



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
November 12, 2017



For when the **foolish** took their lamps,
they **took no oil** with them,
but the **wise** took
flasks of oil with their lamps.

Matthew 25:3-4

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2017

10:30 a.m.

** Congregation is invited to stand.*

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the friendship pads and pass them along the row and back again.

Cents-ability Offering

Prelude *The entry of the light.*

Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him Manz

Silent Meditation

"Have thy tools ready. God will find thee work."

The Rev. Charles Kingsley, ca. 1850

Introit

Keep Your Lamps

Call to Worship

Grace to you, and peace, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God, we pray that we may so know you and love you that we
may rejoice in you.

*And if we do not do so fully in this life, let us go steadily
toward the day when we achieve that fullness.*

Let us receive what you promised through your Truth, that
our joy may be full!

*Grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, that
we may seek and find you, and so finding you, we may
love you.*

*** Hymn #665** *As Morning Dawns*

SERVICE OF CONTRITION

***Prayer of Confession**

***Silent Prayer**

***Common Prayer**

Loving and forgiving God, we acknowledge that we belong to you, and that you have created us to love and serve you with soul, mind, and strength. We confess that when faced with hard choices, we have wavered in our allegiance. We have followed other voices; we have not acted justly; we have succumbed to fear. Forgive our lack of devotion; recall us by your Spirit to hope and confidence in your promises. Empower us to live as loving disciples of Christ our Lord. And forgive us in your grace.

***Declaration of God's Grace**

Response

[649, *Amazing Grace*]

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

(Turn to your neighbors and say, "The Peace of Christ be with you.")

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Anthem

A Jubilant Song

Lightfoot

Reading from Scripture

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-15

(Pew Bible, page 205 – OT)

Children's Message

Reading from Scripture

Matthew 25:1-13

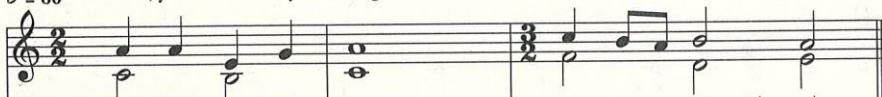
(Pew Bible, page 26 – NT)

Sermon

"It Doesn't Get Any Easier"

REFRAIN

♩ = 60 Lord, you are my strength; _____ has - ten to help _____ me.



SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Presenting Our Gifts

Offertory *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* Irvine

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to return to you all that we have and all that we are. Receive our praise, not only that of our lips, but of our very lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into an offering unto to you; through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Joys and Concerns of the Congregation / Prayers of Intercession / The Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #376** *When All Is Ended*

The light leads us into the world.

***Benediction**

***Choral Response #600** *Amen*

Sung three times, the congregation is invited to join the choir in the "Amen."

***Postlude** *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices* Dretzel

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey S. O'Neill

Worship Leader: Elder David Duryea

Children's Message: Neil Myer

Choir Director: Chelsea Berner

Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Welcome!

We're glad you're here to worship God with us and to share in the fellowship of this church community. If you are looking for a church home, we would be honored to have you join us. Please speak to the Pastor or one of the Ushers following the service.

Nursery care is available for infants through age three from **9:15-11:45** each Sunday morning in our Nursery located in the **Christian Education Wing** on the **Lower Level**.

Church Hours

Monday through Thursday:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Closed Fridays.**



Follow Eastminster on **Facebook**. We are under Eastminster Presbyterian Church East Lansing.

Today at Eastminster

Greeters

Today: Linda & Tom Hardenbergh

Nov. 5: Ted and Pat Hagan

Ushers

Head Usher: Heather Myer: Matt & Cindy Nixon

Flowers

The flowers today are given by Jesse and Robin Turner in celebration of the marriage of their daughter, Hillary, and Anthony Brandon on Saturday, Nov. 11.

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey O'Neill	Interim Pastor
Dr. Fred Graham	Parish Advisor
Rev. Shirley Paxton	Parish Advisor
Neil Myer	Director of Discipleship
Sam O'Neill	Office Administrator
Tamar Mikeladze	Organist
Chelsea Berner	Adult Choir Director
Heather Myer	Bell Choir Director
Nursery Attendant	Audri Bello
Nursery Attendant	Nino Napetvaridze

This Week at Eastminster

November 12 - 19

TODAY, 11/12

Deacons	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Cents-ability	
Children's Worship	
Stewardship Luncheon	11:30 a.m.

MONDAY, 11/13

Staff Meeting	9:00 a.m.
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TUESDAY, 11/14

Student Organic Farmers (Green Room)	9:00 a.m.
Weekday Bible Study	1:00 p.m.
Bells	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 11/15

Men's Bible Study	7:00 a.m.
UKirk@MSU	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, 11/16

Cultured Purls	9:00 a.m.
Choir	7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 11/19

Deacons	9:30 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Children's Worship	
Fellowship	11:30 a.m.

AA: Wed. & Thurs. 7 p.m.; Fri. 9:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.; Al-Anon: Thurs. 8:15 p.m.

Sunday School

9:30 – 10:20



Ages 4-Grade 2

Holy Moly is designed to ignite a biblical imagination that lasts a lifetime for young children. Each week participants see a video and use their gifts of observation to become theologians in their own right. It is amazing to get their insight.

Nov 19 Esther



Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.
THE OPEN DOOR
for all ages

Upper elementary, middle school, high school and adults of all ages are invited to join us for this interactive time of faith formation Sunday mornings.

Nov 19 Giving

Ages 4—2nd Grade
(during worship)



Children's Worship was created to make a special place where children can come to encounter God, to be still with God and to listen to God. It is a place where they come to nurture their spiritual life.

Nov 12 The Promised Land

Nov 19 Jesus blesses the children



Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Green Room

Reformation and Transformation
in the 21st Century
November 11th & 19th

The Reformation didn't end when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the church door. Join us for this two-week conversation about "Emergent Christianity", what it is and how is the church being transformed in this new information and social media age. We will consider theologian Phyllis Tickle's controversial assertion that we are in the midst of a new 500-year "church rummage sale" and how this might affect Christian beliefs and worship now and in the future.



Sunday, November 12

Our Stewardship Campaign *Live Simply* comes to a conclusion today when we present our pledges for dedication. Our **celebration luncheon** will be after worship in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. All visitors and members are invited to get to know each other.

Flicks with Friends
Wednesday, Nov. 15
10:00 a.m.

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. **All persons** are invited. The movie is picked the weekend before and by what is playing the afternoon of that day. An email list has been formed to notify persons who are interested. Let Barb Stowitts (barbstow@yahoo.com) know if you would like to be included on the movie email list. Lunch is decided by the people attending.



Faith & Film
Monday, November 20
@ 6:00 p.m.

Join us on the 3rd Monday of the month for a light meal, fellowship, and lively discussion on films. Please watch the film on your own, then join us and bring \$4 to pitch in for the meal.

November film: *Interstellar* (2014) Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway & Jessica Chastain. From director Christopher Nolan (*Inception*) comes the story of ex-pilot Cooper (Matthew McConaughey), who must leave his family and Earth



behind to lead an expedition beyond this galaxy to discover whether mankind has a future among the stars (Amazon.com).



**Monday, Nov 20
7:00 p.m.**

The Peoples Church

Join faith communities in the Greater Lansing Area for a time of worship and thanksgiving on Monday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m. at The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand Avenue, East Lansing.



**Presbyterian Women
Tuesday, Nov. 21
1:15 p.m.**

The EPC PW Bible Study will meet in the Green Room on Tuesday, November 21 from 1:15 - 3:00 PM as we continue our study of "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews". Please prepare for Lesson 3 by pre-reading the Study Book information and the Bible references noted. Linda Hardenbergh will be the lesson leader and Barb Stowitts will be the hostess.

The 2017 Thank Offering will be collected at this meeting.



Share Your Nativity Display with EPC!

Do you have an interesting or special nativity scene display (tabletop size) at home? The Christian Education team would love to include it in the nativity scene display during Advent Workshop on December 3. Sign-up sheet is in the

Green Room or contact Beverly Bonning to sign-up.

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 28, 2017

#GivingTuesday, held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, kicks off the holiday giving season and inspires people to give back in impactful ways. According to Giving U.S.A., faith-based organizations have fared well in this one-day online fundraising movement. Last year, the Presbyterian Foundation received 166 percent more gifts through its online giving platform on #GivingTuesday, and the amount given was 59 percent higher compared to 2015 gifts. Consider making a gift to **UKirk at MSU** through Eastminster's website on Tuesday, November 28.



**Advent Workshop
Sunday, December 3
Immediately following
the worship service**

The Advent Workshop has been a beloved tradition of Eastminster Presbyterian Church for several years. Continue this tradition by celebrating the first Sunday of Advent with your Eastminster Presbyterian church family after worship! We'll begin in the Fellowship Hall with delicious

food, participate in a mission project, use our creative skills in different ways, listen to beautiful seasonal music and stroll through nativity displays from around the world! If you have a nativity display you'd like to exhibit, please contact Beverly Bonning.

I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt
bountifully with me.



Psalm 13:6, NRSV

God's memory lapse

Our memory bank can churn up some bad stuff occasionally. There you are, not quite asleep, when suddenly a past sin pays a painful visit. The ugly details of bad decisions and actions can leave our spirit in a shamble. How should we handle this haunting problem?

First, we need a visit with God, who knows just how to deal with our painful memories. He has a unique

ability to forgive and forget, if we're sincere in our request for reconciliation. As Micah 7:19 (NRSV) says, God "will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea."

Corrie ten Boom had the right idea. She said God buries our sins in the sea and puts a sign on the bank saying, "No fishing allowed!"

After we accept God's forgiveness, we must forgive ourselves and move on into the future God has for us. St. Paul's words to the Philippians are relevant for Christians struggling with past sins: "One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14, NRSV).

Eastminster Holiday Mission Traditions!



Christmas Traditions

Every year, Eastminster members generously share their time and resources to shop for food and Christmas presents for those who have less. Once again, the Mission Team is coordinating the Haven House Adopt-a-Family program, and the Salvation Army's Christmas food basket program. Please see the details in the Green Room on the ledge, "central station" for our mission activities. Any questions, contact a member of the Mission Team: Robin Bell, Sam O'Neill, or Robin Turner.



Haven House Adopt-a-Family 2017

We have been assigned two families. One is a family of five: dad, mom, daughter (6), sons (2 and 1). The second family is a single dad and a son (12).

Information sheets describing each family member's wants and needs will be available in the Green Room of the church along with a sign-up sheet. Please sign up for however many people you would like to and note your selections on the sign-up sheet. Take the sheet (s) for your family member (s) with you. Consider doing this mission project in pairs or teams!

Haven House folks ask that all items get dropped off at Haven House the week of Monday, December 4th with the final drop off day being Friday, December 15th. Do not drop the gifts off at the church! Wrapping the gifts is up to you, but if you don't wrap them, we ask that you supply wrapping paper and tape for the family to wrap them. Be sure to label each item with the assigned number/letter located on the top right of your information sheet.



Salvation Army Christmas Food Baskets 2017

We have committed to providing 20 Christmas dinner food baskets, each including a ham. Please find in the Green Room a laundry basket and the grocery list for a family of 4-8 people. Be sure to sign the project participation sheet when you do so.

FOOD BASKETS

If you are interested in contributing \$25 toward the cost of the hams (with or without a grocery basket), note that on the sign-up sheet as well, and put your check in the lock box outside of the Church Office, made out to Eastminster Presbyterian Church and noting "Hams" in the memo line. No one needs to actually purchase a ham. The church mission folks will take care of ordering them and delivering them with the baskets.

If you are able to help re-assemble and deliver the baskets to the Salvation Army offices on South Pennsylvania on the morning of Tuesday, December 12, 2016, between 9 and 11 a.m., please note your commitment to help with that on the sign-up sheet as well.

The filled baskets should be delivered to Eastminster on Monday, December 11, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., or early on Tuesday, December 13, between 9 and 9:45 a.m. If delivering on Monday, remove perishables from your basket and place them in the refrigerators, either on the main floor of the church or in the kitchen in the lower level. If delivering early on Tuesday morning, just leave your filled baskets in the church kitchen on the main floor.

If you sign up to provide a food basket but find you cannot provide one after all, please contact Sam O'Neill before Monday, December 11, at 517-243-2669, so that provisions can be made to fulfill our commitment to the Salvation Army of 20 baskets.



Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Mercy, Peace, and Justice
Vision Statement

Adopted by Session June 14, 2017

We believe we are called as a church of Jesus Christ to promote compassion, peace, and social justice by seeking to understand and actively bear witness against discrimination, suffering, pain, and social and economic injustices throughout the world and in our own community. Silence, avoidance, and inaction are not options for us as Christians who profess that we believe in being disciples of Christ. We believe as a congregation we can help shape a future for people of all races, ethnicities, and national origins by:

1. Educating ourselves and others to be mindful of injustices;
2. Identifying existing and developing programs that address discrimination, suffering, pain, and social and economic injustices;
3. Walking humbly together along the path of active participation in these programs;
4. Coordinating our efforts within our church to educate and involve people of all ages and abilities.

Eastminster Prayer Concerns

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

Mandy Augenstein
Heather Sturr

*Names to be included on the prayer list can be suggested to Rev. O'Neill
or the Church Office.*

Eastminster Church Officers

Elders

Class of 2018

Ruth Foster
Terry Graham
Sam O'Neill
Susan Smalley

Class of 2019

Brian Heitman
Norm Mackay
Brenda Ramsby
Barbara Stowitts

Class of 2020

Robin Bell
Beverly Bonning
Dave Duryea
Mike Foster

Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey O'Neill

Clerk of Session

George H. Miller

Treasurer

Robert Kleine

Deacons

Class of 2018

Judy Dunn
Sue Miller
Barbara Moss
Tom Moss

Class of 2019

Sherri Blanchard
Sue Kalvonjian
Heather Myer
John Temples

Class of 2020

Heather Heitman

Eastminster Mission Statement

We, the members of Eastminster Presbyterian Church,
celebrate the grace of God and the redeeming love of Jesus Christ.

We believe we are called as God's children to:

Praise and worship God;

Nurture and support spiritual growth as a family of faith;

Promote an open and welcoming community;

Reach out to the world with compassion;
and seek God's justice.

We strive to develop and use our Spirit-given gifts
to share our faith in word and deed
as disciples who serve the Lord Jesus Christ
according to the will of God.

Adopted by the Session in 1999. Revised in 2011.

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www.eastminsterchurch.org