



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)

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

J. Wayne Kerr

“Les Rameaux (The Palms)”

Jean-Baptiste Faure

*Join all and sing his name declare, let every voice resound with acclamation,
Hosanna! Praised be the Lord! Bless him, who cometh to bring us salvation!*

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ

WELCOME VIDEO

CALL TO WORSHIP

Eric McCarty

Leader: Will you follow? Will you lay down your coat? Will you lay down something important? Will you shout “Hosanna?”

People: Will you join the parade?

Leader: Will you sing, even if your throat is hoarse? Will you cut down a palm branch?

People: Will you wave it in the air?

Leader: Will you follow the one riding on a donkey? Will you let this good news inspire you to act?

People: We will. We will sing. We will pay close attention. We will worship. We will follow.

Leader: Hosanna in the highest!

People: Hosanna in the highest.

* PALM PROCESSIONAL HYMNS

#196

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

#197

“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”

ELLACOMBE

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.*

* HYMN OF RESPONSE #301 (vs. 1 and chorus)

TWO OAKS

“Let Us Build a House”

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

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FIRST READING

from Dong Hyeon Jeong

Rev. BJ Woodworth

Revolutionary and subversive acts do not have to be grandiose or immediately altering. They can be small, seen but immediately unseen, loud and expected but bewilderingly unconventional. In that way, the powers that be cannot control, stop, or even anticipate the next revolutionary act. So please try this revolutionary act: disrupt the indifference, distract the oppressive. Perhaps someone out there is waiting for your invitation. Perhaps someone in your church is waiting for the church to become a source of positive change in the world.

Leader: May God bless the truth in these words.

People: **Amen.**

LITANY FOR LENT

Rev. Sarah Robbins

Leader: The first Palm Sunday was a day of movement with crowded streets and cries of “Hosanna!”

People: **A day of hope, of courage, of faithful action.**

Leader: Jesus of Nazareth, you taught and healed, you walked among the people.

People: **Your good news was alive.**

Leader: Yet we confess, O God, we have made faith something we think about more than something we live.

People: **Forgive us when our faith stays safe and still.**

Leader: We confess the times we stayed silent instead of speaking for justice, the times we stayed comfortable instead of stepping into love.

People: **Forgive us when we choose ease over action.**

Leader: You entered the city with courage and compassion.

People: **Call us to follow in your way.**

Leader: Inspire us to move toward our neighbors, to show up with mercy, and to act with love.

People: **Make our faith visible in the world.**

Leader: Transform us, O God, that our lives may proclaim your love.

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



HYMN #199

“Filled with Excitement”

HOSANNA

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11:1-10 (*Inclusive translation*)

Eric McCarty

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“The good news is...Inspiring us to Act”

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Woodworth

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

Rev. Woodworth

The Lord’s Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español), or on pg. 45 (한글) 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.

CHURCH NEWS & OFFERING INVITATION

Please remember to write your name on your offering envelope.
 In addition to receiving our tithes and offerings, we will also receive the
 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Special envelopes are in the pews.
 You can also scan this QR code to give online or visit www.ELPC.church/donate.

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Robbins



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Ain’t That Good News”

arr. Moses Hogan

Text: Frederick William Faber

*I got a crown up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!
 I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross,
 Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, ain't-a that good news!
 I got a robe up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!
 I got a harp up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!
 I got a song up in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!*

* **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**

Rev. Robbins

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:	Holy One, we give you thanks for the life and example of Jesus. Bless these offerings that we might continue to reveal Christ in all we do. Amen.	

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #198**

“Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!”

ST. DROSTANE

* **RESPONSIVE CHARGE**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

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. Dr. Michael Diaz (he/him/él)
Liturgists: Rev. Sarah Robbins (she/they)
Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him)
Sara Hackett
Eric McCarty
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Soloists: Adrianna Cleveland, Kym Laret
Denise Sheffey-Powell, Logan Williams
Acolytes: Liam Robbins and Eli Drenning
Beadle: Polly McQueen
Crucifer: Tim Engelhardt
Sound: Wayne Gaines and Bobby Jarsulic

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The eco-palms distributed to the congregation today were donated by the family of Rev. Gail Bowman in her memory.

◆ HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday, April 2
7:00 pm.....In the Chapel.

Good Friday, April 3
12 Noon.....In the Chapel.
7:00 pm.....In Sanctuary.

Saturday Vigil, April 4
7:00 pm.....In the Chapel. Processes through church.

Easter Sunday, April 5
8:45 am.....Journey Worship. In Chapel.

A light breakfast will be served in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms from 9:45-10:45 am.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Music at 10:45 am.

◆ 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 (*not held on April 1*)

◆ 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

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 register at elpc.church/visit-us/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, 29 March 2026 – Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the beginning to Holy Week. In some churches it is also known as Palm/Passion Sunday, with the service beginning with the waving of palms and shouting *Hosanna* and then moving into the story of the Passion.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theology-worship/worship/church-calendar/passion-palm-sunday>

Prelude

Jean-Baptiste Faure (1830-1914) was a French operatic baritone and composer of songs. One of his most famous songs, *Les Rameaux (The Palms)* was included in several hymnals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Heard in an arrangement for organ this morning, the original song was made popular and recorded by Enrico Caruso, among others.

Processional Hymns

The hymn tune VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN is also known as St. Theodulph because of its association with the text *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*, written by Theodulph, Bishop of Orléans, France, around the year 820. He wrote this text while imprisoned in Angers, France for conspiring against the King with King Bernard of Italy. He died in prison in 821. The text was translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866) in 1851. The tune was composed by Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) to accompany the hymn text *Valet Will Ich Dir Geben (Farewell, I Gladly Bid Thee)*, a Lutheran *Sterbelied* (hymn for the dying) written by Valerius Herberger (1562-1627) in 1613.

The hymn tune ELLACOMBE was first published in a chapel hymnal for Duke of Württemberg (located in the present-day German state of Baden-Württemberg) in 1784. Ellacombe is the name of a village in Devonshire, England. In addition to *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna* (GtG 197) the tune is found in the *Glory to God* hymnal with two other texts, *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (GtG 32) and *Come Sing to God* (GtG 805).

Offertory

Moses George Hogan (1957-2003) was born in New Orleans and studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and Juilliard School of Music. His arrangements, over seventy in number, of spirituals are performed regularly by choirs around the world. Hogan's arrangement of the spiritual *Ain't That Good News* was published in 1997.

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

Palm Sunday Processional

Kids (and parents too!) are invited to join our processional at the beginning of today's 11 am Palm Sunday service. Please go to the Narthex around 10:50 am to get palm branches and instructions.

Today's Palms

The eco-palms distributed to the congregation today were donated by the family of Rev. Gail Bowman in her memory.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Today we will receive the *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering* at our worship services. Special envelopes are in the pews. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Step Into the Story of Nell and Poll Exhibit

Please take some time to visit a unique, self-guided experience in the Trustees Room — a storywalk on the lives of Nell and Poll, members of a family enslaved and sold by two of our early founders. It has stations paired with prayers, guided meditations, poetry, and reflections.

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.



INQUIRERS' CLASS

**Sunday, April 12
after 11 am worship service**

Attend the next *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, April 12 after the 11am Sanctuary worship service in the McKelvy room.

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

Register online at: [visit elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member](http://visit-elpc.church/visit-us/becoming-a-member), or contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net).



Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services

NO TAIZE SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Thursday, April 2 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

7 pm in the sanctuary with Communion

Friday, April 3 – GOOD FRIDAY

Noon in the chapel

7 pm in the sanctuary

Saturday, April 4 – EASTER VIGIL

7 pm begins in narthex, moves to Chapel and sanctuary

Sunday, April 5 – EASTER SUNDAY

8:45 am in the chapel with Communion

A light Easter breakfast and fellowship time will be held in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms at 9:45 am.

11 am in the sanctuary with Communion

Please note no lilies will be in our worship spaces due to allergies.

PW Bible Study – April 6 and 7

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Monday, April 6 from 7-8:30 pm (online only), and on Tuesday, April 7 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.

Wills & Healthcare Decisions Clinic – April 12

The ELPC Board of Deacons Health Ministry will sponsor a *Wills & Healthcare Decisions Clinic* presented by students from the Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University to be held on Sunday, April 12 after the 11 am Sanctuary service in the Good Samaritan Room. For those who cannot attend in-person, a virtual option will be available. Topics will include: Financial Power of Attorney, Healthcare Power of Attorney, Last Will and Testament, Alternatives to Guardianship, and incapacity planning. The Thomas R. Kline School of Law provides FREE legal services to low income qualifying people who need but cannot afford legal representation. To RSVP fill out: tiny.cc/deacons-clinic. With any questions, please contact Tom Sturgill (sturgillpgh@yahoo.com).



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

Carlos, Cathleen W, Christopher S, Fran, Herma and family, Jeff, Kate's friend Jody, Kevin H, Kim, Mark, Matthew, Mike H, Nancy, Patti, Raesean, Rebecca A, Robert, Sara, Sarah, Theresa, Diane M, Linda Benedict, Jan Herzer's friend Kim and friend Jeff, The Lane family's friend Pierena M, Paige McKenzie, Jan Pressman's grandson, and Fran Wilson.

Condolences to Jason Van Ness on the passing of his mother-in-law.

NO Committee Meetings This Week

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – April 12

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

Cathedral Concert: Organist Nathaniel Gumbs – April 12

Dr. Gumbs, Director of Music at the Riverside Church in New York City, will be joined by soprano Olanna Miller for a concert in the ELPC Sanctuary on Sunday, April 12 at 3 pm. This performance is co-sponsored with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh. ELPC members/friends can contact Dr. Ed Moore for complimentary tickets (EdM@coh.net).



Listening for God's Heartbeat: Retreat – April 24 to 26 and Classes – April 29, May 6, 13 and 20

Join us for a retreat at Villa Maria Retreat Center from April 24-26 with facilitator Rev. Jeff Eddings from April 24 to 26.

We will also offer weekly classes at ELPC on Wednesdays, April 29, May 6, 13, 20 from 5:30-6:30 pm (light dinner at 6:30 pm).

Drawing upon John Philip Newell's book *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: Celtic Daily Prayer*, we will explore the rich stream of Celtic spirituality to help us practice listening for God in our lives. We will explore different movements of listening — for goodness, within creation, for God in all things, with our imagination, and in action. You may purchase the book and read along but it is not required.

Please register for the retreat by scanning this QR code, or visiting:

<http://tiny.cc/gods-heartbeat>

Please sign up for the weekly classes at:

<https://tinyurl.com/gods-heartbeat-classes>



In our

COMMUNITY



Hosanna! A Palm Sunday Action! – TODAY!

We are called to Christian witness as our immigrant neighbors are hunted and our trans neighbors demonized. We will meet at Community of Reconciliation Church (100 N Bellefield, Oakland), then process around the Cathedral of Learning quadrangle with palms, prayers and song beginning at 3 pm TODAY.

Contact Michele Bossers if you would like to ride in the church van (412.303.9243). Scan QR code for more info.



PPC Performance: 50 Shades of Gay – April 17

Kermit isn't the only one singing about the *Rainbow Connection* these days. Join the Pittsburgh Pride Choir for their 2026 Cabaret Concert *50 Shades of Gay*, on Friday, April 17, and Saturday, April 18 at 8 pm in the ELPC Social Hall. You will hear songs about *Pink Ponies*, *Purple Rain*, *Blackbirds*, and being *Golden!* You won't want to miss these concerts filled with solos, small ensembles, and the full 140 voice choir. PPC rehearses and performs at ELPC. Purchase tickets at pittsburghpridechoir.org. Any accessibility questions may be emailed to: accessibility@pittsburghpridechoir.org. ASL interpretation is available on both performance dates.

OHM: Run for a Reason in Pittsburgh Marathon – May 2+3

Open Hand Ministries invites you to join them as a runner or walker in the Pittsburgh Marathon events on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3. Funds raised support Affordable Home Ownership and closing the Wealth Gap in Pittsburgh.

Here's how you can help: Register for the Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K, Relay, Kids Marathon, Toddler Trot or Pet Walk events. Choose Open Hand Ministries as your Run for a Reason Charity. Invite your friends and family to sponsor you.

Participant Goals: 10 or more relay teams of 5 people. 10 churches. 50 individual runners! Use this QR code to register to Run for a Reason!

Volunteers Needed: 40,000 volunteers are needed to make this signature Pittsburgh event happen. Open Hand is responsible for getting 20 volunteers for the fluid station at Negley and Stanton.

Please contact Laura Ristan, Marathon Coordinator for OHM, for info (marathon@openhandpittsburgh.org).



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

April 5

There will be no Sunday School classes next week, Easter Sunday. A light Easter breakfast and fellowship time will be held in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms at 9:45 am.