Awards.

### Processional Hymn

GtG 340 – *This Is My Song*

This hymn was the number seven vote getter in our favorite hymns survey. The well known tune FINLANDIA appears three times in our *Glory to God* hymnal: #340 – *This Is My Song*, #819 – *Be Still, My Soul*, and #808 – *When Memory Fades*.

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

“Sibelius’s tone poem Finlandia was initially composed as music for a patriotic tableau and had its premiere in 1899, when the Finnish people were growing restive under the repressive measures of the Russian regime. It became intensely popular at once as an expression of both love of nature and devotion to homeland, and that popularity grew after it was revised as an orchestral tone poem in the following year. Although it may not be the most distinguished of Sibelius’s compositions, it has become the most widely recognized of his works.”

The first two verses of the text were written as a “song of peace” by Lloyd Stone (1912-1993) and the third was added by Georgia Harkness (1891-1974) in *The Methodist Hymnal*, 1966. This added verse moves from the theme of international harmony to a consideration of the universal sovereignty of God, tying it to a phrase from the Lord’s Prayer.

### Sermon Hymn

From hymnwriter Carolyn Winfrey Gillette:

“*God, Our Nation Feels the Lost* was written in remembrance of the beloved children of God who died in the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Many of us, as individuals, do not accept violence, keep silence, or clamor for guns. Yet, as a nation, we do these things, and as a nation, we need to repent; we need to turn around and live a different way. All of us are called to do more than sing and pray; please work for gun safety laws in your community and state.”

### **Offertory Anthem**

The dedication of *Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace* reads:

“Commissioned by the Cancel Choir of Oakmont Presbyterian Church, to honour the Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson's 35 years of faithful service to our OPC family, to the greater community and the wider world, and to our Lord Jesus Christ, on the occasion of his retirement as Senior Pastor, August 2023. May his example of humble service and loving leadership inspire us all!”

From composer Philip WJ Stopford (b. 1977):

“The music, as always, is built around the text which has a wonderful sense of hope and love; there is always something better. Hatred bettered by love, injury bettered by pardon, doubt bettered by faith and so on. You may notice in the music that these dualities are painted with minor and major chords and through changes of key; a particularly poignant passage of music. Ultimately, in dying, we are born to eternal life. There is a place for us all in God's eternal kingdom.”

This anthem was donated in 2024 to the ELPC Choir library in memory of Richard C. Depperman, loving husband of member Carla D. Depperman. Richard greatly appreciated the music of our choir.

### **Postlude**

Ryan Croyle (b. 1990) composed *Fanfare & Processional* for his wedding to Kathleen Mahin at ELPC on September 16, 2017.