



# 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)*

## 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 19, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

I look at God. I look at you, and I keep looking at God.

— *Julian of Norwich*

### PRELUDE

“Air for Organ”

Gerre Hancock

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Ring to the Lord a New Song”

Cathy Moklebust

ELPC Ringers

### 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

Tom Sturgill

Leader: No matter how far from God we seem to be, we do not lose heart:

**People: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

Leader: No matter how many obstacles we face in this life, we do not lose heart:

**People: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

Leader: No matter how hard it is to continually pray and work for justice, we do not lose heart:

**People: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when God will forgive and restore all people; when God will equip us for every good work; and when God will grant justice, for God hears our cries day and night.**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #12

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

ST. DENIO

### 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

Tom Sturgill

Leader: In spite of our best efforts to live faithfully, we fall short of what God intends for us. Because God has already promised to be merciful, we dare to tell the truth about our lives. In humility and trust, let us confess our sins together.

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

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**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Tom Sturgill

**God, sometimes we forget you are God, and we are not. Forgive us for thinking the work of justice depends on us. Forgive us for growing weary in following you and not looking to you for help. Forgive us for not persisting in prayer and losing hope in your power to transform us and the powers of this world. Tune our ears to the sound of your justice. Turn our hearts back to you, our Keeper, and to trust you watch over our coming and going from this time on and forevermore.**

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Tom Sturgill

**Leader:** Grace flows like a river; mercy like a never-ending stream. Believe the good news.

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

**HANDBELL ANTHEM**

“Come, Christians, Join to Ring”

Lloyd Larson

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Psalm 121 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Linda Sanders

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 18:1-8 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

\* **HYMN #688**

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

MORECAMBE

**SERMON**

“The Prayer That Never Stops”

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, down the center aisle, as we sing. Volunteer prayer partners will be present to listen, intercede, anoint and hold you in God's love. You may also visit one of our prayer stations and light a candle in prayer at the entrance to the Trinity Chapel.*

**HYMN #824**

“There Is a Place of Quiet Rest”

MCAFEE

**HYMN #472**

“Kum ba Yah”

KUM BA YAH

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*in language/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 (Ἑβραϊστικῶς) in the 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** "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" Ken Medema/Jack Schrader

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

*Something's gonna happen like the world has never known when the people of the Lord get down to pray.  
A door's gonna swing open, and the walls come a-tumblin' down, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.*

*You're gonna know it when the Lord stretches out his hand, and the people of the Lord get down to pray.  
There's gonna be a brand new song of victory in this land, when the people of the Lord get down to pray.*

*Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace!*

\* **DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #607** OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Tri-une God, whom we adore. Amen.

\* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & DEDICATION** Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Woodworth

|                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| Leader:        | El Señor esté con ustedes.  | The Lord be with you.                             |
| <b>People:</b> | <b>Y también contigo.</b>   | <b>And also with you.</b>                         |
| Leader:        | Levantemos nuestros corazones.  | Lift up your hearts.                              |
| <b>People:</b> | <b>Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.</b>   | <b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>                  |
| Leader:        | Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.  | Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.           |
| <b>People:</b> | <b>Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.</b>   | <b>It is right to give God thanks and praise.</b> |
| Leader:        | Eternal God may these gifts be signs of your grace, and may our lives show forth the coming of your kingdom, that when Christ comes again he will find faith on earth. <b>Amen.</b> |   |

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #450** "Be Thou My Vision" SLANE

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

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION** Rev. Woodworth

**POSTLUDE** "Toccata Pontificale" Gordon Young  
Dr. Moore, *organ*



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  
Linda Sanders  
Tom Sturgill  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)  
*Director of Music and Arts*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
ELPC Ringers  
Beadle: Polly McQueen  
Crucifer: Jason Van Ness  
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, 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

## 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 in the Fellowship Room to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see one of the pastors to attend, or contact Jen King for more info on 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).

## Sunday, 19 October 2025 – Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### Prelude

Dr. Gerre Edward Hancock (1934-2012) was Organist and Choirmaster at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, New York City for over 30 years. His *Air for Organ* was composed in 1963 and features a variety of solo sounds on the organ as well the full dynamic range available from the softest sounds to almost full organ. He dedicated the piece to his wife with the inscription “For Judy.” During her long life and career, organist Judith Hancock (1934-2025) served alongside her husband, Gerre, at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue. She also held positions at St. James’ Church, Madison Avenue; St. James the Less, Scarsdale New York; Church of the Redeemer Cincinnati; and churches in Bronxville and Durham, NC. She died last week on October 10, 2025.

### Handbell Anthem

Handbells were first brought to the United States from England by Margaret Shurcliff in 1902. ELPC owns a 4-octave set of bells manufactured by Schulmerich Bells in Green Lane, PA.

### Offertory Anthem

Ken Medema (b. 1943) was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and is almost completely blind, only being able to mainly distinguish between light and dark. The chorus of *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* is in our *Glory to God Hymnal*, #469.

### Recessional Hymn

The text of *Be Thou My Vision* is believed to have been written by an anonymous Irish monk from around the 8<sup>th</sup> century. It was first translated by Mary E. Byrne (1880-1931). This literal translation was published as sixteen unrhymed couplets in 1905. Eleanor Hull (1860-1935) made a rhymed version of this translation, which was included in an Irish hymnal where it was set to the tune SLANE. This text and tune combination appeared in several British hymnals and first appeared in North America in *The Hymnary of the United Church of Canada* (Toronto, 1930).

The tune SLANE is based on an Irish folk tune that was sung with the text “With my love come on the road.” The tune’s wide range of an octave and a fourth has not stopped it from becoming a much-loved and favorite hymn. This hymn was the number two vote getter in our favorite hymns survey. The tune name refers to a hill near Tara in County Meath, Ireland, where St. Patrick is said to have defied the pagan King Loeghaire (pronounced LEER-ee or LEER-ah) by igniting the Easter Vigil fire before the royal fire celebrating the return of spring had been lit on Tara.

## 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.

### Connections Group Potluck

We invite you to celebrate the Connections 2025-26 season kick-off with a potluck lunch today after the 11 am service in the Good Samaritan Room.

### Church Tour

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

### Family Bowling

Families with children and teens are invited to stay after Sanctuary worship today for pizza and duckpin bowling on the ground floor. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).



### New Covenant Pastor for Connection and Care

The Session and Temporary Associate Pastor Nominating Committee of ELPC are pleased to announce that our new Covenant Pastor for Connection and Care is Rev. Sarah Robbins! More info can be found at [tiny.cc/pastor-sarah](https://tiny.cc/pastor-sarah).

### 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. Guidelines and nomination forms are in the church mail room, and on the church website.

### 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 Wilkesburg. 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).

### 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. This session will begin with refreshments in the Social Hall after worship.

### 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. Lucy Page and Fred Kraybill from ELPC will share their research and experiences. The state organizer from *Bread for the World* will discuss how they use advocacy.

There will be a table of resources, and after the class there will be an advocacy activity supporting solar. Please contact Nancy Heastings to get the zoom link ([n.heastings@comcast.net](mailto:n.heastings@comcast.net)).

### Cathedral Concert: Fox Chapel High School – Oct 26

On Sunday, Oct 26 at 3 pm, the Fox Chapel High School Chorus & Orchestra will perform in the Sanctuary. Led by Ben Murray, choral director, and Mairi Cooper, orchestra director, the concert will feature *Illuminare* for string orchestra, piano, and choir by Elaine Hagenberg.

The concert is free, and will also be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. For more information on the 2025-26 *Cathedral Concerts* series, please visit [tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts](https://tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts).

### Tower Tour – Oct 26

A tower tour will be held on Sunday, Oct 26. 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.

### Book Study Series – Begins Oct 29

Join Pastors BJ and Michael on Wednesdays from Oct 29 to Nov 19 from 5:30–7 pm in the Good Samaritan Room for a four-week journey utilizing Marcus Borg's influential book, *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. Together*.

We'll explore Jesus as: *Spirit Person* (a man deeply connected to the sacred); *Teacher of Wisdom* (offering timeless guidance for life today); *Social Prophet* (challenging systems of injustice); *Movement Founder* (inspiring a community of transformation).

Each session will blend teaching, scripture, conversation, and spiritual practices, creating space not just to learn about Jesus, but to experience his presence anew.

We'll share dinner together at 6:30 pm, and you're invited to stay for our contemplative Taizé prayer service at 7 pm. To register, visit: [tiny.cc/meeting-jesus-again](https://tiny.cc/meeting-jesus-again)



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

Amber, Chuck and Jake, David, Gayle, Heidi's sibling John, John, Lisabeth's son Paul, Michael, Ned's aunts Lynda and Judy, Sam, 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.*

**Committee Meetings This Week**

**Session** ..... Tuesday, Oct 21 @ 7:00 pm  
**Justice** ..... Wednesday, Oct 22 @ 5:30 pm  
**Neighbors** ..... Wednesday, Oct 22 @ 6:00 pm  
**Peace** ..... Thursday, Oct 23 @ 5:30 pm

**Spiritual Life Retreat – Oct 31 to Nov 2**

From Friday–Sunday, Oct 31–Nov 2, join us for a Spiritual Life retreat at the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center in Pulaski, PA. **RSVP to Norma — DUE TODAY** (412.441.3800 x211). For info, visit [tiny.cc/giving-our-deaths-away](http://tiny.cc/giving-our-deaths-away). Only shared bathroom accommodations are now available. Contact Pastor BJ (BJW@coh.net).

**Remembrance of Those Who Have Passed Away – Nov 2**

As part of our All Saints' Day service at the 11 am service on Sunday, Nov 2, we will remember those in our congregation and larger church family who have passed away since Nov 2024. Send the names and passing dates of extended friends and family to Norma in the church office (412.441.3800 x211) by Monday, Oct 27.

**PW Bible Study – Nov 3 and 10**

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Monday, Nov 3 from 7-8:30 pm (online only), and on Tuesday, Nov 10 from 10 am-Noon (hybrid) in the Fellowship Room. Tuesday's study will be followed by a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. Email PW.ELPC@gmail.com for more info and the Zoom link.

**LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – Nov 9**

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry on Sunday, Nov 9 at 12:30 pm when we will share conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike welcome! Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, for more details or to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218). A Zoom option will be offered only if expressed need is shared with Wil prior to the Friday before the gathering.

**No Taizé or Yoga – Nov 26**

On Wednesday, Nov 26 (*the day before Thanksgiving*), there will be no Taizé service, nor Cathedral Yoga at ELPC.

**IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**Prayer Vigil for Immigrants – Fridays**

The Friday morning *Prayer Vigil for Immigrants* adjacent to the ICE offices (3000 Sidney St, 15203, Southside) will continue through October. Please consider joining from 8-10 am as you are available. For more information, text Michele Bossers (412.303.9243).

**Amen to Action – Nov 15**

On Saturday, Nov 15 from 8 am–12 pm, participate in *Amen to Action* at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Along with more than 250 other volunteers from across 10 local congregations and nonprofits, we will pack 100,000 meals to be delivered to our neighbors in need across Allegheny County by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Register at [tiny.cc/amen-to-action](http://tiny.cc/amen-to-action).

**Food Drive – Nov 16**

On Sunday, Nov 16, we will have a Food Drive to benefit EECM's food pantry. It's a joyful event, involving the entire congregation, with children bringing the bags of food to the altar and teens doing the sorting and delivery to EECM.

**Health Ministry Seeking New Members – Nov 16**

The ELPC Board of Deacons is looking to restart its Health Ministry after taking a year off. Anyone who might be interested (Deacon or non Deacon) in exploring potential new activities for this ministry is invited to a meeting on Sunday, Nov 16 at 12:30 pm in the Highland Room. RSVP to Tom Sturgill ([sturgillpgh@yahoo.com](mailto:sturgillpgh@yahoo.com)).

**ELPC Annual Fall Pie Festival – Nov 23**

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you our annual Fall Pie Festival on Sunday, Nov 23 after the 11 am worship service in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. You are invited to bring your favorite pie (sweet or savory) to share with the congregation. Please join us for a time of celebrating the fall harvest and anticipation of the arrival of the holiday seasons.



Sign-up to bring a pie at [tiny.cc/pie-festival](http://tiny.cc/pie-festival), or look for sign-up sheets at the Sunday worship services in November.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES**

**October 26**

– Adults –

On Sunday, Oct 26, the adult Sunday School Classes will gather together for a presentation by the Justice Committee on how to make your advocacy meaningful and impactful at 9:45 am in the Good Samaritan Room