



# Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day  
December 22, 2024**

**WORDS**  
FOR THE **BEGINNING**  
— HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK —

The word 'WORDS' is rendered in a stylized, geometric font. Each letter is composed of different shapes and colors, including shades of blue and purple. The 'W' is a triangle, the 'O' is a circle with a star inside, the 'R' is a square, the 'D' is a circle, and the 'S' is a circle. Below the word is the phrase 'FOR THE BEGINNING' in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by the quote '— HOPE IS WORTH THE RISK —' in a smaller, lighter font.

# 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](http://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 22, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*And also with you.*

### \*Call to Worship

One: In this weary world,

**ALL:** *we sing of joy.*

One: In this fragile world,

**ALL:** *we lift each other up.*

One: In this beautiful world,

**ALL:** *we look for God.*

One: In this tender world,

**ALL:** *we hold onto hope.*

One: This is the invitation of faith.

So in this time of worship,

may we sing, lift up, look for, and hold onto our with-us God.

**ALL:** *With hope in our hearts, amen!*

### \*Hymn #110 Love Has Come

### Candle Lighting Liturgy

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

*Candles glowing, promise showing, love that makes the world anew.*

*Shines in glory, tells the story – Christ's own love will see us through.*

*With the outcast and unwelcome, Christ is steadfast, brings us all home.*

*Christ's own love will see us through!*

*Christ's own love will see us through!*

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

*Gracious God,*

*You paint pictures of what could be,  
but we declare those visions impossible.*

*You speak of the lion lying down with the lamb,  
but we spout skepticism and uncertainty.*

*You dream of a more just day,  
but we poke holes in the plan, unable to fathom that horizon.*

*Forgive us for losing sight of hope.*

*Forgive us for assuming that what we see is all there is.*

*Open up our hearts to see the world as you see it.*

*Open up our hearts to risk hope, to dream dreams,  
and to not be afraid of either.*

*With gratitude we 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** Luke 1:46-55

New Testament, pp. 53-54

Sermon Hope Is Worth the Risk

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Time of Reflection

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*We believe in a God who gives us reason to hope,  
a God who fills our nights with stars,  
who follows winter with spring,  
who dwells with and among us.*

*We believe that this God has dreams for creation,  
dreams of justice like a mighty stream  
and swords that will be beaten into plowshares.*

*Therefore, we push cynicism aside.*

*We risk vulnerability.*

*We hold onto hope,*

*and we declare:*

*“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”*

**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 #100** Canticle of the Turning

**\*Charge & Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

**Participants in today’s service:**

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Maddy Trimby

Advent Candle Lighters: Estelle McGroarty and Barb Lowes

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.

**Usher**

Head Usher: Estelle McGroarty

**Greeter**

Sacha Roennecke

**Video Producer**

Susan Smalley

**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 22-29*

**SUNDAY, 12/22**

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Choir Rehearsal 11:00 a.m.

**MONDAY, 12/23**

Trivia at Royal Scot 7:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, 12/24**

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, 12/25 Merry Christmas!**

Office closed

**THURSDAY, 12/26**

Office Closed

**SUNDAY, 12/29**

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship

11:00 a.m.

### **Eastminster Choir**

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

### **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.

### **Christmas Eve**

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

### **Holiday Church Office Hours**

The Church Office will be closed December 25, December 26, December 31, and January 1st. The office will be open on December 30th.

### **Advent House**

Our next Advent House meal is January 11th. The sign-up sheet and pans are in the narthex.

# *Poinsettia Dedications*



<b>Given By</b>	<b>In Memory Of</b>
Virginia Allen	Bruce Allen
Bruce Augenstein	Sue Augenstein
Barb Dalzell	John Dalzell
Rebecca Dean	Phil Dean
Tom and Linda Hardenbergh	Our parents, Clark and Ellen Clayton and Beki
Barbara Lowes	Ross Lowes
Robert Nees	Mary K. Hodges-Nees
Irv Nichols	
Shirley Paxton	Bill Paxton
Brenda Ramsby	My parents, Bill and Joyce Travis





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.**

**1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823**

**Phone: 517-337-0893**

**[www.eastminsterchurch.org](http://www.eastminsterchurch.org)**

**[www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing](http://www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing)**