



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
December 8, 2019

"All of us experience this sense of frustration, disappointment, impatience, and despair at times. We all feel that we have the capacity to give birth to something beautiful and good and needed and wonderful in the world. But our potential goes unfulfilled, or our promising hopes miscarry. So we live on one side and then on the other of the border of despair. And then the impossible happens." -Brian McLaren

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 8, 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.

Cents-ability Offering

(Your loose change goes to help feed the hungry in our community and around the world.)

Prelude *The entry of the light.*

Call to Worship

When the sun rises what shall we sing?

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

And when chaos and violence echo on the screen?

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

For our God is a God of justice and peace.

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

So when all is wrong, or all is right,

We will sing with joy and delight,

Of the God of justice and love and peace.

“My soul magnifies the Lord.”

Advent Candle Lighting

***Hymn #360** *Christ is Coming!*

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

One: In front of God and this church, I confess –

I am quick to complain, quick to criticize and conform.

I am quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny.

Instead of singing praise, I often stay silent.

*All: May the God of shepherds and kings,
The God of starlight and new life,
Offer you grace and show you the way home.*

One: Amen.

*All: In front of the God and this church, we confess –
We are quick to complain, quick to criticize and conform.
We are quick to forget, quick to doubt and deny.
Instead of singing praise, we often stay silent.*

One: May the God of shepherds and kings,
The God of starlight and new life,
Offer you grace and show you the way home.

All: Amen.

***Declaration of God's Grace**

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

*Joy can't wait; she beckons brightly,
giving grace amid the gloom.
God is God of new beginnings;
failed, forgotten buds will bloom.
God forgives and gives us laughter,
mirth that mothers us to health.
Joy surrounds before and after;
endless source of wondrous wealth.*

***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

Luke 1:26-38 (*Pew Bible, page 53 - NT*)

Choir Anthem *E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*

Reading from Scripture

Luke 1:39-55 (*Pew Bible, pages 53-54 - NT*)

Sermon

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn #366 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

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 #100** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

***Charge & Benediction**

*Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Brenda Ramsby

Children's Message: Matt Phillips

Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Choir Director: Jadrian Tarver

Advent Wreath Lighters: Steve Dickinson, Sue Rosser, Sara and Elizabeth Weeden

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: Linda Hardenbergh; Tom Hardenbergh, Barb Stowitts

Greeters

Jeff Lapinski and Beverly Bonning

Flowers

The flowers today are given today by Pat and Ted Hagan in memory of Dr. Joseph Sheets.

Church Leadership and Staff

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 8 to December 15

TODAY, 12/8

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
MORE	11:15 a.m.
Deacons	12:15 p.m.
Study Hours	2 p.m to 10 p.m.

MONDAY, 12/9

Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
Study Hours	9 a.m to 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, 12/10

Burcham Small Group	3:00 p.m.
Study Hours	9 a.m to 10 p.m.
Session	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/11

Men's Breakfast	8:00 a.m.
Study Hours	9 a.m to 10 p.m.
Trivia at Reno's East	8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, 12/12

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

SUNDAY, 12/15

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

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.

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. Dedication forms are on the Narthex table.

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.

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

Eastminster Prayer Concerns

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

Jessica Mackay
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.

1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-337-0893

www.eastminsterchurch.org