



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)

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

We do not have to search for God, we only have to change the direction in which we are looking. It is for God to search for us.

— Simone Weil

PRELUDE

“I Love to Tell the Story”
“O Waly Waly”

arr. Emma Lou Diemer
arr. Emma Lou Diemer
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Paul Seif

Leader: People of God, let us draw near into the presence of the One who is not far from any of us.
People: In God we live. In God we move. In God we have our being.
Leader: From your week, from your wandering, from your wondering, draw near.
People: We come to seek the God who has been seeking us.
Leader: Come and lean on the love that has held generation upon generation.
People: May we lean on everlasting arms.
Leader: Let us worship God together!
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN #837** “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

SHOWALTER

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

Paul Seif

Leader: Friends, the Apostle Paul journeyed through Athens and looked carefully at the altars, at the people, and at the longings they could not name. When we look carefully at our own lives, we see what we have built and what we have neglected, who we have welcomed and who we have walked past. Trusting that God is not far from any one of us, let us confess the truth of who we are and how we have lived.

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

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Paul Seif

Leader: Holy One, you journeyed through the streets of Athens through Paul's careful eyes, and you move through our streets still, looking carefully at what we have built.

People: We confess that we have not looked as carefully as you do.

Leader: We have hurried past the wonder. We have hurried past the wound.

People: We have hurried past the neighbor whose name we never learned.

Leader: We have called common what you have called sacred.

People: We have called strange what you have called kin.

Leader: We have called impossible what you have already begun.

People: Forgive us, gracious God. Make us a people who recognize the world you so love and every face within it.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Paul Seif

Leader: People of God, good news is here.

People: We are forgiven. Amen.

* **HYMN OF RESPONSE #739**

“O for a Closer Walk with God”

CAITHNESS

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 17:17-21

Acts 17:22-30, 32-33

Paul Seif

Rev. BJ Woodworth

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

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“What a Wonderful World”

George David Weiss and Bob Thiele
Louis Armstrong

SERMON

“What You Never Thought Possible”

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

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 and Rev. Woodworth

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

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

arr. Tom Trenney
text: Glory to God #7

* **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!

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

— SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (SURSUM CORDA)

Rev. Dr. Diaz and Rev. Woodworth

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*)

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, power, and glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

At ELPC, we practice an open communion table. You need not be a member of this church or any church to participate. No matter what you believe or doubt, you are welcome.

As the ushers direct you forward, please come by the center aisle to the communion servers, cup your hands one on top of the other to receive the bread, and then pick up a cup of grape juice. After partaking of the elements, you may place your empty cup in the baskets as you return to your seat by the side aisles. Those seated in the East Transept (near the Highland Entrance) will be directed by an usher to the center walkway and will join the line behind those in the back section. Those unable to come forward will be served in their seats; please raise your hand and tell the usher or flag a roaming communion server.

Communion elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice. If you need an allergy-free wafer, please visit the center communion stations.

COMMUNION HYMNS

#494

“Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts”

QUEBEC

#498

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

BEACH SPRING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (*in unison*)

Rev. Woodworth

Loving God, we give thanks for this communal feast. At this table, we taste what has always been true: that you are with us, that you are for us, that you are near. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #317

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

MCKEE

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Sing Out Earth and Skies”

Mary Beth Bennett
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:	Rev. BJ Woodworth (he/him) Sara Hackett (she/her) Paul Seif
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him) <i>Director of Music and Arts</i> ELPC Chancel Choir
Soloists:	Adrianna Cleveland David Jennings-Smith
Acolytes:	Darrah and Raylan Seidel
Beadles:	Liz Hopkins and Jason Van Ness
Crucifer:	Tim Engelhardt
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/Sunday.

◆ 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. (*concludes May 18 until Sept 14*)

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*)

Journey Dance

Enjoy an evening of healthy, energizing, funky and divine dancing on the 3rd Friday of every month

3rd Friday of month, 7 to 8:30 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, 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.

Sunday, 10 May 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Today is the sixth 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

Distinguished American composer Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024) graduated from the Yale and Eastman Schools of Music. Upon retirement she was named professor emeritus of the University of California, Santa Barbara. *I Love to Tell the Story* is #462 in *Glory to God* and *O Waly Waly* is found three times at #202, 302, and 847.

Processional Hymn

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms was published in 1887 with music by Anthony J. Showalter (1858-1924) and lyrics by Showalter and Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929). Born in Cherry Grove, West Virginia, Showalter formed the Showalter Music Company in 1884 in Dalton, Georgia, where he was also elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Dalton. Hoffman was a composer of over 2,000 hymns and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1873 after attending Union Seminary in New Berlin, Pennsylvania.

Special Music

What a Wonderful World was first recorded by Louis Armstrong on August 16, 1967 and topped the pop charts in the United Kingdom in 1968. It did not perform as well in the United States because the president of ABC records did not like the song! The song did eventually gain recognition in this country and, after it was featured in the film *Good Morning, Vietnam* in 1988, it reached number 32 on the *Billboard Hot 100* chart. In 2021, it was ranked at number 171 on Rolling Stone's *Top 500 Best Songs of All Time*.

Offertory Anthem

The text of *Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth* is based on the writings of Julian of Norwich (c. 1342 – c. 1413). Her book of devotions, *Revelations of Divine Love*, was published in 1395 and is the first published book in the English language to be written by a woman.

Tom Trenney (b. 1977) has served as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, since 2009.

Recessional Hymn

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.

Postlude

Dr. Mary Beth Bennett (b. 1954) is Organist/Choirmaster of Seventh Street Christian Church in Richmond, Virginia and a member of the music faculty at the University of Richmond. She is the composer of *Carol Fantasia*, which was commissioned for *Christmas in East Liberty* and has been featured on that concert several times. A new duet for organ and piano by Dr. Bennett will be premiered next Sunday, May 17, at 3 PM by The Arsenal Duo (Dr. Ed Moore and Dr. Nathan Careterette) here in the ELPC sanctuary.

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.

Social Hour

The Membership & Outreach Committee is sponsoring a *Social Hour* today after 11 am worship in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms. Please join them for light refreshments. On May 24, the LGBTQIA+ Ministry will host the Social Hour after worship.

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.

Church Tour

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

LGBTQIA+ Ministry Spiritual Gathering

All are invited to today's monthly spiritual gathering of the LGBTQIA+ Ministry 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; 412.441.3800 x218).

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 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. You can use pa.gov/vote.

Purchase Cafe Justo Coffee

Please see Ryan Booher in the Highland Ave corridor following the 11 am service if you would like to purchase bags of Café Justo for \$15/pound. Please note this is not a fund raiser for ELPC. We sell coffee as a mission opportunity to create relationships across borders, while also addressing the root causes of migration by buying directly from the Cafe Justo grower-owned cooperative.



Contemplative Prayer on Mondays – Concludes May 18

Rev. BJ Woodworth leads a time on Zoom of 30 minutes of communal silence and guided meditation on scripture on Mondays from 7:30 to 8 am. Zoom info is: Meeting ID: 959 8065 3992; Passcode: bestill. Please note this prayer group will take their summer break after Monday, May 18, and will resume on Monday, Sept 14.

PW Bible Study – May 12

Presbyterian Women's bible study will meet on Tuesday, May 12 from 10 am-Noon (in-person only) in the Fellowship Room, 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.

Listening for God's Heartbeat – May 13 and 20

Attend the weekly classes on Wednesdays, May 13 and 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*. Sign up for the weekly classes at: tinyurl.com/gods-heartbeat-classes.

FINAL CATHEDRAL CONCERTS OF THE SEASON!

THE ARSENAL DUO RETURNS TO ELPC

Organist Dr. Ed Moore

Pianist Dr. Nathan Carterette

Sunday, MAY 17 at 3 pm in ELPC Sanctuary



Featuring the premiere of a new organ/piano duet by Mary Beth Bennett and Gershwin's beloved *Rhapsody in Blue*.

NATHANIEL GUMBS, ORGANIST

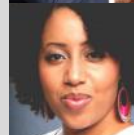
co-sponsored with the *Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh*

Sunday, MAY 31 at 3 pm in ELPC Sanctuary

(rescheduled from 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.



ELPC members and friends should contact Dr. Ed Moore for complimentary tickets (EdM@coh.net).



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

Christopher S, Collen I, Doris' cousin Jane, Greg C, Jackie W, Jeff, Kathy, Nan J and Katie P, Nancy W, Shayzen, Steve M's brother Bill, Ray Anthony, Bob Boucher and his daughter Amber, Carol and JoAnn Chonoska's friend Jimmy, Chris Markwell, and Fran Wilson.

Condolences to Andrea DeVries on her mother's passing. A memorial service will be at ELPC on Sat, May 23 at Noon.

Committee Meeting This Week

Worship, Music & Arts..... Tuesday, May 12 @ 7:30 pm
Mission..... Thursday, May 14 @ 6:00 pm

Hope Academy Recitals – May 14 and 15

Hope Academy students will present their recital *Sing & Dance* + at 6 pm in the Social Hall on Thursday, May 14.

Voice and piano students will have their recital in the Music Room on Friday, May 15 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend! Duolingo is sponsoring the recitals.

Free Dinners at the Chapel Market – May 15

Come enjoy a hot, home-cooked meal at the Chapel Market and meet new friends in our community who may feel unwelcome and are food insecure. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 pm on these Fridays in the upcoming months: May 15, June 12, July 17 and Aug 21.

Tree Care and Equity in Pittsburgh – May 30

On Saturday, May 30 from 9 am-Noon, join the Environmental Team of the Justice Committee and our partner Tree Pittsburgh for weeding, mulching and watering at Garland Park in East Liberty (Broad St at N St Clair). Families are welcome. Registration is required for adults at www.mobilize.us/treepittsburgh/event/920776/, or by scanning this QR code. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, and will sign up at the park. Contact Sara Hackett, who is coordinating youth helpers (SaraH@coh.net). The park is 4 blocks from ELPC. Transportation is available from ELPC, sign up requested by contacting Nancy Heastings (n.heastings@comcast.net).



Shaping Our Future Gathering #2 – May 17

Something holy happens when more than 80 people stay after worship to talk honestly about how God led us to this faith community. That is what we witnessed at our first gathering in April, where a room full of ELPC members and friends began our collective discernment work for the future.

On Sunday, May 17 from 12:15—1:45 pm in the Social Hall, we will dive into the next layer of the conversation, building on what we heard from one another in April. Lunch will be provided, childcare is available, and Zoom is an option. Please register online: <http://tiny.cc/shaping-our-future>

Throughout the summer, our ELPC Strategic Visioning Team will be working with Michelle Snyder from the Center for Healthy Churches to facilitate online listening sessions, in-person focus groups, and discussions with community partners.

Young Adult Happy Hour – May 18

Young Adult Happy Hour (for adults post-high school through their 20s and 30s) continues on Monday, May 18 at Susan Wadsworth-Booth and Doug Booth's home in Wilkinsburg. Happening on the 3rd Monday of every month from 6-7:30 pm, join us for appetizers and drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic). RSVP online for location details: <https://invite.social/jylgs8wxpq2sqlle>. *Our Young Adult Ministry welcomes all.*

Church Tower Tour – May 31

Steve Evrard and Nate Stephens will guide a tour of the Tower on Sunday, May 31. Please pre-register at tiny.cc/towertour as this tour is limited to 20 participants. Participants must wear closed-toe shoes to join this tour. Pre-registered participants should gather in the Highland Lobby after the 11 am worship service for the tour.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES **May 17**

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

Beautiful Answer to Christian Nationalism by James Talaricoby. Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

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



PENTECOST: CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH
Join us on Pentecost Sunday, May 24, as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and birth of the church!

- Wear festive red clothing to worship
- Join us for lunch and some family friendly and fun service projects.

RSVP to SaraH@coh.net