



# Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
November 29, 2020



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

10:00 a.m.

**GATHERING**

**Prelude**

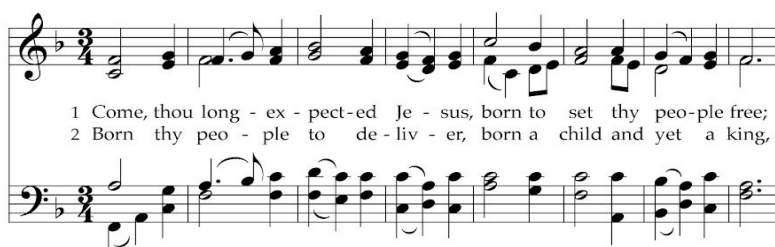
**Welcome & Announcements**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*And also with you.*

**Threshold Moment & Lighting of Candles**

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



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring,



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## Call to Confession

**Prayer of Confession** *by Beth Merrill Neel*

*Holy God, we aspire to love and trust you,  
But so often we get in the way of ourselves.  
We see only the deep sadness of the world,  
and do not notice your people at work amid the sorrow.  
We assume that things will never get better,  
And do not see all that is good, even now.  
We close our eyes and complain about the darkness,  
Rather than see the light that shines all around us.  
Help us, Holy One. Help us to grow in love and trust,  
in compassion and hope, so that as the Christ Child comes to us once again,  
We will see him, and know him, and rejoice.  
Amen.*

## Silent Confession

## Declaration of God's Grace

## Passing of the Peace

*Take out your phone and text to a church member, friend or family member - "The Peace of Christ be with you."*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## Children's Message

**Prayer for Illumination** *adapted from a poem by Ann Weems*

*Holy God,  
you are the One who comes to us  
in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child.*

*You cannot be found locked in a church,  
stuck in a sanctuary that we cannot gather in right now.  
For you will be where you will be,  
with no constraints, no predictability.*

*God remind us that destruction has no power,  
and even death cannot stop the living,  
for you will be born where you will be born,  
you come to us  
you come even to the places we call godforsaken,  
like a stable in Bethlehem.*

*Open our eyes to watch, for we know not when you come.  
Open our ears to listen, and our hearts to hope,  
for you come  
bringing hope, peace, joy and love. Amen.*

**Scripture Readings** Isaiah 40:1-11

**Special Music** *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* John M. Rasley

**Scripture Reading** Mark 1:1-15

**Sermon** "I Believe in the Sun: Christmas at Mark's House"

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

#### **Litany of Belief**

*I believe that we have looked the other way too many times AND  
I believe that we are capable of facing reality and working for change.*

*I believe that our fear of difference has robbed us of compassion AND  
I believe that we can look deeper and hold onto the things that we have in common.*

*I believe that our fear of doubt makes us stop asking tough questions AND I believe  
that asking tough questions in the face of injustice is faithful.*

*We believe, even when we are discouraged. We believe, even when we are  
discouraged, raising our voices for justice will offer us hope!*

#### **Joys and Concerns of the Congregation/ Pastoral Prayer**

*Comment on Facebook if you have a joy or concern to be shared. You can also email or call  
the church with prayer concerns. Tomorrow we will send a list of prayer concerns over  
email to our community.*

#### **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.*

#### **Offering**

*Your offerings support the mission and ministry of Eastminster Presbyterian Church. You can give  
online by going to <http://www.eastminsterchurch.org/give/online-giving/>*

## Hymn *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

1. I heard the bells on Christmas day Their  
2. I thought how, as the day had come, The  
3. And in des-pair I bowed my head: "There  
4. Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God  
5. Till, ring-ing, sing-ing on its way, The

old fa-mil-iar ca-rols play, And wild and sweet the  
bel-fries of all Chris-ten-dom Had rolled a-long th'un-  
is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong, and  
is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the  
world re-volved from night to day A voice, a chime, a

words re-peat Of peace of earth, good will to men.  
bro-ken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.  
mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."  
right pre-vail, With peace on earth, good will to men."  
chant su-blime, Of peace on earth, good will to men."

## Charge & Benediction

### Handbell Benediction *I Believe*

## Postlude

### Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Advent Wreath Lighters: Boyne Family

Liturgist: Patsy King

Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer

Vocalists: Sue Rosser, GeDeane Graham

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Choir Director: Jadrian Tarver  
Video Producer/Handbell Director: Heather Myer

***Worship Notes:***

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