



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)

GROUNDED & GROWING STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.

— 1 Thessalonians 3:12

PRELUDE

“Simple Gifts”

arr. Jon Spong

“Now Thank We All Our God (Marche Triomphale)”

Sigfrid Karg-Elert/Kevin McChesney
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Sarah Robbins, 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

David Carl

Leader: Friends, we are grounded in divine love that meets us where we are and grows beyond where we’ve been.

People: We gather as a community so our love may increase and overflow for one another.

Leader: God roots us in hope, deepens us in faith, and allows generosity to rise among us.

People: We commit our hearts, actions, and lives to God’s new work among us.

Leader: May the Spirit of God unite us in gratitude, inspire us in service, and draw us into joyful community.

People: Let us worship God who grounds us in community as our hearts overflow with love.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #367

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

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

David Carl

Leader: God forms us into community, yet we confess that we do not always live as people knit together by grace. When love invites us to widen the circle, we sometimes hold back. When generosity calls us to share, we sometimes close our hands. Trusting in God’s mercy, let us turn again to the One who loves us without end. Let us pray in unison:

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

David Carl

Holy God, whose love is revealed day by day, you call us to follow in the way Christ, yet it seems far easier to follow our fears. We forget that your kin-dom grows through joyful acts of generosity, bold acts of faith, and courageous acts of justice. Forgive the ways we hold back, close off, or turn away. As children of God, help us to always recognize the truth of who we are, no matter how beautiful it is.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

David Carl

Leader: Friends, God's mercy carries and uplifts us.

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE #300 (*verse 1 only*)

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

"We Are One in the Spirit"

READING

A Reading from "This Here Flesh" by Cole Arthur Riley

Rev. Robbins

Our walk to liberation requires us to parse truth from trick. And to ask ourselves, "What does evil have to gain in tricking us into believing we are anything less than glorious?" I would venture to guess it swallows our belonging first... Self-hatred moves in... It steals our love. For who can accept love that they do not believe exists for them? Those who believe love is a scarcity are less prone to give it away freely. I don't have many certainties about God. I do have many hopes. Chief among them is that it's true what they say: that God is love, is made of love, and looks at the faces of you and me and without hesitation or demand, delights.

Leader: May God bless the truth in these words.

People: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47 (NRSVUE)

Rev. Woodworth

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #761**

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

SERMON

"Grounded in Grace, Overflowing with Love"

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Stewardship

Alexander Payton

CALL FOR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

Rev. Dr. Diaz

During the singing of this hymn, please bring your pledge cards forward and place them in the baskets.

Everyone who has submitted a pledge for 2026 is invited to come forward and receive a "Thank You" prayer card.

HYMN #694

"Great God of Every Blessing"

AURELIA

BLESSING OF STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

Rev. Robbins

PRAYER LITANY

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Wil Forrest, Darby McCarty

When prompted with the words "God of Love," please respond with,

"Make us brave in love and bold in justice."

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in language/version closest to your heart*)

Wil Forrest

The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español), or on pg. 45 (Ἕλληνο-ἰαπωνικά) in the hymnal.

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.

OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Woodworth

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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

arr. Dan Forrest
based on Glory to God #39

* **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. (Interlude) A - men.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Rev. Robbins, 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.

Leader: Gracious God, receive our gifts and thanksgivings for your unexpected and overflowing blessings. May you continue to transform us with your love as we transform the world, in the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #643**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

* **CHARGE & BLESSING**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

* **POSTLUDE**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

arr. Virgil Fox



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. Sarah Robbins (she/they)

Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)

Sara Hackett (she/her)

David Carl

Wil Forrest

Darby McCarty

Alexander Payton

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)

Director of Music and Arts

ELPC Chancel Choir

Ryan Croyle, *Organist*

The Brass Roots:

David Gardner, *Trumpet*

Matt McCormack, *Trumpet*

Miranda Johnson, *Horn*

Abby Lannan, *Trombone*

Olivia Nixon, *Tuba*

Abby Langhorst, *Timpani*

Beadle: Laura Ristau

Crucifer: Jan Herzer

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

◆ 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

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.

If you're a first time visitor, please fill out a **NEW HERE** card found in the pew backs and give that card to a pastor at the Penn Ave or Highland Ave entrance to receive a gift in exchange for your filled out card. Our pastors will reach out to you for any prayer requests and to answer any questions you might have.

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* 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.

TODAY AT ELPC

Welcome Visitors!

If you are joining us for the first time, we're glad you are here! Please fill out a **NEW HERE** card found in the pew backs and give that card to a pastor at the Penn Ave or Highland Ave entrance. You will receive a gift in exchange for your filled out card. Our pastors will reach out to you for any prayer requests and to answer any questions you might have.

Stewardship Sunday

Today is Stewardship Sunday, and you're invited to participate in our *Grounded & Growing Stewardship Campaign*. What amount is God calling you to pledge? How might your generosity become part of the story God is writing through ELPC? Each pledge is more than a number — it is a statement of faith in what God can do through us. Thank you for being grounded in Christ's love.

ELPC Annual Fall Pie Festival

The Spiritual Life Committee invites you our annual *Fall Pie Festival* after today's 11 am worship service in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. Thank you to everyone who has brought in a pie (or treat) to share today!

Hanging of the Greens

After the *Pie Festival*, please join us in the Sanctuary to help decorate for the holiday season. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Stay as long as you can! Any amount of time with extra hands will be helpful!

Support the Holiday Giving Tree

The Deacons' annual *Giving Tree* ministry is an opportunity to assist families this Christmas season and provide children with gifts! Sign up at tiny.cc/elpc-giving-tree (or scan this QR code) for specific gift requests and to make financial donations to assist with the purchase of retail gift cards. Deacons will be available in the Highland Lobby to help you after worship today, and next Sunday. Gifts and donations should be dropped off by Sunday, Dec 7.



Advent Devotional Materials Now Available

Pick up your Advent devotional *The Will to Dream* in the Narthex or the Highland Lobby. The weekly readings, reflections, and coloring pages connect and build with each week's worship. Families with kids can pick up an Advent Calendar Bag that contains all the supplies you'll need for easy ways to dream together as you practice *Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love* this Advent season.



Building Closures

Please note the ELPC building will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday–Friday, Nov 27–28.

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.

Chapel Market Needs Winter Coats and Toiletry Items

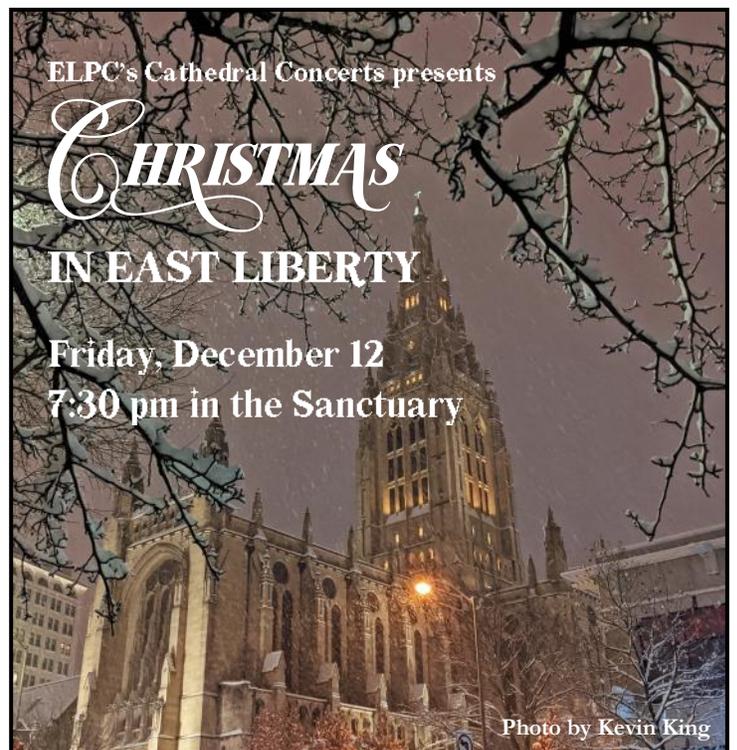
The Chapel Market is stocking up on winter clothes for our neighbors in need. From now until Thanksgiving, please consider donating clean, new or gently-used winter coats for toddlers to adults. They also need full-sized toiletry items. Leave donations in the Highland lobby.

PW Bible Study – Dec 1 and 2

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Monday, Dec 1 from 7-8:30 pm (online), and on Tuesday, Dec 2 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 – Dec 14

All are invited to the next monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Dec 14 for conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks welcome! Contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x218).





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

Amber, David, an elderly neighbor,
Lola, Mark and Sarah and Hunter and Ben,
Rachel, Danice and Ayla, Ned's aunts Lynda and Judy,
Sam, Vivienne's friend Ashley,
Jeff Andrews, Loren Forrest, Cathie Hajdu,
Chuck Lukehart, Gwen McNabb, Rhonda Perroz,
Jack Phillips, Janet Pollard,
Grace Taylor, and Nancy Wright.

Condolences to LaVerne Davis on her mother's passing.
Condolences to Tim Engelhardt on his grandfather's passing.

NO Committee Meetings This Week

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 our website.

Cathedral Concert Volunteers Needed

If you are able to help greet and usher at the *Cathedral Concerts* this season, contact Dr. Ed (EdM@coh.net).



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5 PM FRIENDS & FAMILY SERVICE
10 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Both services will be held in the Sanctuary,
feature the celebration of the
Lord's Supper and candle lighting.

In our

COMMUNITY



Pittsburgh Pride Choir Holiday Concert – Dec 6

Join Pittsburgh Pride Choir for an evening filled with soaring holiday songs, festive dancing, and just the right touch of tinsel at their holiday concert, *A Not So Silent Night*. More than 120 voices strong, the Pittsburgh Pride Choir brings the magic of the season to life on Saturday, Dec 6 at 7:30 pm in the ELPC Sanctuary. You can also share in the celebration through a live-streaming option. Visit www.pittsburghpridechoir.org for tickets and info.

Amnesty International Write-a-thon – Dec 10

Join the Pittsburgh Chapter of Amnesty International for our annual *Write-a-thon and Human Rights Festival* on Wednesday, Dec 10 from 6-8:30 pm at Rodef Shalom (4905 Fifth Ave, 15213). There will be letter writing, information about Pittsburgh human rights groups, and a moving candlelight ceremony. Come for the whole evening or 5 minutes. Light refreshments will be provided.

Help Your Neighbors During Tax Season!

Low/moderate income taxpayers can receive free tax preparation at Free Tax Prep sites throughout the Pittsburgh area. You can help our neighbors receive vital refund money by becoming a free tax prep volunteer. We provide extensive training and tax preparation software. Join ELPC member Lynne Chadwick at the Homewood YMCA or volunteer at one of the other 20+ sites in the area. To sign up for shifts and training, go to <https://tinyurl.com/FreeTaxPrep-JustHarvest>. Contact Lynne with questions (LynneNChadwick@gmail.com).

If you make less than approximately \$50,000 per year (individual) or \$70,000 (family), you are eligible to have your taxes prepared for free. Call 211 in January to schedule a slot to have your taxes prepared.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

November 30

– 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

“The Dor Hadash Reconstructionist Congregation & J Street” by Nancy Levine and Ronnie Cook Zuhlke.
Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

Begin discussion of *Season's Greetings* by Ruth Boling, our book for Advent and Christmas. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members