



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
December 15, 2024

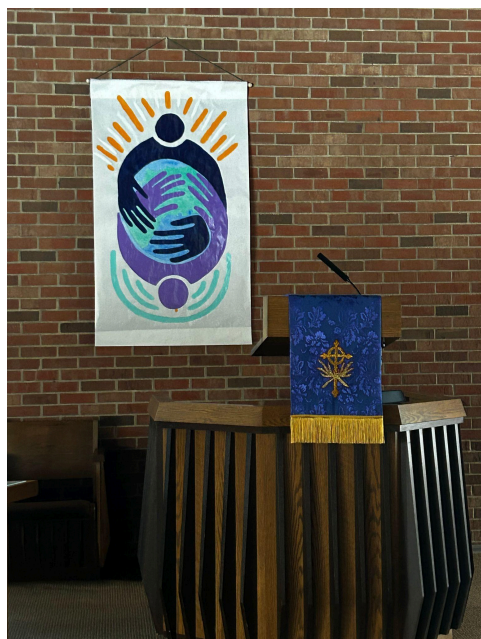


FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— DO THE GOOD THAT —
IS YOURS TO DO

WELCOME!

Whether you are a member or a visitor, worshiping with us in-person or online, you are welcome here.



Information about our church is found in the narthex or online:

eastminsterchurch.org. At the welcome table or on our website, you can sign up for our weekly emails.

Children are always welcome in worship at Eastminster. Your child can sit with you in the pew or sit in the space created for children at the front of the sanctuary.

There are welcome pads on the end of each pew. We invite you to sign in! On the welcome pads are prayer cards. If you have a prayer request you can fill that out and put it in the offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. If you only want the pastor to see it, please mark it confidential.

There are offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors, for those who wish to give. You can also give online on our website or using the QR code at the end of the bulletin.

This is a livestream worship service, and the camera and microphones are on the whole time. While the camera is most often focused on the front of the sanctuary, there is a chance that you will be captured on camera.

** Congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.
Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

*Call to Worship

One: “Teacher,” the crowd asked, “What should we do?”

ALL: If you have two shirts, give one away.

Hold onto hope.

Live like we belong to one another.

Speak the truth.

Look for God.

Do the good that is yours to do.

One: It’s all that easy, and it’s all that hard.

ALL: Let us worship our present and active God.

*Hymn #106 Prepare the Way, O Zion

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Sung Response Candles Glowing, Promise Showing (tune: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

Candles glowing, promise showing, joy that fills our very soul.

Grace abounding, hymns resounding, Christ restores and makes us whole.

Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming, justice streaming, Christ redeeming

– Christ restores and makes us whole! Christ restores and makes us whole!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Liberating God,

There are days when the world can feel like it's crumbling.

There are days when I doubt that I can make a difference.

I ask myself,

What could these two hands do?

What could this one voice say?

Shake me free of my own paralysis and self-doubt.

Remind me that I am not called to fix everything.

I am simply called to do the good that is mine to do.

With hope in my heart and a fire in my bones, I pray.

Amen.

Silent Confession

Hymn #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verse 1)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words of Forgiveness

***Passing of the Peace** (*Share the peace of Christ with the people around you.*)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Isaiah 58:9b-12

Old Testament, p. 647

Scripture Reading Luke 3:7-16

New Testament, p. 56

Sermon Do the Good That is Yours to Do

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith

John the Baptist's followers once asked him, "What shall we do?"
Church, knowing the state of the world, what is your answer?

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we say:

Do not be discouraged by the weight of the world.

Instead, hold fast to hope.

Roll up your sleeves.

Feed the hungry.

Tend the garden.

If you have two coats, give one away.

Do the good that is yours to do.

In doing so, you will see God.

For this we believe: small acts of love can make a difference.

Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father 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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn Do the Good That's Yours to Do

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music from the *Piae Cantiones*, 1582



Peo - ple came from all a - round just to see the tea - cher
"Tell me, John, what should I do as a tax col - lec - tor?"
Some are called to of - fer care, some to ex - hor - ta - tion



Liv - ing in the wil - der - ness, speak - ing to the see - kers
"Take on - ly what's yours to take; don't a - buse your debt - ors"
Some to hos - pi - tal - i - ty, some to ed - u - ca - tion



He had no pre - ten - tious - ness; he would tell you blunt - ly
Sol - diers, shepherds, fish - er - men asked him the same ques - tion
All our gifts col - lec - tive - ly work to bring sal - va - tion



So they sought out his ad - vice on how to live just - ly
John re - spond - ed all the same, "Share all your pos - ses - sions"
Do the good that's yours to do with de - ter - min - a - tion

*Charge & Benediction

*Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Jim Engelkes

Advent Candle Lighters: Irv Nichols and Bob Nees

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, D.M.A.

Worship Credits: The liturgy and art is by A Sanctified Art; Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Ushers

Head Usher: Sue Kalvonjian

Greeter

Matt Nixon

Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Ted Hagan in memory of Don Irwin, Phyllis Irwin's husband.

Video Producer

Robin Bell and Linda Hardenbergh

Church Leadership and Staff

Rev. Kristin Stroble

Pastor

Rev. Shirley Paxton

Parish Advisor

Neil Myer

Director of Christian Education

Bridgette Redman

Office Administrator

Tamar Mikeladze

Pianist

This Week at Eastminster: *December 15-22*

SUNDAY, 12/15

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, 12/16

Trivia at Royal Scot 7:00 p.m.

Neil at UKirk Conference

TUESDAY, 12/17

Piano Recital 7:00 p.m.

Faith Formation Meeting	7:30 p.m.
<i>Neil at UKirk Conference</i>	
WEDNESDAY, 12/18	
Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
Taize Service	7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, 12/19	
Young Adults	7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, 12/21	
Community Christmas Fest	9:30 a.m.
SUNDAY, 12/122	
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal	11:00 a.m.

Eastminster Choir

The Eastminster choir will be singing on Christmas Eve! Rehearsals will be today and December 22 after worship. All are welcome to participate. For more information contact Sulin Campbell.

Taize Worship Service

On Wednesday, December 18th at 7pm we will be having a Taize Service at the church. This is a quiet, meditative service with song and scripture. The labyrinth will also be out. If you are feeling weary or if you just need space for quiet and reflection, this service is for you. In the midst of the noise and the busyness of the season we need space just to be and to reconnect with our God. Join us for candles, prayers, quiet, scripture and music. All are invited to join us.

Welcome Kits

Help us welcome refugees to the Greater Lansing area. There are still items needed for this month's kits. You can pick up a card in the Green Room.

Community Christmas Fest

All are invited to our Community Christmas Fest on Saturday morning, December 21, from 9:30am-11:30am. We need opportunities to practice joy in this season, and hopefully this will be a time to do just that. There will be stations for caroling around the piano (at 9:45 and 10:30), coloring, cookie decorating, crafts, card playing, games and cocoa. If you'd like to volunteer to facilitate one of these stations, please let Neil Myer know. Invite a friend as we celebrate the season!

Christmas Eve

Our Christmas Eve Service of candlelight and communion will be on Tuesday, December 24th at 5pm.



Poinsettias are coming soon to beautify our Sanctuary for the Christmas season! Would you like to make a dedication? A list of memorials/honoraria will be in the bulletin on December 22, 24 and 29.

Forms can be found online [here](#) or in the Narthex. Dedications are \$20 each and can be paid by check or online [here](#) with a note that it is for poinsettias. Please also state who the honorarium or memorial is to.

Please submit your order by **Wednesday, December 18**. Thank you!



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



Scan the QR code with your phone to donate online to Eastminster Presbyterian Church and its ongoing ministries.

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing