



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)

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 24, 2026 • 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

TIME OF PREPARATION

“The Holy Spirit is life-giving life, all-moving, the root of all being, purifier of all impurity, absolver of all faults, balm of all wounds, radiant life, worthy of all praise, awakener and reawakener of all that is.”

— Hildegard of Bingen

PRELUDE

“Come Down, O Love Divine (Down Ampney)”

arr. Chester L. Alwes
based on Glory to God #282
Jim Weisheit

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

CALL TO WORSHIP

Trish and Mabel Buben

Leader: Last Sunday, we recalled how the disciples stood gazing into the sky, longing for Jesus again.
People: **Today, we gather where they gathered in an upper room, waiting for what was promised.**
Leader: We were told: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”
People: **Today, we feel the wind beginning to rise.**
Leader: The Spirit who refuses to be restricted is moving among us in tongues, in new ways.
People: **Come, Holy Spirit. Pour yourself out on all flesh. Call each of us by our own true name.**
Leader: People of God, let us worship the One who came as wind and flame.
People: **May She move through us and transform us again. Alleluia!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #280

“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”

EBENEZER

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

Trish and Mabel Buben

Leader: On Pentecost, the Spirit came with fire and wind, refusing every cage the world had built for her. She poured herself out on all flesh and called each person by their own true tongue. Yet too often we have settled for less than she offers — confining her to old names, and ourselves to old stories. Before God today, we confess our smallness of imagination, our forgetfulness of who we truly are, and our reluctance to let the Spirit make us free. Let us pray...

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

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Trish and Mabel Buben

Spirit of the Living God, you refuse to be confined, but we have tried to limit you to one name, one image, one familiar way. You pour yourself out on all flesh, but we have drawn lines around whose flesh counts. Forgive us, O God. Sweep through our lives with holy wind, and call us again by our truest names. May we live as followers of Jesus, filled with your Spirit, and unafraid. Amen.

TIME OF SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Trish and Mabel Buben

Leader: Friends, the Spirit of God and liberation is here.

People: **In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven. Amen.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE #289 (verse 4)

MUNICH

“On Pentecost They Gathered”

READING

Trish and Mabel Buben

from *The Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Dr. Wil Gafney

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost marks the dawn of the Church, but it is not the dawn of the Holy Spirit; she births creation, hovering over her newly hatched brood in Genesis and breathes through the scriptures... In Isaiah 44, she is God's promise for coming generations. The God of wind and flame in Psalm 104 is the same God, the same Spirit who is the wind and breath of the Pentecostal fire.

Leader: May God bless the truth in these words.

People: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:1-8, 11b-21 (*Inclusive Bible*)

Rev. Sarah Robbins

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

* **HYMN #285**

“Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song”

BRIDEGROOM

SERMON

“Older Than You Think”

Rev. Dr. Diaz

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION TO BE RENEWED

Rev. Dr. Diaz

On that first Pentecost, the Spirit refused to be confined. God poured Godself out on all flesh and called each person by their own true tongue. Today, we are offered the same gift. What old name, story, fear, or view of self no longer fits – that the Spirit is ready to release? What truer self, deeper liberation, or holy call is the Spirit longing to pour into you?

After filling out your card, pass it to the center aisle. Volunteers will carry them forward, and we will offer them into the Spirit's fire, trusting her to do what only Spirit can do.

HYMN #288 (sung continuously)

“Spirit of the Living God”

LIVING GOD

PRAYERS OF RENEWAL

Rev. Dr. Diaz

SPECIAL MUSIC (lyrics on insert)

“Sacred Fire”

Sarah Class and Grahame Davies

* *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.

Rev. Dr. Diaz

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

JoAnn Chonoska, Jim Eng, Darby McCarty

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/donate.

Rev. Dr. Diaz, Rev. Robbins



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

arr. William L. Dawson
based on Glory to God #66

* **DOXOLOGY AT THE PRESENTATION #609**

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!

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

Spirit of Life, by your grace, our spirits are renewed and refreshed. May these gifts we offer and every breath we breathe proclaim your justice, truth, and glory. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

Rev. Robbins

* **RECESSIONAL HYMN** (*see insert*)

“We Are the Church Alive”

CHURCH ALIVE

* **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dr. Diaz

POSTLUDE

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

Adolphus Hailstork



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)
Sara Hackett (she/her)
Trish and Mabel Buben
JoAnn Chonoska
Jim Eng
Darby McCarty
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music and Arts
ELPC Chancel Choir
Gail Mosites, *Soloist*
Brass Roots: David Gardner, *Trumpet*
Matthew McCormack, *Trumpet*
Miranda Johnson, *Horn*
Olivia Nixon, *Trombone*
John Caughman, *Tuba*
Abby Langhorst, *Timpani*
Beadle: Mario Seneca
Crucifer: Jan Herzer
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Viginia E. Evans and Elizabeth M. Huber.

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.** 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 tomorrow 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*)

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, 24 May 2026 – Day of Pentecost

The Day of Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks after Easter Sunday. On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)

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

Special Music

Sacred Fire was composed by English composer Sarah Class with lyrics by Welsh poet Grahame Davies. It was commissioned for the coronation of King Charles III on 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey in London. It was performed by South African soprano Pretty Yende during the pre-ceremony music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqgevcYvWGE>

Offertory Anthem

William L. Dawson's (1899-1990) arrangements of African-American spirituals have become staples of the choral literature in the United States and around the world. Many of these arrangements were prepared while he was on the faculty of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Recessional Hymn (see insert)

We Are the Church Alive was written by Jack Hoggatt and David Pelletier in 1980 for use in the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). The hymn served as the basis for an arrangement by Mike Tomaro for choir, piano, sax, and congregation that was commissioned for Pastor Michael's installation at ELPC on May 18, 2025.

Postlude

Contemporary African-American composer Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941) is Professor of Music and Composer in Residence at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Hailstork's compositions have been described "as a crossover hybrid of African-American and European-American music." *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* fits this description, incorporating the syncopated rhythms of the spiritual amidst more traditional harmonies and dissonant chords. Speaking on his use of dissonance in his music, Hailstork said that he uses it to "create tension and suspend resolution."

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 LGBTQIA+ Ministry is sponsoring a *Social Hour* today after 11 am worship in the Fellowship Room. Please join them for light refreshments, make a PRIDE poster, get info on how to participate in Pittsburgh Pride, and buy an ELPC tie dyed shirt for \$15.

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.



Organist Nathaniel Gumbs in Concert – May 31

Co-sponsored with the Organ Artists Series of Pittsburgh, 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, May 31 at 3 pm.

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



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, 4 blocks from ELPC). 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 at SaraH@coh.net). Transportation from ELPC is available by signing up with Nancy (n.heastings@comcast.net).

Youth Sunday – May 31

Youth Sunday will be celebrated during 11 am worship on Sunday, May 31. Youth who want to help plan or lead worship should reach out to Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net). Graduating high school seniors are invited to give a senior message and all youth in 7th-12th grade are encouraged to participate.

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.

Sing the Duruflé Requiem with the Chancel Choir – Rehearsal on June 4

The ELPC Chancel Choir, Dr. Ed Moore, and organist Jon Tyillian will be presenting the *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé on Friday, Nov 6. An introductory read-through rehearsal will be Thursday, June 4 at 7 pm. If you are interested in singing with the choir for this event, please contact Dr. Ed Moore (EdM@coh.net) for more info about the rehearsal schedule and other details.

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.

Free Dinners at the Chapel Market – June 12

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: June 12, July 17 and Aug 21.





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.

Committee Meetings This Week

The church staff will be off, and the building closed, tomorrow in observance of Memorial Day.

Deacons' Health Ministry Today @ 12:30 pm
Deacons Tuesday, May 26 @ 7:00 pm
Justice Wednesday, May 27 @ 5:30 pm
Neighbors..... Wednesday, May 27 @ 6:00 pm
Peace..... Thursday, May 28 @ 5:30 pm
M&O..... Thursday, May 28 @ 6:00 pm

Earth, Our Original Monastery at Taizé – Wednesdays

For most of June and July at Taizé — on Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Chapel — we will be utilizing the visual mediations of the Work of the People and the poetic blessings of Christine Valters Painter to shape and form our time of prayerful song and quiet meditation.

As Christine herself says, “our work as spiritual seekers and contemplative is to see all of creation as woven together in holiness, and to live this truth. In this loving act, we begin to knit together what has been torn; we gather all that has been scattered. Contemplative practices are a way to bring healing presence to the world.” Together we will pray, sing, notice, contemplate and share how we are connecting with earth as our original nourishment and revelation of God as Cathedral, Scripture, Saints, Spiritual Director, Icon, Sacrament, and Liturgy. Each week will also offer reflections, practices and prayers for the coming week. *We hope you will join us as you are able.*

Pittsburgh Pride Choir Concert: UNSTOPPABLE! – June 6

On Saturday, June 6 at 7:30 pm, Pittsburgh Pride Choir will present: UNSTOPPABLE! at Point Park University's Playhouse. Western PA's LGBTQIA+ and allies choir is 140 voices strong. In person and livestream tickets are available at pittsburghpridechoir.org.



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 are available in the Highland Lobby. Contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net).

An Opportunity to Serve Communion

Worship Music & the Arts (WMA) is looking to widen our team of Communion servers. If you, as a member of ELPC, would like to join the team of servers, please identify your interest by emailing info@coh.net. After an orientation session, you would be included on the team and invited to serve at occasional communion services.

• UPCOMING CHURCH TOURS •

Sunday, June 7

Exterior tour led by Penn Hackney

Sunday, June 14

Sanctuary and Chapel tour led by JoEllen Aleshire

Sunday, June 28

Tower tour led by Steve Evrard and Penn Hackney
 Pre-register for this tour at tiny.cc/towertour



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES **May 31**

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

“One-State Solution for Israel/Palestine” by Jonathan Kuttub. Facilitated by Gwen Puza

Soul Food – Good Samaritan Room + Zoom

A time of looking back and looking forward on the last Sunday of church school before the summer break. Facilitated by Rev. Joe Hajdu and other class members

Please note next Sunday will be the last class until the fall.



INQUIRERS' CLASS

Sunday, June 14 after 10 am worship

Attend the next *Inquirers' Class* on Sunday, June 14 after the 10 am Sanctuary worship service in the Fellowship 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, or contact Jen King (JenK@coh.net).