



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)

3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

JANUARY 25, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Instructions for living a life: *Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it.*

— Excerpt from “Sometimes” by Mary Oliver

PRELUDE

“In Thee Is Gladness”
“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

Paul Manz

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz, Rev. Robbins

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

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Leader: From every corner of the Earth, God invites us to envision the kin-dom of heaven.

People: God creates beauty and life and calls it good.

Leader: From every stretch of the universe, God invites us to consider our next steps,

People: God calls us to love and to live and to follow.

Leader: In our homes and our hearts, in this church and in the world,

People: We sing and serve, we hope and we pray. We worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #170

“You Walk along Our Shoreline”

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

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

Rev. Robbins

Leader: Jesus comes to ordinary shores and says, “Follow me.” And still, we hold tightly to our habits, fears, and systems that feel safe, even when they keep us from love. So we come before God confessing our shortcomings, not in shame, but in honesty.

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Rev. Robbins

God of new beginnings, you call us to change our hearts and minds, for your kin-dom is near. Yet we confess that too often, we cling to our familiar ways. We prefer minor inconveniences more than transformed lives. Forgive us, O God. Free us to drop our nets and to take up new ways of living that are shaped by mercy, courage, and your Beloved Community. In the silence of our hearts, we offer what we are ready to release.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Rev. Robbins

Leader: Friends, God's grace leads us forward.

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE #751 *(refrain only; sing 3 times)*

HAMILTON

"From the Nets of Our Labor"

READING

from "The Word Made Fresh" by George Mason

Rev. Dr. Diaz

If you sense that God is calling you to drop your nets and serve God in a more deliberate way, it's probably only so that you can pick up other kinds of nets. So, when Jesus had [the disciples] drop their nets and offered them another way to think about the work they were doing by serving God and not Rome, he was offering them a different way of conceiving how the world should be ordered. And that different way of ordering life is called the kingdom of God. It's the way of the Beloved Community, as Martin Luther King Jr. called it. It's a world in which every person is cherished as a child of God with gifts to offer and needs to honor.

Leader: May God bless the truth in these words.

People: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:12-14, 17-22 *(Inclusive Bible)*

Rev. Robbins

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #720**

"Jesus Calls Us"

GALILEE

SERMON

"Thank you. Next."

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

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

Rev. Robbins

The Lord's Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español), or on pg. 45 (Ἑβραϊκή) 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. Robbins

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.



* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Prayer for Unity”

Jeffrey H. Rickard

Based on *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine; this is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine: But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

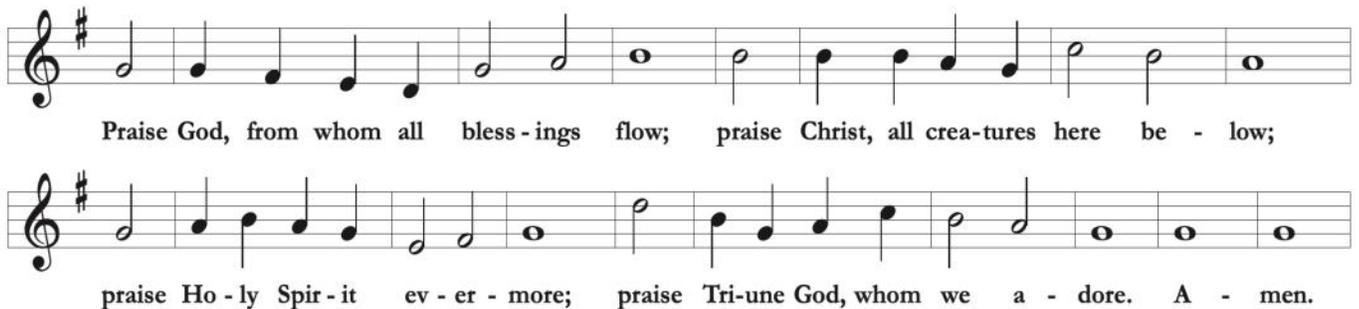
We are created children of God's love, sisters and brothers of God's own dear son; descend, O Holy Spirit, like a dove into our hearts, that we may be as one: As one with you, to whom we ever tend: As one with Christ, our brother and our friend.

We would be one in hatred of all wrong, one in our love of all things true and fair, one with our joy that breaks forth into song, one with our pain that quiets into prayer, one in the power that makes your children free to follow truth and serve you faithfully.

This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's kingdoms: Your kingdom come, on earth your will be done. Let Christ be lifted up till all shall serve him, and hearts united learn to live as one. O bear my prayer, great God of all the nations: myself I give; now let your will be done.

* **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** (*in unison*)

Rev. Robbins

Faithful God, you call us to follow and to trust you with what we hold. Receive these gifts and offerings, and use them to shape lives of compassion, courage, and hope. We offer them in gratitude and joy, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #726**

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

KELVINGROVE

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

* **POSTLUDE**

“Rondeau”

Jean-Joseph Mouret
Dr. Edward Alan 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. 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)
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Handbells: Ryan Booher, Keith Irvin
Jonah Koetke, Mark Statler
Beadle: Liz Hopkins
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, please visit tiny.cc/SundayFlowers, or call Norma (412.441.3800 x211). The cost is \$260. Reserve your date at least one week before the Sunday you wish to sponsor the flowers.

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....**Journey Worship (now in the Chapel).**
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* on **Sunday, Feb 1 after the 11 am service** to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please sign up online at elpc.church/visitus/becoming-a-member, or contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.

Sunday, 25 January 2026 – Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Sundays after Epiphany are also referred to as Ordinary Time. Ordinary Time in the church year is divided in two sections, the first being between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday and the second between Pentecost and Advent. The liturgical color for the season is green.

Prelude

Paul Manz (1919-2009) was a well-known composer of organ and choral music for the church. *In Thee Is Gladness* is based on the German chorale tune IN DIR IST FREUDE, composed by Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi (c. 1554–1609) and harmonized by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750). The original text for this music was a secular love song *A lieta vita amor invita* (Love invites us to a happy life). The tune is found in our *Glory to God Hymnal* #242, where it set to a text from 1996, *Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded*.

Processional Hymn

The hymn text *You Walk along Our Shoreline* was written by Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993) in 1991. Carl P. Daw writes of this text in *Glory to God: A Companion*:

“Part of the artistry of this text is the way the identity of the person addressed is gradually revealed. In stanza 1, all references are a nameless “you/your,” like someone seen through a shoreline mist. Stanza 2 introduces “Christ,” and stanza 3 adds “Jesus” and “Lord.” This series of names indicates both identity and relationship.

This is also a valuable text for its reminders that the disciples fished with nets requiring more than one person to be involved in the effort. The vocation and ministry to which we are called by our baptism is not a solitary or private endeavor. The work of love and justice takes place in community.”

Recessional Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me was written by John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958-2019) in 1987.

“This text comes out of the life of the Iona Community, who had a practice of sending youth volunteers to live for a year or two in impoverished parts of Scotland, supported only by welfare payments and working out their discipleship in hard places. At the end of their agreed periods of ministry, there would be a farewell ceremony, always held in the house where they had been living and for which these authors would often create an appropriate song. This was such a song, originally intended for one-time use around 1986–1987 but has proved meaningful to many people since being made more widely available in the collection cited above.” (Carl P. Daw, *Glory to God: A Companion*)

Postlude

Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738) was a leading composer in France during the Baroque era. The *Fanfare-Rondeau* is from Mouret’s first of two *Suites de symphonies* and was composed in 1729.

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.



Pray Always in All Ways Weekly Gatherings – Wednesdays



Have you ever wondered what prayer is or if you even believe in prayer? Have you ever longed to pray more but struggled to know how? Together we will talk about our struggles and hopes with prayer and explore a wide variety of prayer forms, including body prayer, prayer beads, icons, silence, and prayer as simple awareness in life. Join us on 4 Wednesdays (Jan 28, Feb 4 and 11) at ELPC from 5:30-7 pm in the Good Samaritan Room. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/PrayAlwaysClasses2026>, or by scanning this QR code.



Journey Service in the Chapel

Please note our 8:45 am *Journey* worship service is now held in the chapel! The chapel will allow us to have a space for children and a more intimate space to worship. Unfortunately, we will not be able to broadcast the service via Zoom or on social media just yet. Join us on Sundays!



INQUIRERS CLASS Sunday, Feb 1 after 11 am worship

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, Feb 1 after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service in the McKelvy Room.

Learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Lunch will be provided.

Register online using this QR code, visit elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member, or see one of the Pastors.



Hope Academy Teaching Artists to Perform – Feb 1

The *Cathedral Concerts* series at ELPC continues on Sunday, Feb 1 at 3 pm with a performance by Hope Academy Teaching Artists, under the direction of Anqwenique Kinsel.



The concert is free and open to all. Invite your family and friends! A freewill offering will be received.

For more details, visit tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts.

PW Bible Study – Feb 2 and 3

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Monday, Feb 2 from 7-8:30 pm (online only), and on Tuesday, Feb 3 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.

Active Intruder Safety Training – Feb 7

ELPC's Safety and Security Advisory Committee invites everyone to attend an important training session on Saturday, Feb 7 from 1-4 pm at ELPC concerning how to remain safe if an intruder enters the church building. There will be a local safety officer who will share helpful information and answer our questions. Pre-register by Jan 31 at <https://forms.office.com/r/j6aTkreA1T>, or contact Jen King (412.441.3800 x222).

PA Against the Death Penalty Postcard Campaign – Feb 8

Join the effort to pass legislation that will finally abolish the death penalty in PA. On Sunday, Feb 8 after the 11 am worship service, come to the Garth Overlook Room to sign postcards that will be delivered to the Harrisburg offices of the Governor, Attorney General, District Attorney, State representatives and Senators. Contact Vivienne Selia (vselia@comcast.net). This event will be held in conjunction with a *Social Hour*.

Social Hour – Feb 8

The Justice Committee will host a *Social Hour* on Sunday, Feb 8 after the 11 am service in the Fellowship Room. Please note a *Social Hour* will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – Feb 8

All are invited to the monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Feb 8 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:

Linda Benedict, Ida C's brother, Mary E, Mary F., Loren F., James G, Kathy K's neighbor David, Chuck Lukehart, Jennifer M's father Karle, Polly M's friend Justine, Chris Markwell, Rhonda Perroz, Linda S., David S., Brandon T's brother; Cheryl; Finn; Ida & Tagi; Jackie; PTS DMin students.

Condolences to Joe Harris on the loss of his daughter Crystal.

Condolences to the Bossers family on the loss of their brother-in-law Carl Perkins

Committee Meetings This Week

Justicerescheduled from today to:
 Wednesday, Jan 28 @ 5:30 pm
Neighbors..... Wednesday, Jan 28 @ 6:00 pm
For info to join a meeting, contact Jen King (JenK@cob.net).

Annual Congregational Meeting – Feb 22

Session has scheduled the annual *Congregational Meeting* to take place on Sunday, Feb 22 following our Sanctuary worship service. All official members of the church are invited to participate and vote for new candidates for Elder and Deacon for this coming year. The meeting will be held in the Social Hall. Refreshments will be served. Copies of the annual report will be available on Sunday, Feb 15, both in print and on our website.

Ash Wednesday Services – Feb 18

A season for reflection, repentance, and remembering the good news that holds us, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb 18. We will have a reflective service of word and prayer in the Chapel at Noon, and an evening service in the Sanctuary at 7 pm.



Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market needs:

- winter clothes
- diapers (sizes 5-7)
- full-sized toiletries items (soap, body wash, toothpaste, toilet paper, toothbrushes, lotion etc.)

Donations can be left at the Highland Lobby, or dropped off at the Chapel Market when open (on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 5–7 pm, or Thursdays from 10 am–12 pm).

In our

COMMUNITY



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 (training and tax preparation software provided). 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.

Flower Sponsorships Available for 2026

ELPC's Worship, Music and Arts Committee is excited to announce our new partnership with Jim Ludwig's Blumengarten Florist. Beginning this year, members and congregants will have the opportunity to sponsor customized floral arrangements for the chancel. For the price of \$260, individuals, groups, and families can sponsor two lush arrangements of fresh, seasonal flowers to memorialize or honor loved ones, celebrate special occasions, or mark liturgical milestones.

Sponsors will be recognized for their contributions in several ways—via social media posts; in the bulletin; on the slides that rotate prior to the Sanctuary service; and, with a special acknowledgement by the Pastor during that Sunday's *Welcome and Announcements*. **Reserve your special Sunday online by visiting tiny.cc/SundayFlowers; or call Norma (412.441.3800 x211).**

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

February 1

– Adults –

Adult classes are held from 9:45-10:45 am in the rooms indicated:
Journey with Scripture – Highland Room + Zoom
 Practice Visio and Lectio Divina with Pastor BJ and Rev. Bossers. Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers
Seekers – Garth Overlook Room + Zoom
 Discussion of *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Facilitated by Gwen Puza
Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom
 We will continue our discussion of *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members