



# 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)*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 26, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

### TIME OF PREPARATION

“It happens to all of us,” I concluded that Easter Sunday morning. “God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance, and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over.”

— *Nadia Bolz-Weber, Pastrix*

### PRELUDE

“Meditation on Brother James’ Air”

Harold Darke  
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Clara Yoest

Leader: In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began,

**People: God was.**

Leader: Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

**People: God is.**

Leader: In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found its fulfillment,

**People: God will be.**

Leader: Not denying the world but delighting in it, not understanding the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

**People: God was, God is, God will be.**

### \* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #187

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

BRADBURY

### 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

Clara Yoest

Leader: Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd; I know my own, and my own know me.” In confession, we trust God to know us fully: the good and the bad, the faithful and the broken. But we also know God’s faithfulness, God’s mercy, and God’s power to redeem us and lead us into new life. Trusting in this promise, let us confess together.

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

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**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Clara Yoest

Gracious God, from before the foundation of the world, you called us by name and pledged your steadfast love. But like ornery sheep, we stray from the fold. You offer to lead us, but we prefer to lead ourselves. Christ laid down his life, yet we refuse to lay down our phones, our plans, our ego. Forgive us, O God. Call us back to the open gate of Christ's redeeming love that we may enter your Beloved Community and find restoration, reconciliation, and the glory of abiding with you forevermore. Amen.

**TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE, PRESENCE & RENEWAL**

Clara Yoest

Leader: Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:

**People: To the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others and the life of the world.**

Leader: May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

**People: Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING** (*Message translation*)

Psalm 23

David Carl

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* **HYMN #802** (*vs. 1-3*)

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

ST. COLUMBA

**SCRIPTURE READING** (*Inclusive translation*)

John 10:1-10

Rev. Sarah Robbins

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

"Sheepish"

Rev. Robbins

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

\* **HYMN #802** (*vs. 4-6*)

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

ST. COLUMBA

**RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS**

*Members:* Rebecca Araujo, David Beach, Patricia Crumrine, Ida Cummins, Tagi Cummins  
Robert "Quinn" Hull, Bob Linn, Virginia Linn, Meghan Mack, Enzo Morlacci  
Amanda Potasnik, Luisa Schorr, Gary Rabideau

Leader: Do we, as East Liberty Presbyterian Church, welcome these new members and friends and affirm our shared calling to follow Christ together?

**People: We do! We celebrate you as God's beloved. We promise to pray with you, to listen and learn with you, to cultivate the gifts within you, to journey with you in times of joy and challenge, and to join you in God's work of love and liberation. Together, we are the body of Christ!**

**BLESSING OF PITTSBURGH MARATHON RUNNERS & WALKERS PARTICIPANTS**

Lynne Chadwick, Gretchen Chapman, Molly Davison-Welling, Jim DiGiorgio, and Barb Griffin.

*In absentia:* Ally Condon, Bob and Carole Forloines, Nora and Toby Haas-Conrad, Lucy Page

David Phillips, Laura Ristau, Susan Wadsworth-Booth

**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 (ἑλληνιστικῶς) in the hymnal.*

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

**SHARING GOD'S PEACE**

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

People: Y también contigo.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Rev. Robbins

**CHURCH NEWS & OFFERING INVITATION**

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](http://www.ELPC.church)/ donate.



Rev. Robbins

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

“The 23rd Psalm”

*(dedicated to my mother)*

Bobby McFerrin

*The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need, She makes me lie down in green meadows.*

*Beside the still waters, She will lead.*

*She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs, She leads me in the path of good things,*

*And fills my heart with songs.*

*Even though I walk through a dark and dreary land, There is nothing that can shake me,*

*She has said She won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.*

*She sets a table before me in the presence of my foes,*

*She anoints my head with oil, and my cup overflows.*

*Surely, surely goodness and kindness will follow me all the days of my life,*

*And I will live in Her house, Forever, forever and ever.*

*Glory be to our Mother and Daughter, And to the Holy of Holies.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen.*

\* **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)*

David Carl

**Shepherding God, you lead us, guard us, prepare us and preserve us. We have responded by giving back to you what has come from your hand. Bless these gifts, and multiply them in the life of your church, so that the gates of salvation may be flung wide, and all your Beloved Community may know the love and the peace that is ours in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

\* **RECESSIONAL HYMN #541**

“God Be with You 'Till We Meet Again”

RANDOLPH

\* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Robbins

**POSTLUDE**

“Tuba Tune”

C.S. Lang



**ELPC will not have worship services next Sunday, May 3  
due to the route of the Pittsburgh Marathon.**

Notes regarding the music sung in today's service are available on our website —

<http://tiny.cc/elpcworshipnotes>

You can also scan this QR code to be directed to that info on our website.



Our full worship service is being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at [www.ELPC.church](http://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)  
Liturgists: Sara Hackett (she/her)  
David Carl  
Clara Yoest  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)  
*Director of Music and Arts*  
ELPC Chancel Choir  
Acolyte: Lena Fielder  
Beadle: Jo Ellen Aleshire  
Crucifer: Linda Davis  
Sound: Tim Benedict  
Wayne Gaines

#### ◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Max Stein, son of Erich Stein.

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](http://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* on Sunday, June 14 after the 10 am worship service 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](http://www.ELPC.church).

## Sunday, 26 April 2026 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is the fourth 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>

### Prelude

Composer and organist Harold Darke (1888-1976) was born in London and died in Cambridge. One of his best-known compositions is a choral setting of Christina Rossetti's *In the Bleak Midwinter*. The hymn tune BROTHER JAMES' AIR was composed by Scottish composer James Leith Macbeth Bain (1840-1925) in 1915. It is most often sung to a paraphrase of Psalm 23 from the *Edinburgh Psalter*, 1650.

### Processional Hymn

William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868) wrote this tune to accompany the text *Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us*. Bradbury was also the composer of three other hymns in *Glory to God*: #188 – *Jesus Loves Me*, #353 – *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*, and #442 – *Just as I Am, without One Plea*.

### Hymn of Response/Sermon Hymn

The text of the hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* was written by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) in 1868. Baker's friend John Ellerton reported that Baker's dying words were from his famous hymn:

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me,  
And on His shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

The text is set to an ancient Irish melody and the hymn tune is named after an Irish saint, ST. COLUMBA, who is credited with having had a main role in the conversion of Scotland to Christianity in the 6th century.

### Offertory Anthem

Bobby McFerrin's (b. 1950) vocal technique has been rightly described as virtuosic. Known for his popular hits such as *Don't Worry, Be Happy*, he has also garnered acclaim as a conductor and composer. He recorded his setting of *The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm* in 1990, singing all four of the vocal lines himself. Written in the style of an Anglican Chant, he dedicated it to his mother, modifying the text to use feminine pronouns.

### Postlude

Craig Seller Lang (1891-1971) was born in New Zealand and made his career in England as an organist, teacher, and composer.

## 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 for any prayer requests and to answer any questions.

### 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.

### Social Hour

The Neighbors Committee is hosting our social hour after today's 11 am worship 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

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

### Are you ready to Vote?

The Voting Group under the Justice Committee has information and tools for you. See us in the Highland entrance today and May 10 before and after the 11 am service. Did you remember to apply for a mail in ballot? Do you need to change your registration (eg address)? We can help.

There will be a forum on Friday, May 1 from 6:30-7:30 pm with democratic candidates for PA legislative district 24 (ELPC area) in Wilkinsburg. See us for a flyer & information on ballot drop and over the counter voting.

### Join the Justice Committee

The Justice Committee invites you to an in-person meeting after the 11 am service in Room 213 today. 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](mailto:carolchonoska@gmail.com); 724.272.9722).

**NO WORSHIP SERVICES next Sunday, May 3  
due to the route of the Pittsburgh Marathon.**

### Hope Academy Recital

Hope Academy students will present their recital *Strings & Things* today at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

Hip Hop Orchestra students will have their recital in the Music Room on Saturday, May 2 at 11 am.

All are welcome to attend! Duolingo is sponsoring the end-of-year recitals.



### Listening for God's Heartbeat – 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>

### 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).

### Annual Spring Planting Day is May 9th

A group is gathering to refresh the Highland Avenue entrance on Saturday, May 9th from 9am to noon and ALL are welcome! Just bring your energy, curiosity, and a pair of work gloves to the Highland driveway around 9am. Hand tools, gloves, and donuts provided. If you're interested or have questions, please call/text Don Breitbarth @ 412.225.7649.

### Calling All Graduates

Are you graduating from high school, college, trade school, graduate school, etc. this spring? We would like to celebrate these achievements together! Submit your name, degree, and school attended to Jen King (JenK@coh.net)



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 Wilson, Greg C, Jackie W, Jimmy, Kate's friend Jody, Kathy, Kevin H, Matthew, Nancy W, Shayzen, and Ray Anthony.

Condolences to **Jeff Fritz** on his father's passing.  
Condolences to **Tim Engelhardt** on his uncle's passing

**Committee Meeting This Week**

**Justice** ..... Today @ 12:00 pm  
For info to join a meeting, contact Jen King ([jenK@coh.net](mailto:jenK@coh.net)).

**PW Bible Study – May 4 and 12**

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Monday, May 4 from 7-8:30 pm (online only), and on Tuesday, May 12 from 10 am-Noon (in-person only) 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](mailto:PW.ELPC@gmail.com) for more info and the Zoom link.

**Church Tour – May 10**

Nate Stephens will lead a tour of the Sanctuary and Chapel on Sunday, May 10 after the 11 am worship service. Please gather in the Highland Lobby to participate.

**LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering – May 10**

All are invited to today's monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry on Sunday, May 10 at 12:30 pm for conversation and lunch. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks welcome! Please contact Wil Forrest, LGBTQIA+ Ministry Coordinator, to attend ([Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net); 412.441.3800 x218).

**Nathaniel Gumbs' Concert Rescheduled – May 31**

Our Cathedral Concerts series and the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh will present organist Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, accompanied by soprano Olanna Miller, in concert on Sunday, May 31 at 3 pm in the Sanctuary. ELPC members and friends should contact Dr. Ed Moore for complimentary tickets ([EdM@coh.net](mailto:EdM@coh.net)).



**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 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](http://ELPC.church).

In our

**COMMUNITY**



**Donate to OHM's Run for a Reason – Due May 15**

Open Hand Ministries is grateful for all the runners and walkers who registered to help them raise money through the *Run for a Reason* program of the Pittsburgh Marathon.

We invite you to join them in supporting justice, community and homeownership by becoming a sponsor for OHM or individually.

Scan this QR code to find all the runners and walkers for Open Hand Ministries. Marathon weekend is May 2-3. All donations need to be received by May 15. Thank you!



Please contact Laura Ristau, Marathon Coordinator for OHM, for info ([marathon@openhandpittsburgh.org](mailto:marathon@openhandpittsburgh.org)).

**Save the Date for Pittsburgh Pride – June 7**

ELPC members and friends are invited to participate in Pittsburgh Pride on June 7! Info is available at <https://pittsburghpride.com>. Details about how you can participate with ELPC will be available soon! Contact Wil Forrest ([Wil@coh.net](mailto:Wil@coh.net)).



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** **May 10**

*There are no Sunday school classes next Sunday, May 3.*

*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**

*Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus* by Dr. Elaine Pagels. 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