



# Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day  
February 9, 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](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

February 9, 2025

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: When the world is no longer a paradise  
and creation shows its full power over us, still,

**ALL:** *we worship.*

One: When the memories linger of the past  
and war shapes us beyond our knowing,  
and conflict becomes a story of life, still,

**ALL:** *we worship.*

One: When the way is more barren than beautiful,  
when the path is more a climb than a stroll,  
when the desert expands and the horizon stretches,

**ALL:** *we worship.*

One: We worship because we can.

We worship because we hope.

We worship because we know our vulnerability  
when things shift and need to hold on.

**ALL:** *It is our strength for the journey.*

*We worship.*

**\*Hymn #794** O Savior, in This Quiet Place

### **\*Call to Confession**

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

*O Lord, who laughs when we laugh and weeps when we weep,  
we confess that we struggle with this gift of mortality*

*and the constant cycle of beginnings and endings.*

*We long for healing of body, mind, and soul.*

*We long for healing for creation, for our nation, and the world.*

*Help us to trust that you do not abandon us to despair,  
that you are present both in the joy and the pain.*

*Teach us to embrace our emotions, all our emotions,  
in the name of the Christ, who also wept, Amen.*

**\*Silent Confession**

**\*Words of Forgiveness**

**\*Sung Response #447 We Are Forgiven**

We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
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** Psalm 88

Old Testament, p. 515

**Scripture Reading** Mark 5:1-20

New Testament, p. 37

**Sermon** Darkness is for Healing

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **Time of Reflection**

#### **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 #821** My Life Flows On

\***Charge & Benediction**

\***Postlude**

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

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Sara Weeden

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: Jason Giddings

## Greeter

Sue Kalvonjian

## Video Producer

Heather Myer

## 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. 9-Feb. 16*

### **SUNDAY, 2/9**

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Book Discussion 11:15 a.m.

### **MONDAY, 2/10**

Trivia at Royal Scot 7:00 p.m.

### **TUESDAY, 2/11**

Chorale Ensemble 10:00 a.m.

Session 7:00 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY, 2/12**

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

Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

UKirk Gathering 6:30 p.m.

### **THURSDAY, 2/13**

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

### **FRIDAY, 2/14**

School Break Adventures 9:00 a.m.

### **SATURDAY, 2/15**

Page Turners 10:00 a.m.

## **SUNDAY, 2/16**

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

**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.

### **School Break Adventures**

School Break Adventures will be returning on Friday, February 14 and Monday, February 17 for children and youth in kindergarten-8th grade. These are days off from school spent engaging in a variety of faith formation activities. To sign up a participant, please contact the church office or let Neil Myer know.

### **Night Hike/Campfire Program**

Eastminster is going to participate in Harris Nature Center’s program on Feb. 22 at 7pm. There will be campfire, smores, talk about owls, guided walk. Cost is \$5 and you can register on Harris’ website.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

Eastminster Youth will be collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring after church. All donations go directly to the MSU Student Food Bank, which supports students and their families who are experiencing food insecurity. You can drop cash or check (Made to Eastminster, Memo Souper Bowl) into soup pots at the doors as you leave worship next week, or you can give online at [eastminsterchurch.org](http://eastminsterchurch.org). (If you donate online give to the "Special Mission Fund" and in the note put "Souper Bowl of Caring.")



**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)**