



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)

5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Light dwells deep within each of us ready to radiate forth as our will freely surrenders in alignment with our soul's purpose. We are here on Earth to lift and deepen our own awareness and that of creation: co-partners in the Divine Plan for the divinization of all creation. Seek within and find the Source of Love and Light. Shine in unity with all whose joy is to co-birth as a light in the world.

— Nan C. Merrill in *“Lumen Christi...Holy Wisdom”*

PRELUDE

“Allegretto”
“Adoration”

Florence Price

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

Michelle Bard

Leader: Come, people of God, to worship not with empty words, but with lives shaped by justice.

People: We seek a faith that is honest, a worship that transforms the world.

Leader: This is the worship God desires: to loosen the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, to share bread with the hungry.

People: We will welcome the stranger, care for the vulnerable, and honor one another as kin.

Leader: Then our light will rise like the dawn, and God will make us repairers of the breach.

People: Let us worship the God of justice and renewal.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #767

“Together We Serve”

SAN ANSELMO

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

Michelle Bard

Leader: Friends, we come to this time of confession each week trusting that God is gentle... kind... and patient... Knowing that is who God is, enables us to come in openness, honesty and authenticity. We can be truthful about where we have blundered, stumbled and fallen; in our speaking, thinking and actions. So, let’s come in freedom to our gentle, kind and patient God this morning.

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

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Michelle Bard

God of light and justice, you call us to let our lives shine with compassion and truth. Yet we confess that we hide our light under a bushel basket — content with words of faith while neglecting the work of justice you require. We turn inward and forget your Divine Light is shining within, and that keeps us from moving outward and seeing our neighbors. We don't speak up. We overlook our neighbors' needs and grow comfortable with what harms others. Forgive us, O God, and uncover our light. Restore us as repairers of the breach, so that our lives may shine with your justice and healing.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Michelle Bard

Leader: Friends, if we say, "Surely the darkness will hide us and the light become night around us," remember, even the darkness is not dark to God. Let us trust and receive the good news:

People: **Light has come and the darkness cannot overcome it!**

HYMN OF RESPONSE #314 (*refrain only; sing 3 times*)

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58 (*selected verses; Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Robbins

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #753**

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:13-16, 20 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. BJ Woodworth

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"You ARE Light"

Rev. Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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 (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. Dr. Diaz

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

"I Believe This Is Jesus"

Undine Smith Moore

I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.

Oh, come and see.

The Light of God shines in his face, oh, come and see.

He offers all his pardoning grace; come and see, come and see.

Oh, I believe this is Jesus, yes, Lord, come and see, come and see.

* *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.

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*in unison*)

Rev. Robbins

Loving God, we give you thanks for all you've given to us and praise you for your astounding goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the ministry of your church. Bless our offering for the work of your kin-dom and give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided. Amen.

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #313**

“Lord, Make Us More Holy”

LORD, MAKE US MORE HOLY

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Woodworth

* **POSTLUDE**

“Festal March”

Florence Price
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. 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)
Rev. Sarah Robbins (she/they)
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Michelle Bard
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Linda Davis
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

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

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

◆ 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*)

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. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net) for more info.

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

Sunday, 8 February 2026 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Black History Month

The first celebration of Black History Month took place at Kent State University from January 2 to February 28, 1970. President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976. In a message on February 10, 1976, he urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.

Prelude/Postlude

Florence Beatrice Price (1887-1953) was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in 1906. She was the first African-American woman composer to have a composition performed by a major symphony orchestra. Her *Symphony No. 1 in E Minor* was first performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933.

Sermon Hymn

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace – This paraphrase of the Prayer of St. Francis was first published by Sebastian Temple in the collection *Happy the Man: 13 Songs of Peace and Brotherhood* (Cincinnati, 1967). Although the prayer on which the text is based is often attributed to Francis of Assisi, there is no evidence of a connection with him other than that the tone of this prayer agrees with his life and witness. The earliest known version of the prayer is in French and appeared in the December 1912 issue of *La Clochette* (The Little Bell), a small devotional magazine published by La Ligue de la Sainte-Messe (The Holy Mass League).

Offertory Anthem

I Believe This Is Jesus

Undine Smith Moore

I believe this is Jesus; come and see, come and see.

Oh, come and see.

The Light of God shines in his face, Oh, come and see.

He offers all his pardoning grace; come and see, come and see.

Oh, I believe this is Jesus, yes Lord, come and see, come and see.

Undine Smith Moore (1904-1989) was a prolific 20th century African-American composer and dubbed the “Dean of Black Women Composers”. She was a graduate of Fisk University and the Juilliard School of Music. Her oratorio on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr*, was premiered at Carnegie Hall and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Recessional Hymn

The spiritual *Lord, Make Us More Holy* was first published in *Slave Songs of the United States* (New York, 1867) where it is identified as coming from South Carolina.

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.

Social Hour and Postcard Campaign

The Justice Committee is hosting our *Social Hour* today in the Garth Overlook and Fellowship Rooms. After the 11am worship service, join us to connect with others at ELPC and take part in the *Death Penalty Postcard Campaign*. Help advocate for legislation to abolish the death penalty in Pennsylvania by signing postcards addressed to the Governor and officials. Please contact Vivienne Selia (vselia@comcast.net) for more info on the campaign. All are welcome!

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

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



Pray Always in All Ways Weekly Gatherings – Wednesdays

Our Wed evening prayer class continues this week. Together we will talk about our struggles and hopes with prayer and explore a wide variety of prayer forms. Join us on Wednesday, Feb 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.



Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market needs:

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

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



Step Into the Story of Nell and Poll Exhibit – Through Feb

As we recognize Black History Month, ELPC's Facing Systemic Racism, Spiritual Life, and Worship, Music, and the Arts Committees invite you to a storywalk on the lives of Nell and Poll, members of a family enslaved and sold by two of our early founders. This unique self-guided experience in the Trustees Room will include six stations that trace significant milestones and moments in the lives of Nell and Poll.



Visitors moving through the storywalk will encounter powerful images paired with prayers, guided meditations, poetry, and reflections designed to deepen their understanding and spark contemplation. This is more than an exhibit—it's an opportunity to pause, pray, and engage with narratives that challenge and inspire.

After completing the walk, visitors will be prompted to share their impressions in a journal. Those thoughts and reflections will help us continue our congregational conversation about faith, art, and the work of dismantling systemic racism. Come and experience this sacred space of learning and reflection.

The storywalk is available during February:

Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 am-8 pm
Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am-3 pm

NOTE: This exhibit is appropriate for older children, but please use your discretion for younger children.



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. *Both services include the imposition of ashes.*



Annual Congregational Meeting – Feb 22

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



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

Dave, Linda Benedict, Ida C's brother,
 Andrea DeVries' mom Elaine, Joan Heckel, Mark Held,
 Mike Hellman, Peggy Hodge, Kathy K's neighbor David,
 Kate L's cousin Michael, Kevin K and family,
 Chuck Lukehart, Jennifer M's father Karle,
 Chris Markwell, Henry and Lisa Petrilli,
 and PTS DMin students.

Condolences to the family of Maria Hernandez on her passing.

Committee Meetings This Week

Deacons Tuesday, Feb 10 @ 7:00 pm
Worship, Music, Arts Tuesday, Feb 10 @ 7:30 pm
Mission Board..... Thursday, Feb 12 @ 6:00 pm

For info to join a meeting, contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net).

Valentine Cookies for Dogs – Feb 15

Children, youth, and families are baking and decorating dog treats in the Good Samaritan Room from 12–2 pm on Sunday, Feb 15. We'll be making treats for Ellie's Pet Pantry, a program at Humane Animal Rescue. Pups and their humans will be thrilled to receive the homemade treats and the love we will put into them! This event is open to any age child with a parent/adult and youth in grades 4-12 may attend on their own. Lunch from Chipotle provided. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Presbyterian Women's Winter Retreat – March 6 to 7

All women are invited to an overnight *Late Winter Retreat* at Crestfield Camp by Presbyterian Women from Friday evening to Saturday afternoon, March 6–7, for community, learning, led by Pastor Sarah Robbins. **Register today after worship in the Highland Lobby, or download the form at <https://cathedralofhope.org/event/pw-winter-retreat/>.**

COMBINED ADULT ED CLASSES February 15

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

Journey with Scripture – Highland Room + Zoom

Combined with Seekers Class.

Seekers – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

Does Erasure Matter? Seekers will join Soul Food for a combined class when members of the ELPC Facing Systemic Racism Committee will discuss the national efforts made in this past year to control access to programs, topics, and displays that promote Black History and/or to address systemic racism.

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

Combined with Seekers Class.

In our

COMMUNITY



Rev. Dr. Henry Highland Garnet Weekend – Feb 20-22

The Facing Systemic Racism Committee is pleased to invite everyone to a weekend of programming to honor the Rev. Dr. Henry Highland Garnet. A noted abolitionist, Garnet was the first African American to speak inside the US Capitol and came to Pittsburgh in 1873. While here, he served as the first pastor of the Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, which still faithfully gathers in Pittsburgh's Hill District. The legacy of Dr. Garnet continues to inspire those who work tirelessly in pursuit of racial justice within our churches and our society.

In honor of his work as a member of our Presbytery, the third weekend of February has been designated as Henry Highland Garnet weekend. This is the 3rd annual weekend, and the weekend schedule is:

- **Friday, Feb 20 from 6-8:30 pm** at Bethesda Presbyterian Church (7220 Bennett St, 15208)
- **Saturday, Feb 21 from 8:30 am–3 pm** at Bethesda Presbyterian Church
- **Sunday, Feb 22 at 11 am** at Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church (1000 BrynMawr Rd, 15219)

The weekend leader will be Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Cannon, Vice President of Ministry Innovation, Board of Pensions. This event is sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter Black Presbyterian Caucus in conjunction with Anti-Racism Transformation Team (AART) Hill District Credit Union, and Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Help Us Enrich Our Worship Together

The Worship, Music, and the Arts (WMA) Committee invites you to share your ideas for making ELPC's liturgies more interactive, experiential, and engaging. Over the past year, our worship services have incorporated embodied practices that remind us of the physical body's central role in Christian faith—such as anointing, renewing baptismal vows, and even the symbolic burning of burdens. These moments have offered powerful opportunities to connect with the divine in tangible, meaningful ways.

Now, we want to hear from you! Which practices have spoken most deeply to your spirit? What new ideas do you have? Your feedback will help us continue creating spaces where all can encounter God through word, music, and action.

Please contact WMA chair, Carol Mullen (carolmullen.pgh@gmail.com). Together, let's imagine new ways to embody our faith and celebrate God's presence among us.