



# 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)*

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

The seed of mindfulness is in the soil of our consciousness. It may be small, but... it has the power of transforming everything. — *Thich Nhat Hanh*

### PRELUDE

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Dale Wood

*based on Glory to God #525*

“I Come with Joy”

David M. Cherwien

*based on Glory to God #515*

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

Alexander Payton

Leader: Draw near, children of God, to receive refreshment in the Spirit.

**People: O God, increase our faith!**

Leader: Bring your doubts, questions, hopes, and fears.

**People: O God, increase our faith!**

Leader: The needs of the world are so great, yet we feel so small.

**People: O God, increase our faith!**

Leader: Let us worship the One who nourishes our souls.

**People: O God, increase our trust in you!**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #390 *(repeated multiple times)*

LOUEZ LE SEIGNEUR

“Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!”

*The choir will start singing the Processional Hymn a cappella from the back of the sanctuary. Please join in singing with them as they come down the center aisle with percussion.*

### 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.*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Alexander Payton

Leader: God answers those who seek mercy. Therefore, let us reveal our hearts, confessing where we miss the mark.

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

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**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Alexander Payton

Merciful God, you have called us to live in sincere faith. We confess that we often think we do not have enough faith, enough courage, or enough love. Our faith is clouded with an unhealthy desire for more. We measure ourselves against impossible standards and forget that you delight in even the smallest acts of faith. Forgive us and teach us the way of Jesus.

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Alexander Payton

Leader: Friends, in Christ our hope is restored.

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

**HYMN OF RESPONSE #729 (vs. 2 and 3 only)**

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

**READING**

A Reading from the book *Present Over Perfect* by Shauna Niequist

Rev. Woodworth

*My faith has not failed me, but I think maybe I have failed it. Our beautiful historic faith tradition is built on feasts and holidays, Sabbath and evening prayers—a rhythmic, beautiful life with God. And many of us, myself certainly included, have stomped on the accelerator of our own lives and obliterated all evidence of that lovely path laid out for us. But the pattern remains if you squint—if you're willing to be creative, if you're fed up enough with the noise and speed of the alternative. These days... I'm trying to reimagine my faith as a soft place, the antidote to my addiction, not the enabler.*

Leader: May God bless the hearing of these words.

People: **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 17:5-6 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Alexander Payton

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

\* **HYMN #656**

“We've Come This Far by Faith”

THIS FAR BY FAITH

**SERMON**

“We Always Want More!”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

**BLESSING OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TRIP TO MALAWI: EDDIE WILLSON**

**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.**

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



**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“We Shall Overcome”

arr. Tom Trenney

*We shall overcome. We shall overcome. We shall overcome someday.*

*Oh, deep in my heart I do believe that we shall overcome someday!*

*We'll walk hand in hand...*

*We shall live in peace...*

*We are not afraid...*

*God will see us through...*

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

\* 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.

— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Dr. Diaz

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 up 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.**

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

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

*The Lord’s Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español), or on pg. 45 (Ἕλληνιστί) in the hymnal.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

SHARING BREAD & CUP

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

*The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles. Those seated in the East Transept (the section near the Highland Entrance) will be directed by an usher to the walkway between the front and back section and will file in behind those in the first row of the back section. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats. Please raise your hand and/or make eye contact with the roaming Communion server.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

#526

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

LINSTEAD

#829

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

OLIVET

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(in unison)*

Rev. Woodworth

**Nourishing God, thank you for inviting us to your table where all are welcome and for feeding us with the bread of life and the cup of blessing. As you fill our lives with love and hope, empower us to be bearers of good news. Amen.**

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN #317

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

MCKEE

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

Charles Callahan  
*based on Glory to God #317*

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. Dr. Michael Diaz (he/him/él)  
Liturgists: Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)  
Sara Hackett  
Alexander Payton  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)  
*Director of Music and Arts*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Beadles: Laura Ristau  
Mario Seneca  
Crucifer: Jan Herzer  
Sound: Tim Benedict  
Bobby Jarsulic

#### ◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in memory of the Held family and the Godshalk family.

#### ◆ 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 Saturday, Nov 8 from 10 am-Noon to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please contact Jen King for more info or to register for future classes (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.

### World Communion Sunday & International Tasting

Today we celebrate *World Communion Sunday*. The *Peace & Global Witness Offering* will be received.

The ELPC Board of Deacons will be hosting an *International Tasting* commemorating *World Communion Sunday*. Join us in the McKelvy Room after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service for a sample of global cuisine.

### 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.



### Officer Nominating Forms Available

The Officer Nominating Committee invites members to share their gifts—and to lift up the gifts of others—as they seek nominees for the offices of Elder, Deacon, and next year's Nominating Committee. The Committee will prayerfully consider all recommendations submitted as they prepare a slate for terms starting in 2026. Guidelines and nomination forms are available in the church mail room, and on the church website.

### Donate Snacks for Hope Academy Students

Please donate individually packaged snacks for Hope Academy students. Please contact director Anqwenique Kinsel for more info (AnqweniqueK@coh.net).

### Cathedral Concert: *Windfluence*



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

### Justice League for Kids — Wednesdays through Nov 19

Youth in grades 3–6 and teen volunteers are invited to join our new *Justice League* on Wednesdays through Nov 19 from 5–7 pm for dinner and do a service project. Contact Sara Hackett for info (SaraH@coh.net).

### PW Bible Study — Oct 6 and 7

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Monday, Oct 6 from 7–8:30 pm (on Zoom), and Tuesday, Oct 7 from 10 am–Noon (hybrid). There will be a potluck lunch after Tuesday's Bible Study. Please bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. For more info and Zoom link, please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com.

### Full Inclusion Sunday — Oct 12

Join us for worship on Sunday, Oct 12 as we celebrate *Full Inclusion Sunday*. This cooperative effort is led by the Justice Committee, our LGBTQIA+ Ministry Team, and the Worship, Music, and the Arts Committee.

### Social Hour — Oct 12

The Membership & Outreach Committee will sponsor a Social Hour after the 11 am service next Sunday. All are welcome to join them in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms for light refreshments to welcome our new members and friends.

### LGBTQIA+ Spiritual Gathering — Oct 12

Join us at the next *Spiritual Gathering* on Sunday, Oct 12 at 12:30 pm to share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome. Please contact Wil Forrest to RSVP (wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).

### Connections Group Potluck — Oct 19

We invite you to celebrate the Connections 2025-26 season kick-off with an all-church potluck on Sunday, Oct 19 after the 11 am service in the Good Samaritan Room. Please sign up using this link for planning purposes: <https://tinyurl.com/ConnectionsPotluckOct19>

### Church Tour — Oct 19

Tom Morton will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel on Sunday, Oct 19. Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am service to participate.

### Postponed: Financial Wellness Event — Oct 19

The *Financial Wellness* event has been postponed and will be rescheduled in 2026.

### Family Bowling — Oct 19

Families with children and teens are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Oct 19 for pizza and duckpin bowling. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).



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

Chuck and Jake, Gayle, Heidi’s sibling John, John, Lisabeth’s son Paul, Michael, Tim Engelhardt’s mother Cecilia, Bob Forloines, Linda Lane, Gary Marzolf, Jean McGuire, and Gary Rabideau’s friend Matt.

*Condolences to the family of  
Rev. Carol Noel Seaman on her passing.*

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### Committee Meetings This Week

**Spiritual Life**.....Tuesday, Oct 7 @ 6:00 pm  
**Facing Systemic Racism** .....Tuesday, Oct 7 @ 6:00 pm  
**Property** .....Tuesday, Oct 7 @ 7:00 pm  
**Mission** .....Thursday, Oct 9 @ 5:30 pm

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### Young Adult Happy Hour – Oct 20

Our next *Young Adult Happy Hour* will be on Monday, Oct 20 from 6–7:30 pm at Michele and Henk Bossers’ home in Wilksburg. Stop by for appetizers and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are available). Details and RSVPs via evite from Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

### Joint Adult Sunday School: Impactful Advocacy – Oct 26

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee will make a presentation on how to make your advocacy meaningful and impactful at a joint Adult Sunday School class on Oct 26 at 9:45 am in the Good Samaritan Room. The speakers will define a framework, Advocacy 101, and will include the current, most effective tactics.

### Reparations Session – Oct 26

Following the 11 am service on Sunday, Oct 26, the Facing Systemic Racism Committee will facilitate a *Reparations Session* that builds from the powerful telling of Nell and Poll’s story into meaningful next steps for ELPC. The event will combine reflection, shared learning, and community dialogue, while serving as a launch point for activating the Reparations Committee. This session will begin with refreshments in the Social Hall after worship.

### 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.

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. Join us as we sit with these questions, listen to God and ourselves, and explore this on retreat in community with one another.

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

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Worldwide Communion Unity Service – Today!

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, the Metro Urban Institute and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary invite you to a *Worldwide Communion Unity Service* at PTS today at 3 pm.

### Walk, Give, Change the World – Oct 12

This year’s *Pittsburgh East CROP Hunger Walk* will be on Sunday, Oct 12. Visit <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/teams?event=pittsburghpa> to register as an individual, sign up for the Waverly Presbyterian Church team; or make a donation. Participants will gather at Waverly Presbyterian Church (590 South Braddock Ave, 15221). Registration begins at 1 pm; walk begins at 2 pm.

### Domestic Violence Awareness Through Art – Oct 16

The Carnegie Museum of Art is sponsoring a lecture called *Reflections of Healing: Domestic Violence Awareness Through Art* on Oct 16 from 6-8 pm.

ELPC member Nicole Molinaro, President/CEO of the Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh, will be presenting, *Creative Trauma-informed Care in Domestic Violence Healing and Awareness*, followed by the launch of *Reflections of Healing*, a contemplative tour of artworks at the Carnegie Museum of Art with reflective prompts that share the cycle of domestic abuse while creating space for creative healing.

We encourage you to join us and learn more about the pervasive issue of abuse and how we can empower survivors by breaking the silence that often surrounds their experiences. The event is free, but registration is required at: [www.dvampgh.org/art-event](http://www.dvampgh.org/art-event).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

October 12

### – 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** – Garth Overlook Room + Zoom

“Healing Our Religious Wounds with Bishop John Shelby Spong” video. 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 –

*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

## **Sunday, 5 October 2025 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – World Communion**

World Communion Sunday is observed on the first Sunday of October each year. First adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.) in 1936, churches in other denominations were later invited to join. It wasn't until 1940, when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor of the National Council of Churches) extended the celebration to several churches around the world, that the practice became widespread.

The idea originated with Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly in 1930.

### **Prelude**

Composer Dale Wood (1934-2003) won a national hymn-writing contest at the age of 13. He later served as editor for *The Sacred Music Press*.

The tune Dove of Peace was first published in *The Southern Harmony*, 1835, a compilation of shape note hymns and tunes published by William Walker (1809-1875).

### **Processional Hymn**

*Louez le Seigneur! (Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!)* This short song of praise comes from the French speaking people of Cameroon in Africa and is often used as a processional.

The drum played by Pastor Michael during the procession and offertory anthem is a Djembe, a goblet drum originally from West Africa. The word Djembe means “gather together in peace.”

### **Offertory Anthem**

*We Shall Overcome* is recognized as the unofficial anthem of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. It was popular with folk singers, including Pete Seeger. Joan Baez led a crowd of 300,000 in singing *We Shall Overcome* at the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recited the words to the hymn in Memphis on Sunday, March 31, 1968 during his final sermon before being assassinated the following week.

Tom Trenney (b. 1977) has served as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 2009.

### **Recessional Hymn/Postlude**

Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) adapted the tune MCKEE in 1940 for use with the text *In Christ There Is No East or West*. He named it for Rev. Elmer McKee, rector of St. George's Church in New York City, where Burleigh was baritone soloist for 52 years. The postlude is a fanfare based on this hymn tune.