



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)

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 19, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things. Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is a word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature — even a caterpillar — I would never have to prepare a sermon. So full of God is every creature. — Meister Eckhart

PRELUDE

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Keith Kolander

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Morning Procession”

Vicki Smith

ELPC Ringers

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Psalm 148 from Psalms for Praying by Nan C. Merrill*)

Stephen Simpson-Hunt

Leader: Praise the Blessed One! Give praise from the heavens, and from all ends of the earth!

People: **Give praise, sun and moon, give praise, all you shining stars! Give praise, all universes, the whole cosmos of Creation!**

Leader: Praise the Blessed One! For through Love all was created and firmly fixed forever and ever.

People: **Give praise to the Beloved, all the earth, all that swim in the deep, and all the winged ones in the air!**

Leader: Give praise, all mountains and hills, all trees and all minerals! Give praise, all four-legged and all that creep on the ground!

People: **Leaders of the nations and all peoples, unite in all your diversity, that peace and harmony might flourish on earth!**

All: **Praises be to the Blessed One, the very breath of our breath, and heart of our heart!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #14

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

DIX

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.*

HANDBELL ANTHEM

“Supernal Grace, So Vast and Glorious (SCFLEAD)”

Richard and Robert Sherman

arr. John Behnke

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

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CALL TO CONFESSION

Travis, Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt

Leader: Friends, on this Sunday where we remember our relationship to the good and beautiful creation, let us remember that we — like plants, animals and all living creatures — are finite. Let us come to our loving, kind and patient Creator in a spirit of honesty and humility about our broken relationship with mother earth, the waters, trees, air and living creatures. Please join us in the responsive Litany of Lament.

LITANY OF LAMENT *(adapted from Creation Justice Ministries)*

Travis, Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt

Leader: Creation calls to us.

People: To open our eyes to the devastation we are causing our earthly home - trees, soils oceans, air, and so much more.

Leader: Creation reminds us.

People: To recognize our oneness with all beings, human and non-human.

Leader: Creation calls to us.

People: To value the community of creation above human greed.

Leader: Creation is waiting for us.

People: To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

Leader: Creation hurts and aches!

People: She asks that we stop polluting, and remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

Leader: Creation longs for us.

People: To lament the devastation of war; the lives lost; Earth, the destruction of her land and climate. To become like the mustard tree seed where a myriad of creatures finds shelter, food, and protection.

Leader: Creation is laboring and groaning for us.

People: That in all these things we would know our connection to her, that we are a creation within creation and that ALL creation is the face of God.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE, PRESENCE & RENEWAL

Travis, Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt

Leader: Thank you, God, for your creation; demonstrating your faithfulness to restore and renew all things, including us when we lose our way.

People: We receive the good news of the Gospel - grace and forgiveness. May the Spirit move us to return to being creation's siblings, servants and protectors.

* HYMN *(see insert)*

“Restless Weaver”

BEACH SPRING

SCRIPTURE READING *(Message translation)*

Job 12:7-10

Brady Conley

Psalms 19:1-3, 6-7

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Earth – Mother, Sibling, Teacher”

Rev. BJ Woodworth

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

OFFICER ORDINATION & INSTALLATION Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz, Rev. Sarah Robbins, Rev. Woodworth

Ordained Elder: Michael Simpson-Hunt (*youth 1 year term*)

Installed Elders: Don Breitbarth, Andrea DeVries, Charma Dudley, Tim Engelhardt, Deborah Hurrell, Mario Seneca, Lenore Williams, Nancy Wright

Ordained Deacons: Ryan Booher, Samantha Brake-Hoffman (*youth 1 year term*), Jim DiGiorgio, Keith Irvin, Polly McQueen, Travis Simpson-Hunt

Installed Deacon: Janet Pollard

Leader: There are varieties of gifts,

People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Leader: There are different ways of serving,

People: But it is the same Christ who is served.

Leader: God works through each person in different ways.

People: But it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

Leader: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

People: To use one's gift for the common good.

Leader: Together we are the body of Christ.

People: We are the manifestation of Christ's presence.

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 (한글) in the hymnal.

SHARING GOD'S PEACE

Rev. Robbins

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

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Robbins

MINUTE FOR MISSION & OFFERING INVITATION

Nancy Heastings

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

“Light of a Clear Blue Morning”

Dolly Parton/Craig Hella Johnson

It's been a long dark night, and I've been a waiting for the morning. It's been a long hard fight, but I see a brand new day a dawning. I've been looking for the sunshine 'cause I ain't seen it in so long. Everything's gonna work out fine. Everything's gonna be all right, it's gonna be okay.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning. I can see the light of a brand new day.

I can see the light of a clear blue morning. Everything's gonna be all right, it's gonna be okay.

I can see the light...brand new day. I can see the light...blue, blue morning blue.

* **DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #609**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Thank you, God, for your goodness and kindness to us in making us out of the earth and connecting us as siblings with all creatures great and small; partners with earth, air, fire, and water. In a spirit of inter-connectedness with all creation, use these gifts of thanksgiving to serve, honor, protect and nurture the original cathedral — Mother Earth.

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #33**

“Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show”

LLANFAIR

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Woodworth

POSTLUDE

“Psalm 19”

Benedetto Marcello

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)
Brady Conley
Nancy Heastings
Stephen, Travis, Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Robin Thompson, *Soloist*
Andrew Wilkinson, *Recorder*
ELPC Ringers
Acolytes: Michael and Parker Simpson-Hunt
Beadle: Travis Simpson-Hunt
Crucifer: Mario Seneca
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in honor of Mario Seneca's birthday given by his mother, Debbie O'Dell-Seneca.

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).

◆ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....**Journey Worship (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

◆ 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 see one of the pastors after the service to attend.

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

Sunday, 19 April 2026 – Third Sunday of Easter

Today is the third Sunday of the season of Easter. The season of Easter lasts seven weeks from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday on May 24.

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

Processional Hymn

The text of *For the Beauty of the Earth* was written by hymnist and poet Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917). He was influenced by the beauty of the countryside around him when he wrote this text at the age of 29 in 1864. The hymn tune DIX was composed by Conrad Kocher (1786–1872) and then adapted and shortened by William H. Monk (1823–1889). The revised tune was composed to accompany the hymn text *As with Gladness Men of Old*, written by William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898).

Sermon Hymn

Ola Irene “Cricket” Harrison (b. 1955) is an ordained Disciples of Christ Minister and taught worship and church music at Lexington Theological Seminary. *Restless Weaver* “paints a vivid picture of Heavenly Mother as She not only weaves the cosmic tapestry, but invites us to join Her in that sacred endeavor working towards Her eschatological vision of the eventual renewal of creation.”

Offertory Anthem

Dolly Parton (b. 1946) wrote the words and music to *Light of a Clear Blue Morning* and recorded it in 1977. The song came out of the pain of her breakup with longtime musical partner Porter Wagoner. Composer and conductor Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962) arranged the song for his chamber chorus, *Conspirare*, in 2010.

Recessional Hymn

The tune LLANFAIR was composed by Robert Williams (1782–1818) and harmonized by David Evans (1874–1948). The tune name (pronounced *blan-vire*) means “St. Mary’s Llan.” (The root Llan- in Welsh place names indicates a Christian settlement.) Because this name occurs so frequently, it usually has a modifier to distinguish it from others. This tune name probably refers to Llanfairynghornwy in northwest Anglesey, near where Williams lived.

Postlude

Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739) was a Venetian composer and teacher. *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* describes his music as “characterized by imagination and a fine technique and includes both counterpoint and progressive, galant features.”

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.

Shaping Our Future Strategic Planning Gathering

You are invited to join us for our first *Shaping Our Future Gathering* today from 12:15-1:30 pm in the Social Hall. This will be a meaningful opportunity for us to come together as a community to listen deeply to one another and to God. Through guided conversations, we will reflect on our shared story, name what matters most in this season, and begin imagining the future God is calling us toward. Everyone's voice matters. Whether you've been here for decades or just recently arrived, your perspective and experience is an essential part of this journey as we help shape the next chapter of ELPC.

Lunch and childcare will be provided. ZOOM is an option as well for those joining online.

Family Bowling

Families are invited to join us for pizza and bowling in ELPC's original 1930s Duck Pin Bowling Alley, located on the ground floor during the *Shaping Our Future gathering*. We will have staff chaperoning kids whose grownups attend. See Sara Hackett to participate (SaraH@coh.net).

Church Tour: Tower

Registered participants can gather in the Highland Lobby for a tour of the tower after the 11 am service. Closed-toe shoes are required to join this tour.

Art Exhibit: Souls Shot

The Peace Committee is hosting an exhibit called *Souls Shot* in the Trustees' Room. It is an exhibit of portraits of gun violence victims. It will be there for a few weeks. Stop by. You will find it moving.



Young Adult Happy Hour – April 20

On Monday, April 20, the *Young Adult Happy Hour* continues at Geeg and Dan Eash's home in Plum. Happening on the third Monday of every month from 6-7:30 pm, join us for appetizers and drinks. Our Young Adult Ministry welcomes all adults post-high school through their 20s and 30s. ALL people and questions are welcome! RSVP to Sara (SaraH@coh.net).

Social Hour – April 26

The Neighbors Committee is hosting our social hour after 11 am worship on April 26 in the Fellowship Room. Please join us for light snacks and the opportunity to learn about all the Committee's activities in support of our neighbors and the ways you can become involved!

Tween Mini Golf – April 26

4th through 6th graders will help create the course and then play mini golf around the church on Sunday, April 26 from 12:30-2 pm. Bonus points if you get a hole in one in the bell tower. RSVP to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net).

Join the Justice Committee – April 26

The Justice Committee invites you to an in-person meeting on Sunday, April 26 after the 11 am service in Room 213. We have 4 primary focus areas: immigration and integration, human safety and dignity, environmental stewardship, and full inclusion. Please join us to find out more about the work that the Justice Committee does and how you might participate. For more info, please contact Carol Chonoska (carolchonoska@gmail.com; 724.272.9722).

Listening for God's Heartbeat:

Classes: April 29, May 6, 13 20

We will 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. More info is available on our website (ELPC.church). Sign up for the weekly classes at: <https://tinyurl.com/gods-heartbeat-classes>



NO WORSHIP SERVICES ON MARATHON SUNDAY

Due to the Pittsburgh Marathon, ELPC is unable to offer worship services on Sunday, May 3.



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

Allison M's mom, Cathleen W, Christopher S, Doris' cousin Jane, Fran, Greg C, Herma and family, Jackie W, Jeff, Jimmy, Kate's friend Jody, Kathy, Kevin H, Kim, Mark, Matthew, Mike H, Nancy W, Patti, Raesean, Robert, Sara, Shayzen, Ray Anthony, Fran Wilson.

Committee Meetings This Week

Health MinistryToday @ 12:30 pm
Neighbors Wednesday, April 22 @ 6:00 pm
Peace.....Thursday, April 23 @ 5:30 pm

Hope Academy Recital – April 26

Hope Academy students will present their recital *Strings & Things* on Sunday, April 26 at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Duolingo is sponsoring the end-of-year recitals. All are welcome to attend!

Experiencing God in Nature & Designing Restoration in Community – April 30

Do you often feel more connected to God in the natural world? Do you ever wonder how we can make ANY difference in the increasingly large and systemic climate challenges we face? We invite you to join us for a time of intergenerational conversation and discernment with John Creasy and Evan Clendein of Wild Indigo on Thursday, April 30 at 7 pm They will present to us the possibility of participating in small groups ("Guilds") to discover and live into God's call to be more fully part of creation and its restoration and find ways to share this call with the life of their congregation, wider church and world.

If this is something that interests or intrigues you please email Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net), or Pastor BJ Woodworth (BJW@coh.net), to let them know if you can join us.

Donations for Chapel Market



The Chapel Market needs:
• **Summer clothes ONLY**
• **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



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 Ristau, Marathon Coordinator for OHM, for info (marathon@openhandpittsburgh.org).

Register for Vacation Church School

ELPC will have Vacation Church School from Monday to Friday, June 22–26 from 9 am–3 pm, for children in pre-K (age 4 and pottytrained) through grade 5 (completed). Our theme this summer is *Kids Connect*, where children wake up those neurons, get those synapses flowing, and jump on the wavelength of God's love! Each day includes worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, brain-building challenges, and active games. Registration forms are available on our website: ELPC.church.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

April 26

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

Journey with Scripture – Highland Room + Zoom

The Journey with Scripture class reads together various scripture readings for that week in worship, whether from the lectionary or our pastor's choosing. These readings span across the entire Bible. Henk Bossers and other class members facilitate the class

Seekers – Garth Overlook Room + Zoom

Faces Around the Cross: Mary, Mother of Jesus — The Sword that Pierced My Soul and Mary Magdalene — The First Apostle led by Rev. Dr. Darrell Knopp. Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

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