



# Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day  
December 8, 2024**

**WORDS**  
FOR THE **BEGINNING**  
— WE CAN'T GO ALONE —

# 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 8, 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 a world that is lonely,

**ALL:** *we will save a seat for you.*

One: In a world that is anxious,

**ALL:** *we will light candles against the gloom.*

One: In a world that is weary,

**ALL:** *we will sing songs of joy and truth.*

One: I am not alone.

**ALL:** *We are not alone.*

One: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

**ALL:** *Light the candles! Sing with joy!*

*We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.*

**\*Hymn #314** Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

**Candle Lighting Liturgy**

**Sung Response** Candles Glowing, Promise Showing

(tune: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

*Candles glowing, promise showing, holy peace so still and bright.*

*New tomorrow, free from sorrow – living in Christ's holy light.*

*Shunning violence, loving neighbor, joy of silence, trust our savior –*

*Living in Christ's holy light! Living in Christ's holy light!*

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house,  
to kindle my own faith.

I have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if I am fine on my own.  
But the days are long and I am forgetful.

I need your help. Can you remind me?

*We will remind you of this everlasting truth:*

*You are not alone.*

*Where you go, God goes.*

*You are held in grace.*

*Trust in this good news.*

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

*Now we need your help.*

*We, too, have tried to make our own way.*

*We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses,  
to kindle our own faiths.*

*We have said a thousand times, “turn back,” as if we are fine on our own.*

*But the days are long and we are forgetful.*

*We need your help. Can you remind us?*

I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone. Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace. Trust in this good news.

*Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.*

*Alleluia! Amen.*

**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.*

**\*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** Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Old Testament, p. 482

**Special Music** *Ave Maria* Franz Schubert

**Scripture Reading** Ruth 1 Old Testament, pp. 230-231

**Sermon** We Can't Go Alone

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Time of Reflection**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*We believe in a with-us God:*

*a God who walks with us in the valley,  
dances with us on the mountaintop,  
sings with us through the night  
and rejoices in the morning.*

*We believe that this with-us God  
wired us for relationship,  
saying to creation on the very first week,  
"Humans should not be alone."*

*Therefore, in an effort to be who God called us to be,  
we strive to live like the Trinity—  
connected, united, and centered.*

*We believe in the power of community.  
We commit to learning each other's names.  
We choose to journey with each other,  
like Ruth with Naomi.*

*And we remember that no one can go through life alone.  
Thanks be to God, for lighting our way.*

### **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 #727** Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

### **\*Charge & Benediction**

### **\*Postlude**

### **Participants in today's service:**

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Brian Heitman

Advent Candle Lighters: Suzanne Hunt and Jeff Lapinski

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: Jason Giddings

### **Greeter**

Robert Walter

### **Flowers**

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God.

### **Video Producer**

Heather Myer

### **Church Leadership and Staff**

Rev. Kristin Stroble

Pastor

Rev. Shirley Paxton

Parish Advisor

Neil Myer  
Bridgette Redman  
Tamar Mikeladze

Director of Christian Education  
Office Administrator  
Pianist

**This Week at Eastminster:** *December 8-15*

**SUNDAY, 12/8**

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Advent Workshop	11:15 a.m.
Cindy Suehr Memorial Service	2:00 p.m.

**MONDAY, 12/9**

CCR Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.
Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, 12/10**

Session	7:00 p.m.
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**WEDNESDAY, 12/11**

Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	10:30 a.m.

**THURSDAY, 12/12**

Young Adults	7:00 p.m.
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**SATURDAY, 12/13**

Advent House	8:00 a.m.
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**SUNDAY, 12/15**

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal	11:00 a.m.

**Advent Workshop - TODAY**

Today after worship we will have an intergenerational event to engage our Advent theme of "Words for the Beginning."

**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.

## **Community Christmas Fest**

Saturday, December 21st from 9:30am-11:30am we are going to have fun Christmas activities for all ages. Join us as we gather together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

## **Christmas Eve**

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

## **Advent House**

We still need a few more people to sign up to make a casserole for our Advent House Meal on Saturday, December 14th.

**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)**