



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)

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD FEBRUARY 15, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Spiritual experience has to be experienced firsthand. We can’t believe it because someone else talked about it. Sooner or later, we have to go to our own mountaintop. We have to have our own transfiguration. — Richard Rohr

PRELUDE

“In Christ There Is Not East or West”
“This Little Light of Mine”

arr. Charles Callahan

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

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: On the mountain, God’s glory is revealed.
People: We seek light that reveals the truth.
Leader: A voice speaks from the cloud, calling us to listen.
People: We draw near to quiet ourselves with hearts wide open.
Leader: Christ shines not simply to amaze us but to lead us.
People: May we be changed in the presence of God.
Leader: From this holy moment, we rise to follow the light.
People: We come to worship and to follow Christ. Alleluia!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #193

“Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain”

UNSER HERRSCHER

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: People of God, the brokenness of our world is not difficult to perceive. We can see it in our relationships, our systems, our communities, and ourselves. We are tired. We are worn. And we know this world did not become this way on its own. So let us come before God with honesty, confessing where we have stopped listening, and opening ourselves again to the light that restores.

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

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

David Carl

God of radiant light, we confess that we often choose comfort and familiarity over transformation. We say we want things to be different, yet we resist the work of becoming different ourselves. Forgive us when we stop listening to you, to one another, and to the needs of our world. Uncover the light you have placed within us. Renew us and send us out as bearers of your hope.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

David Carl

Leader: Friends, God is faithful.

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

HYMN OF RESPONSE #452

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

OPEN THE EYES

READING

from *Ladder to the Light* by Choctaw Elder, Bishop Stephen Charleston

David Carl

The small things. In the end, it may be the little things that make the difference. While we were distracted by the major issues of life—the big-ticket items of careers and relationships, the things we accomplished, the hurts we endured—it may be the small things that slipped by unnoticed that changed another life for the better. We do not need to be in the spotlight to bring light into another person's world. We do not need to be onstage to play our part in the drama of life and love. We need to be only who we are, as loving and kind as we can, for blessings to flow through us into another heart, unknown but forever grateful.

Leader: May God bless the truth in these words.

People: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 17:1-9 *(Inclusive Bible)*

Heather Eng

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #274**

“You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd”

PICARDY

SERMON

“Listening for the Light”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO ANOINTING AND PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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 #472

“Kum ba Yah”

KUM BA YAH

HYMN #775

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

WALK WITH ME

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 (ᲞᲗᲠᲚᲗ) 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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFERING INVITATION

Heather Eng

*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’m Gonna Sing”

André J. Thomas

*Sing on! Dance on! Sing on! Pray on!
Sing on! Shout on till the spirit says sing!*

*I’m gonna sing when the spirit says sing
and obey the spirit of the Lord!*

*I’m gonna pray when the spirit says pray
and obey the spirit of the Lord!*

*Sing on, brother, sing on!
Shout on, sister, shout on!*

*I’m gonna shout when the spirit says shout
and obey the spirit of the Lord!*

* **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. Dr. Diaz

God of light, receive these gifts and the lives we offer with them. Use what is given to bring hope, healing, and justice into your world. May we continue to listen for and follow your light. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #189**

“O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair”

DEO GRACIAS

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

* **POSTLUDE**

“Deo Gracias”

Aaron David Miller
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. Dr. Michael Diaz (he/him/él)
Liturgists: Sara Hackett (she/her)
David Carl
Heather Eng
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadle: Heather Eng
Crucifer: Jan Herzer
Sound: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in honor of Kay Shissler. For nearly 60 years, many children at ELPC learned about God's love in Miss Kay's church school class. Kay is an active member of PW in ELPC and the Presbytery. **Happy birthday, Kay!** (from Presbyterian Women)

◆ 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 (will be held in McKelvy Room on Feb 18).

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, 15 February 2026 – Transfiguration of the Lord

The Sunday before Ash Wednesday is the Transfiguration of the Lord, recounting when Jesus ascended the mountain with Peter, James, and John and was transfigured before them. From the Latin word *transfiguratio*, it means a complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/christian-year/transfiguration-lord>

Prelude – *In Christ There Is No East or West*

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 first prelude is a fanfare based on this hymn tune.

Processional Hymn

The tune UNSER HERRSCHER was composed by Joachim Neander (1650-1680). It is in our *Glory to God Hymnal* three times, #360 and 403, and also with a text for Transfiguration, #193 – *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*, sung as our Processional Hymn.

Sermon Hymn

Hymn writer Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993) was an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada. When she wrote the text *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* she called it *Christus Paradox* because so many of the attributes of Christ stand in tension with each other.

Hymn During Prayer/Anointing

Author Gwendolin Sims Warren wrote this about *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*:

“African-American Christians found great comfort and encouragement in believing that this life was only a journey, a “passing through to a better place...As they passed through the bitter trials of this earth, their desire was that they not walk alone, but that Jesus walk with them. Knowing that Jesus, who had already passed through the fiery trials and come out triumphant on the other side, was walking beside them gave them courage to go on.”

Listen to Warren talk with Terry Gross on *Fresh Air* in 1998:

<https://freshairarchive.org/segments/gwendolin-sims-warren-shares-beloved-religious-songs>

Offertory Anthem

Conductor and composer André J. Thomas (b. 1952) retired in 2019 as Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music Education at The Florida State University. He is currently a visiting professor at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. His arrangement of the Spiritual *I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing* was published in 2005.

Recessional Hymn/Postlude

The hymn tune *Deo Gracias* is also known as *The Agincourt Song*. It is originally an English folk song from the early 15th Century that tells of the 1415 Battle of Agincourt, in which Henry V's English army defeated the French army of Charles VI.

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972) is Director of Music/Organist at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. The tune *Deo Gracias*, also known as “The Agincourt Song” is found three times in our *Glory to God* hymnal, #189, 258, 618.

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.

Valentine Cookies for Dogs

Children, youth, and families are baking and decorating dog treats in the Good Samaritan Room today from 12–2 pm. 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. Contact Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).



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. *Please note there is no 7 pm Taizé service that evening.*



Lenten Devotional Materials Available – Beginning Feb 18

Pick up your Lenten devotionals, *Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent*, at ELPC.

Devotionals reflect on the themes we are exploring in Lent including radical welcome, love of neighbor and care of the vulnerable through art, scripture, music, readings, journal prompts and poems.

You can request an e-reader version online at:
<https://cathedralofhope.org/news/tell-me-something-good-lenten-devotionals-now-available/>



Praying with Art for Families & Tweens – Begins Feb 18

On Wednesday evenings in Lent, from 5-7 pm, beginning Feb 18, families and tweens are invited share dinner, make art, and explore different ways of praying this Lent. Activities will follow the themes in our Lenten worship and devotional series *Tell Me Something Good*. Families of any age are welcome to come and tweens in 3rd-6th grade can join with or without a parent. More details are on the church's online calendar. RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

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 is available today on the info tables around the church, as well as on our website.



Step Into the Story of Nell and Poll Exhibit – During February

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.





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.

Committee Meetings This Week

Deacons Health Ministry Today @ 12:00 pm
Session..... Tuesday, Feb 17 @ 7:30 pm
Membership & Outreach... Thursday, Feb 19 @ 6:00 pm

Lenten Conversations:

Tell Me Something Good – Feb 25 through April 1

Feeling overwhelmed in life? Join Pastor Michael on Wednesday evenings from Feb 25 to April 1 in the Good Samaritan Room as we slow down and listen for a different kind of news. Each week from 5:30-7 pm, we'll gather for honest, hope-filled conversations rooted in Sunday's sermon and our series *Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News This Lent*. Together we'll explore Jesus' life through the scriptures and ask deeper questions about the text, the sermon, and what it means for us today. Whether you're curious, weary, skeptical, or hopeful, there's room for you. Our goal is not to give each other easy answers but to speak from our own perspective and experiences. A light dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Please register online at:

<https://tinyurl.com/LentenConversations>

PW Bible Study – March 2 and 3

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Monday, March 2 from 7-8:30 pm (online only), and on Tuesday, March 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 info and the Zoom link.

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, March 6 to Saturday, March 7, for community, learning, led by Pastor Sarah Robbins. Register today after worship in the Garth Overlook Room, or download the form at <https://cathedralofhope.org/event/pw-winter-retreat/>.

Tree Equity Presentation— March 8

On Sunday, March 8 after the 11 am service, the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is sponsoring a program about tree equity, including an expert from Tree Pittsburgh. A light lunch will be provided, and the program will also be available online. Contact Nancy Heastings for more info (n.heastings@comcast.net).

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, and served as the first pastor of the Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church, which still faithfully gathers in Pittsburgh's Hill District.

In honor of his work as a member of our Presbytery, the third weekend of February has been designated as Henry Highland Garnet weekend. The 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.*

Cathedral Concert – March 1

The *Cathedral Concerts* series at ELPC continues on Sunday, March 1 at 3 pm with a performance by ELPC soloists and choir with music of Stephen Sondheim. The concert is free and open to all. A freewill offering will be received. For more details, visit tiny.cc/cathedral-concerts.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES	February 22
– Adults –	
<i>Adult classes are held from 9:45-10:45 am in the rooms indicated:</i>	
Journey with Scripture – Highland Room + Zoom Practice <i>Visio and Lectio Divina</i> with Pastor BJ and Rev. Bossers. Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers	
Seekers – Garth Overlook Room + Zoom Discussion of <i>Black Government Girl</i> by Mary Martin, presented by her daughter, Beverly Harris-Schenz. Facilitated by Gwen Puza	
Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom We will continue our discussion of <i>So You Want to Talk About Race</i> by Ijeoma Oluo. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members	