



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)

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 1, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

How fiercely does God love? Let me tell you a Galilean story. In Luke 7, Jesus tells the woman to go in peace...Forgiven, she now needs the welcome she has shown Jesus to be extended to her by a community of Jesus people — people who recognize that they , too, have been graced by the extravagance of God’s fierce, unrelenting love...

— Rev. Dr. Brian Blount

PRELUDE

“Little Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 554”

attr. Johann Sebastian Bach
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

WELCOME VIDEO

CALL TO WORSHIP

Caroline Bogolin, Clara Yoest

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves you more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Leader: Tell me something good!

People: God’s love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

Leader: This is good news indeed!

People: Let us worship our compassionate God.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*see insert*)

“I Come With My Devotion”

ANGEL’S STORY

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

Becky Boyer

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Afterwards:

- Children age 4-3rd grade go to Sunday School: Sacred Stories. Parents pick up their kids after worship in Room 206.
- Children in grades 4-6 remain in worship today.
- Children age 3 and younger can play, sing songs and hear stories in the nursery from 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

* HYMN #301 (*verse 2*)

“Let Us Build a House”

TWO OAKS

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

LITANY FOR LENT

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

Leader: Merciful God, we come to know part of who you are through Jesus of Nazareth,
 People: **who’s love for this world was so strong, it was like a jar of perfume broken in a crowded room and permeated everything it touched.**

Leader: Holy God, we come to know you as the one who loved us first and loves us still.
 People: **Help us to notice the ways we take for granted your presence and your patience.**

Leader: Triune God, we come to know you through your forgiving nature.
 People: **Enable us to offer the forgiveness we seek from you to our neighbor. Remind us that your love extends far and wide and there is more than enough for all of us.**

Leader: This truly is the Good News in Lent.
 People: **We are loved and we are forgiven. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 7:36-40

Caroline Bogolin, Clara Yoest

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN #201

“A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar”

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 7:41-50 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Sarah Robbins

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The Good News is ... Great Love for God and Neighbor”

Rev. Robbins

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

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.**

CHURCH NEWS & OFFERING INVITATION

Rev. Dr. Diaz, 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.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Consecration”

Frederick Chatfield

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
 Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
 Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
 Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
 Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.*

* 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.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Rev. Robbins

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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.

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(in the language or 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 (Ἕλ-κρ-οῖ) in the hymnal.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Robbins

INVITATION TO RECEIVE

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Leader: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SHARING BREAD & CUP

The communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. The congregation is invited to come forward by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may receive the bread and the cup, then returning to their seats via the side aisles. Those seated in the East Transept (the section near the Highland Entrance) will be directed by an usher to the walkway between the front and back section and will file in behind those in the first row of the back section. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats. Please raise your hand and/or make eye contact with the roaming Communion server.

COMMUNION HYMNS

#508

“Come to the Table”

COME TO THE TABLE

#186

“Come Now, You Blessed, Eat at My Table”

COME NOW, YOU BLESSED

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(in unison)*

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Holy One, we give you thanks that you have met us at your table. We humbly ask that you continue to nourish us in the week ahead, that we might be disciples sent to share the good news of your great love for all the world. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #697

“Take My Life”

HENDON

* RESPONSIVE CHARGE

Rev. Robbins

Leader: As we leave this place, may we hold on to this good news:

People: **love and justice for all, joy that surprises, nonviolence that transforms.**

Leader: The gospel is alive in the world, so go and speak it. Live it.

People: **May we hold on to this good news.**

* SUNG BENEDICTION *(see music insert)*

“Hold On”

The worship service concludes after singing. There is no Postlude during Lent.



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. Sarah Robbins (she/they)
Liturgy: Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz (he/him/él)
Caroline Bogolin
Becky Boyer
Clara Yoest
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Beadles: Mario Seneca
Travis Simpson-Hunt
Crucifer: Michael Simpson-Hunt
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. *Please see today's bulletin insert to sponsor an Easter plant, or to make a donation to the EECM food pantry.*

◆ 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* on **Sunday, April 12 after the 11 am worship service** 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, 1 March 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent

This morning is the second Sunday in the season of Lent, a period of 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. The six Sundays in Lent are not counted in the 40 days. To read more about the season of Lent:

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

Prelude

The eight “little” preludes and fugues were previously thought to have been composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). Recent research has labeled them as spurious, with some speculation that they may have been composed by Bach’s student, Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780).

Processional Hymn

I Come With My Devotion is from our Lenten devotional materials, *Tell Me Something Good*. It is set to the familiar tune ANGEL’S STORY, which is best known with the hymn text *O Jesus, I Have Promised*.

You may pick up printed copies of the Lenten Devotional, *Tell Me Something Good: Grounding Ourselves in the Good News this Lent*, at the church. Devotionals reflect on the themes we are exploring in worship this Lent, including radical welcome; love of neighbor; and care of the vulnerable through art, scripture, music, readings, journal prompts, and poems. If you’d like an e-reader version:

<http://tiny.cc/elpc-devotional>

Offertory Anthem

This setting of the well-known hymn *Take My Life, and Let It Be* is by Ohio composer Frederick Chatfield (b. 1951). English poet Frances R. Havergal (1836-1879) wrote this text in 1874. (see notes on Recessional Hymn)

Recessional Hymn

Poet Frances R. Havergal had this to say of this well-known hymn text follow a visit with friends:

“I went for a little visit of five days. There were ten persons in the house, some unconverted and long prayed for, some converted but not rejoicing Christians. He gave me the prayer, “Lord, give me all in this house!” And He just did! Before I left the house every one had got a blessing. The last night of my visit [February 4, 1874] I was too happy to sleep, and passed most of the night in praise and renewal of my own consecration, and these little couplets formed themselves and chimed in my heart one after another, till they finished with, “Ever, ONLY, ALL for Thee!”

Benediction Response

Hold On has been sung at many of the demonstrations in Minneapolis recently and the song has spread across the country. Songwriter Heidi Wilson says:

“It is January 2026, and the people of Minneapolis are inspiring us with what it looks like to really take care of one another in the face of escalating ICE raids and authoritarian violence. They are walking kids to school, delivering food to neighbors, standing on street corners in rapid response. And they are singing. I am humbled and moved that this song is useful to folks right now.”

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.

Lenten Devotional Materials Available

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/>

Step Into the Story of Nell and Poll Exhibit

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.

The storywalk is available through Easter Sunday on:

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.

Cathedral Concert

The *Cathedral Concerts* series at ELPC continues at 3 pm today in the Sanctuary 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.



ELPC Communications Survey

ELPC's new Communications Team is asking for your feedback as we assess our current ELPC communication tools, identify any gaps, and make recommendations about how best to connect with people in the life of the church. Please complete a brief survey online by scanning this QR code, or by visiting: tiny.cc/elpc-communications.



Praying with Art for Families & Tweens – Wednesdays

On Wednesday evenings in Lent, from 5-7 pm, families and tweens are invited to 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).

Lenten Conversations:

Tell Me Something Good – Wednesdays through April 1

Feeling overwhelmed in life? Join Pastor Michael on Wednesday evenings through 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:

tiny.cc/tell-me-something-good

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.





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

Ali, Carlos, Dave, Nicole and family, Theresa, Rebecca A, Andrea DeVries' mom Elaine, Joan Heckel, Mark Held, Mike Hellman, Chris Markwell, Henry and Lisa Petrilli, Jan Pressman's grandson, Liz Tafel.

*Condolences to **Peggy Hodge** on the passing of her sister, Sue, and niece, Lynne.*

*Condolences to **Gail Mallory** on the passing of her friend, Kevin.*

Committee Meetings This Week

Facing Systemic Racism....Tuesday, March 3 @ 6:00 pm
Property.....Tuesday, March 3 @ 7:00 pm

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

Tree Equity Presentation – March 8

The Environmental Team of the Justice Committee is currently focusing on the issue of Tree Equity—ensuring that all communities have equal access and benefits from the presence of trees. Disadvantaged Pittsburgh neighborhoods have 20% fewer trees, which has serious implications for health outcomes.

The March 8 program, planned from 12:30–1:30 pm, will include an expert from Tree Pittsburgh and a speaker from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, who will provide a faith and justice perspective. Light refreshments will be provided in the Fellowship Room.

Tree Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will offer advice on tree maintenance, volunteer opportunities, how to get a tree for your yard, and more. See them and our Landscape Subcommittee in the Garth Overlook Room. Tree activities in underserved neighborhoods will be coming in the spring and fall. The program will also be available online. Contact Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net) for the zoom link.

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – March 8

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

Upcoming Church Tours – March 22 and April 19

Tom Morton will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel on March 22. On Sunday, April 19, join our guides for a tour of the Tower. (Pre-register at tiny.cc/towertour as this tour is limited to 20 participants.) Please gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am Sanctuary worship service to join any of our tours.

In our

COMMUNITY



PADP Virtual Presentation – March 5

Pennsylvanians Against the Death Penalty is hosting Sister Helen Prejean for a virtual presentation on Thursday, March 5 from 7-8:30 pm. Sister Helen is the renowned author of *Dead Man Walking* (1993) which became a movie and was recently adapted into a graphic novel. Please register for this free program by scanning this QR code, or visiting <https://tinyurl.com/PADPEvent>. Contact Vivienne Selia for info (vselia@comcast.net).



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.

Sewing Donations for Casa San Jose

The Casa San Jose Sewing Circle plans to start up again after Christmas. They are seeking donations of fabric of all kinds, sewing supplies, portable sewing machines and especially a cutting board. Please contact Paris Samboy (paris@casasanjose.org; 412.287.7817).

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

March 8

– Adults –

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

Journey with Scripture – Highland Room + Zoom

A Lenten practice *Visio and Lectio Divina* with Pastor BJ and Rev. Bossers. Facilitated by Rev. Henk Bossers

Seekers – Garth Overlook Room + Zoom

“Faces Around the Cross: Mary—The One Who Loved Him Most?” Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

Beginning discussion of *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Bishop Mariann Budde. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members