



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
December 15, 2019

"Jesus has truly come, but each year during the Advent season, we acknowledge that the dream for which he gave his all has not yet fully come true...let us light a candle for all people everywhere to hear their weeping. In this Advent season, we dare to believe that God feels their pain and comes near to bring comfort."

-Brian McLaren



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 15, 2019

10:00 a.m.

** Congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.*

***Bold text** is read or sung by the congregation.*

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements *(Please sign the friendship pads)*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Prelude *The entry of the light.*

Opening Meditation

by Sara Are, A Sanctified Art

Sometimes,

While the sky is still dark,

I slip sock feet into tennis shoes and go for a walk.

Step by step

I ask my deepest questions,

While the sky lets go of its deepest dark blue.

Am I doing enough?

Ink to indigo.

Does my brother know how much I love him?

Indigo to navy.

Will my friends keep showing up?

Navy to royal blue.

Will we ever know peace?

Royal blue to gold.

And after a while, my pilgrimage must end,

So I turn apologetic feet toward home

And walk my repentance back toward the sun.

And once again, while I stand in sock feet and tennis shoes,

God takes my breath away.

For once again,

The sky's deepest void is now a watercolor of light.

*And I am reminded
That like the sky,
God touches everything.
And I am reminded,
That like the sky,
Nothing is so broken that it can't be painted gold.
In the morning light, there is peace.*

Advent Candle Lighting

***Hymn #103** *Come Now, O Prince of Peace*

***Call to Confession**

*Friends, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin,
confident in God's mercy.*

***Prayer of Confession**

Creator God-

*Not a day goes by when you do not invite us to be
peacemakers and advocates,
listeners and good Samaritans.*

*Not a day goes by when we are not asked to be a friend
to a stranger and a neighbor to those in need.*

*Not a day goes by when we are not asked
to be the people you call us to be,
And yet, day after day, we lose sight of your hope
for this world.*

*Forgive us for walking a different path,
And grant us the strength to prepare a new way –
Your way – here.*

***Declaration of God's Grace**

Here is the good news:

*Speak with the whispers of hope until it silences despair;
sing the carols of compassion until all join in the chorus;
shower others with wonder and delight and join in God's dance
of grace.*

Thanks be to God. We are forgiven!

***Congregational Response** (*Tune: HYFRYDOL*)

*Peace can't wait; she beckons brightly,
softening the hardened heart.*

*Blessing all with brilliant beauty,
fighting that which tears apart.*

*Violence has lost its power;
now's the time for God's shalom.*

*Nevermore shall war devour;
all the soldiers welcomed home.*

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

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

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Children's Message

Sung Prayer for Illumination #91

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Reading from Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25 (*Pew Bible, page 1 - NT*)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his

people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; ^[b] and he named him Jesus.

Choir Anthem *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Reading from Scripture

Matthew 2:1-18 (*Pew Bible, pages 1-2 - NT*)

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn #92 *While We Are Waiting, Come*

Offering of Resources and Prayer

Financial offerings support the life and mission of Eastminster Presbyterian. If you have prayers to be shared during our prayers of the people, please place them in the offering plates.

Offertory

Doxology[#144 In the Bleak Midwinter]

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart

*Prayer of Dedication

**Joys and Concerns of the Congregation / Prayers of
Intercession / 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 #87** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Elder Robin Bell

Children's Message: Beverly Bonning

Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Choir Director: Jadrian Tarver

The liturgy is by Sarah Are / A Sanctified Art / LLC / sanctifiedart.org

New Here? Thank you for joining us as we worship God this morning. Information about our church is available in the narthex, including our weekly email. We invite you to sign in on the Friendship pads found at the end of the pew, so we can greet you by name. Please join us for Coffee Fellowship after worship, in the space we call the Green Room, which is to the west of the sanctuary. After fellowship, we have a variety of classes for all ages what you are welcome to join.



Prayer Cards are in the Friendship Pads, which are at the end of each pew. If you have a prayer request that you would like announced during the service, please write it on the prayer card and you can place it in the plate during the collection of the offering. The Pastor will read them (unless

marked private) before the Pastoral Prayer.

Children and Worship: Children are always welcome in worship at Eastminster. Children's worship packets can be found in the basket outside the sanctuary doors as well as activity bags, which they can use during the service. We have created a space for children at the front of the sanctuary. Your child is welcome to use that space or remain in the pews with you.



Today at Eastminster

Ushers

Head Usher: Heather Heitman; Brian Heitman, Sue Kalvonjian

Greeters

Cindy Mackay and Mary Lou Clifton

Flowers

The flowers today are given today for the glory of God.

Church Leadership and Staff

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Rev. Kristin Stroble	Pastor
Dr. Fred Graham	Parish Advisor
Rev. Shirley Paxton	Parish Advisor
Neil Myer	Director of Christian Education
Bridgette Redman	Office Administrator
Jadrian Tarver	Choir Director
Tamar Mikeladze	Organist
Heather Myer	Bell Choir Director
Laurin Schulz	Nursery Attendant
Audri Kocan	Nursery Attendant

This Week at Eastminster

December 15 to December 22

TODAY, 12/15

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
MORE	11:15 a.m.

MONDAY, 12/16

Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
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TUESDAY, 12/17

Burcham Small Group	3:00 p.m.
20s and 30s	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/18

Men's Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Trivia at Reno's East	8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, 12/19

Cultured Purls	9:00 a.m.
We Make the Road Group	10:00 a.m.
Bells	6:00 p.m.
Choir	7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/22

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
MORE	11:15 a.m.
Staff Party and Meeting	6:00 p.m.

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



Join a Small Group: We have a variety of small groups that will read the book, “We Make the Road by Walking” and study the scriptures together:

- **Sunday after Church:** At 11:15am, after worship, you can join a small group to discuss the book as well as the Sunday sermon.
- **Burcham Small Group:** Tuesdays at 3 pm at Burcham Hills Retirement Community. Anyone is welcome to go over to Burcham to join in with this group.
- **Men's Breakfast** meets each Wednesday at 8 am. They gather for food, fellowship, and study.
- **Thursday Small Group** meets at the church in a downstairs classroom at 10 a.m.

Help us with our worship

visual: To mark and visualize our journey, we are creating a path throughout the sanctuary. During the second quarter of the year our theme is "Alive in the Adventure of Jesus." I'd invite you to bring in or email to the office pictures, drawings, stories, or poetry of people or places that have formed you in your journey of faith. Your images will help make the path.

Eastminster Prayer Concerns

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

Family of Emmanuel Yaweh for the loss of his mother

Family of Susan Smalley for the loss of her mother

Lynn Banninga

Dave Merchant II

Kim Dickens

Irene King

Joe Walsh

Blakely Lindemuler

Eastminster Church Officers

Elders

Class of 2020

Robin Bell

Dave Duryea

Mike Foster

Neil Myer

Class of 2021

Gary Blanchard

Mary Lou Clifton

Mary Harvey

Sam O'Neill

Class of 2022

Steve Dickinson

Mike Jones

Estelle McGroarty

Susan Smalley

Pastor

Rev. Kristin Stroble

Clerk of Session

Susan Smalley

Treasurer

Robert Kleine

Deacons

Class of 2020

Barbara Dalzell

Heather Heitman

Cindy Mackay

Class of 2021

Sherri Blanchard

Linda Hardenbergh

Suzanne Hunt

Class of 2022

Beverly Bonning

Sulin Campbell

Judy Dickinson

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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