



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
January 5, 2025**



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
January 5, 2025 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: How did you get here?

Left side: I walked, eyes looking up, following the star.

Right side: I ran, lunging for a love that is bigger than me.

Left side: I tumbled and fell, tender step after tender step.

Right side: I ambled like a river, caught up in God's flow.

One: Tell me again. How did you get here?

ALL: I am here by God's grace and love's pull.

One: Welcome home. This is God's house.

There is room for you here.

ALL: Let us worship our gracious God.

***Hymn Home By Another Way KINGS OF ORIENT**

*Magi from a faraway place, radiant starlight setting their pace,
Fording wadi, risking body, seeking the king's birthplace.*

*Refrain: O, we have traveled night and day meeting God where'er we stay,
Paths are changing, rearranging, as we find another way.*

*Threatened by the good news they bring, Herod plots to kill the new king,
Angels warning in the morning: "Avoid Jerusalem." (Refrain)*

*Plans that change and storms that delay, dreams and hopes left in disarray
Make us tremble, but remember there is another way. (Refrain)*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of new beginnings,

*We admit that we often follow the well-worn path,
simply because others have been there before.*

Sometimes this is holy and humble,

but there are days when a new path needs to be tread.

On those new-beginning days, O God,

give us the courage to follow your star.

Give us the courage to go home by another way.

*Give us the courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction
for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor.*

For when you are doing a new thing,

we want to have the courage to follow.

With hope in our hearts we wander, we travel.

Amen.

*Silent Confession

*Words of Forgiveness

*Sung Response #113 Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain)

Refrain

The image shows the musical notation for the refrain of the hymn 'Angels We Have Heard on High'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, starting on a G4 note and moving through a series of eighth and quarter notes, ending on a G4 note. The lyrics 'Glo - - - ri - a' are written below the treble staff, with hyphens indicating the syllables are spread across the measures. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes, primarily using the notes G, B-flat, and D.

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

***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 43:16-21

Old Testament, p. 632

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12

New Testament, pp. 1-2

Sermon The Road Isn't Straight

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith

*We believe in a with-us God,
a God who is beside us in the mountains and valleys,
holding our hand through every bump and turn.
And in the chaos of our journey,
we believe that God sees
what we cannot always see:
a path home by another way.
Therefore, trusting in this ever-present and guiding God,
we lace up our shoes.
We look for God's fingerprints in the world.
We trust that there are paths still unexplored,
paths that God has only begun to invite us down.
And like the Magi, we dare to follow.
May it be so, Amen.*

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving and 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.*

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*Please come forward down the center aisle to receive by intinction. Take a
piece of bread and then dip it in the cup and partake. You may return down
the side aisles. Those unable to come forward may be served at their seats.
All of the bread is gluten free.*

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn #150 As with Gladness Men of Old

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Charlotte Smith

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, D.M.A.

Communion Servers: Jason Giddings, Heather Myer, Charlotte Smith, Linda Hardenbergh

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: Jeff Lapinski; Beverly Bonning

Greeter

Heather Myer

Video Producer

Mike Brown

Flowers

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

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: *January 5-12*

SUNDAY, 1/5

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

MONDAY, 1/6

Trivia at Royal Scot 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 1/7

Chorale Ensemble 10:00 a.m.
Infrastructure Meeting 10:30 a.m.
Faith Formation Meeting 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 1/8

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

THURSDAY, 1/9

20s/30s/40s Gathering 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, 1/11

Advent House 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, 1/12

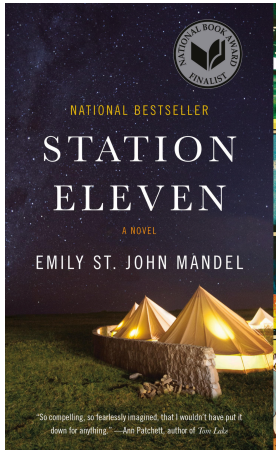
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship 11:00 a.m.
Deacons 11:30 p.m.



Advent House: We still need one more volunteer to prepare a casserole for this month's Advent House meal on January 11th. Please sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office.

Welcome Kits: We will be packing Refugee Development Center welcome kits today after worship for new members of our community.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 26th after worship. It will be a combination of the annual meeting of the corporation and the program meeting.



PageTurners

PageTurners, Eastminster's book club, will be meeting this month on the third Saturday (Jan. 18) rather than the 2nd Saturday. Members (and all are welcome) will gather at 10 a.m. and this month will be discussing *Station 11* by Emily St. John Mandel. The novel takes place in the Great Lakes region before and after a swine flu pandemic, known as the "Georgia Flu," has devastated the world, killing most of the population.



With the coming of Epiphany, we again celebrate our tradition of "star words." On the day that we remember the star that led the magi to Jesus, we pass out paper stars with a printed word. This is a spiritual practice that invites you to receive a word as a gift that can guide, inspire, or challenge you in the coming year. Keep your star someplace where you will see it throughout the coming year. Below are some prompts to help you begin thinking about your word.

- What are your initial thoughts about the word?
- What is the definition of your word?
- What are the different forms your word can take? How do the different forms change its meaning?
- What synonyms of your word come to mind? How do they help to shape your understanding of your word?
- What scripture passage(s) or stories does your word bring to mind? If you need some help, try going to biblegateway.com or use a Bible concordance to look up passages.
- Any other thoughts or reflections?