



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
February 23, 2025**



Learning to Walk in The Dark

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

February 23, 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: Come, take off your shoes.

ALL: For where we stand is holy ground.

One: Come, love your neighbor.

ALL: For where we stand is holy ground.

One: Come, leave selfish ways behind and take up your cross.

ALL: For where we stand is holy ground.

One: Come, to discover the love of God.

ALL: For we are all standing on holy ground.

*Hymn #451 Open My Eyes That I May See

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

To you, loving God, we raise our questions. Why is a young person struck with cancer? Why must women be afraid to walk after dark? Why is war seen as a method of solving problems? Why can't we protect our children? Do you really hear our cries? Tender God, we have let the questions build into a wall that hides your healing presence and abiding compassion. We have let fear cripple our hope. Let your wind breathe hope into our questions. Let your everlasting arms give us the courage to keep asking. Through Christ, we pray, Amen.

*Silent Confession

*Words of Forgiveness

*Sung Response #447 We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to

G Am7 Dsus D G Am

God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.

D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G

We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1995
Music © 1995 Hal H. Hopson

WE ARE FORGIVEN
10.8.10.8

*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 John 3:1-21

New Testament, p. 88

Sermon Darkness is for Questioning

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. 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 Ask the Complicated Questions

David Bjorlin, b.1984

RESTORATION
Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835



1. Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions,
2. Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
3. Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
4. For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



do not fear to be found out;
fol - low where the Spir - it blows;
test as - sump - tions long grown stale;
truth both sim - ple and pro - found;



for our God makes strong our weak - ness,
test com - pet - ing truths for wis - dom,
for Christ calls from shores of won - der,
in the knock - ing, ask - ing, seek - ing,



forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
for in ten - sion new life grows.
dar - ing us to try and fail.
we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

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***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Lacy Myer

Children's Message: Neil Myer

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, D.M.A.

Worship Credits: Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Usher

Head Usher: Estelle McGroarty

Greeter

Mary Lou Clifton

Video Producer

Susan Smalley

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: Feb. 23-March 2

SUNDAY, 2/23

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Book Discussion 11:15 a.m.

MONDAY, 2/24

Trivia at Royal Scot 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 2/25

Chorale Ensemble 10:00 a.m.

Recital 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 2/26

Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
UKirk Gathering	6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, 2/27

20s/30s/40s Gathering	7:00 p.m.
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SUNDAY, 3/2 Communion

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Book Discussion	11:15 a.m.

Advent House Meal

Our next Advent House meal is March 8th. The sign-up sheet is now in the narthex as well as pans and recipes.

Sermon Series & Book Study: We are in the midst of the sermon series "Learning to Walk in the Dark," exploring the gifts of darkness. Alongside this series we will be reading "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by Barbara Brown Taylor. You can purchase the book to read along or join the discussion on Sundays after worship even if you haven't read the book.

Presbytery Meeting - March 8

On March 8th, Eastminster is hosting the presbytery meeting. We need volunteers to help with parking, registration, coffee, lunch, and general hospitality. If you are willing to help for part or all of the day please speak to Pastor Kristin or to Sam O'Neill. Thank you.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you for your generosity! Your donations of \$734 will be going to the MSU Student Food Bank.

Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be March 5th at 7pm and will include communion and imposition of ashes.

Presbyterian Advocacy Hour



Join us each month to stay informed and engaged on the most pressing issues.

- Open to all who are passionate about change
 - Gain valuable insights and resources.
 - Build connections and find direction for making a meaningful impact.
- Stay connected, stay informed, and stay active!

Register at <https://pcusa.info/advocacyhourregistration>

Opening Session with
Rev. Jimmie Hawkins
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025
Noon Eastern / 9 a.m. Pacific

Movie Night

Mark your calendars, on March 20th at 7pm we will have a movie night at the church. We'll be watching "The Way" starring Martin Sheen. This movie is about the Camino, the pilgrimage Pastor Kristin will be taking on her sabbatical.



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

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Phone: 517-337-0893

www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing