



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
December 1, 2019

"To be alive in the adventure of Jesus is to have a desire, a dream, a hope for the future. It is to translate that hope for the future into action in the present and to keep acting in light of it, no matter the disappointments, no matter the setbacks and delays. So let us begin this Advent season by lighting a candle for the prophets who proclaimed their hopes, desires and dreams."

- Brian McLaren

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 1, 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.

Prelude *The entry of the light.*

Call to Worship

Hope is gravity for the broken-

Pulling us up.

Hope is manna in the wilderness

When we want to give up.

Hope is seeing stars in the city

When we forget the sky is there.

Hope is the anthem of faith

and the reason we're here.

So come to this place with your hopes and your fears,

For the God of new life is drawing near.

Let us worship Holy God.

Advent Candle Lighting

***Hymn #749** *Come! Live in the Light!*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God,

You paint a picture of a better world –

A world of peace and joy, of equality and grace.

But we turn our heads and close our eyes,

Afraid that you might want us to help.

*You ask us to be brave, and we are complacent.
You ask us to speak out, but instead we stay quiet.
You ask us to listen, and we assume we are the experts.
You lead with love, and we wait on the sidelines.
Forgive us for always being ten steps behind you.
Forgive us for all the ways we are works in progress.
Fill our hearts with a hope that won't let go.*

(silent confession)

***Declaration of God's Grace**

***Congregational Response [Tune: HYFRYDOL]**

*Hope can't wait; she beckons brightly,
shining surely in the dark.
To the lonely, lost, and labored,
hope endows the Spirit's spark.
In our times of deep despairing,
God renews the troubled soul.
Mercy strong beyond comparing mends
and makes the broken whole.*

***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

Minute for Mission *Christmas Joy Offering*

Sung Prayer for Illumination #91

(The choir will sing the hymn first. Congregation will join the second time through.)

*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

Reading from Scripture

Isaiah 40:9-11 (*Pew Bible, pages 627-628 - OT*)

Reading from Scripture

Luke 1:67-79 (*Pew Bible, page 54 - NT*)

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn #104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

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 *Sing Alleluia*

Doxology[#144]

*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

Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table and Reading of Names

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 and the Offering

(We will be receiving communion by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and partake. Return to your seats down the side aisles. Those unable to come forward will be served at their seats. All of the bread is gluten-free.)

Prayer

* **Hymn #82** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Linda Hardenbergh

Children's Message: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Advent Wreath Lighters: Dan and Judy Dickinson, Ruth Hartwig

Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Choir Director: Jadrian Tarver

Communion Servers: Susan Smalley, Mike Foster, Beverly Bonning, Sherri Blanchard

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: Beverly Bonning; Cindy and Matt Nixon

Greeters

Rick Johnston and Bruce Augenstein

Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God.

Church Leadership and Staff

Rev. Kristin Strobe	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

We Make the Road Group 10:00 a.m.
Bells 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, 12/7

College Study Hours noon to 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/8

Worship 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship 11:00 a.m.
MORE 11:15 a.m.
College Study Hours 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.
AA: Wed. & Thurs. 7 p.m.; Fri. 9:30 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.; Al-Anon: Thurs. 8:15 p.m

Advent Event

We are drawing to the close of Part 1: Alive in the Story of Creation. The next part begins today with "Alive in the Adventure of Jesus." We will kick off with an All Church Lunch and Advent event.



This Week at Eastminster

December 1 to December 8

TODAY, 12/1

Worship 10:00 a.m.
All-Church Lunch and Advent Event 11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, 12/2

ESL Class 9:30 a.m.
Staff Meeting noon
UKirk Student Dinner 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 12/3

Burcham Small Group 3:00 p.m.
Presbytery Meeting

WEDNESDAY, 12/4

Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
ESL Class 9:30 a.m.
UKirk Christmas Party 7:30 p.m.
Trivia at Reno's East 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, 12/5

Cultured Purls 9:00 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.

Christmas Joy

Christmas Joy offerings go to two ministries: 50% assist current and retired church workers and their families who are in financial need. 50% make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Envelopes are in the pews.

Missions: Holiday Baskets

Eastminster Presbyterian Church has offered to provide 15 food baskets for needy families in the Lansing area.

We are asking for volunteers to fill baskets with specific items. Please pick up a white basket in the Green Room (the basket has the list of requested items), and sign your name on the clipboard. If you are willing to provide \$20 for one of the hams that will be included in each basket, please indicate your commitment on the sign-up sheet.

And finally, we will be delivering the baskets to the Salvation Army on Tuesday, December 10. Thus, we need to have the filled baskets to the church by **Monday December 9**. If you are willing to help deliver the baskets on Tuesday, December 10, please note this on the sign up-sheet.

Trip to the U.S./Mexico Border

May 4-9, 2020
Douglas Arizona and Agua Prieta,
Sonora, Mexico

We will be partnering with Frontera de Cristo for this immersion learning

experience. You can find more information on their website, www.fronteradecristo.org. Please be in prayerful discernment if you'd like to be part of this trip and feel free to contact Kristin Stroble for more information. We are asking for a commitment as well as a deposit of \$250 by December 30th. The approximate total cost is \$1,000, but there will be scholarships available.

Study Hours for Final Exams

Eastminster will be open for students preparing for final exams for several days. We will be scheduling hospitality hosts for different blocks of time as well as those willing to provide supper at 6 p.m. on the following dates. Contact Neil Myer for more information or sign up in the Green Room.

Saturday, Dec. 7th, noon to 6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8th, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 9th, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 12th, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Poinsettia Time

You can dedicate a poinsettia plant in the sanctuary for Christmas for \$20 per dedication. The dedications will be printed in the bulletins for Advent 4 and Christmas Eve. Please have your dedications and checks to the church office by Dec. 15. Please put checks in the flower envelopes and either drop it in the offering plate or put it in the black lock box outside the office.

Eastminster Prayer Concerns

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

Irene King
Joe Walsh
Blakely Lindemuler

Names to be included on the prayer list can be suggested to Rev. Stroble.

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.

1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-337-0893

www.eastminsterchurch.org