



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
November 8, 2020



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 8, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude *"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"*

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Threshold Moment & Lighting of Candles

Call to Worship

L. Through Moses, God said,

P. "Let my people go."

L. In scripture, the law declares:

P. "In the seventh year, you must cancel all debts."

L. With grace, Jesus said:

P. "Give one coat away."

L. With honesty, Jesus taught:

P. "Sell what you have, give that money to the poor."

L. Faith has always involved letting go, releasing, setting free, dropping our nets, giving to others, and following.

P. So in this hour of worship, may we release that which binds us.

May we worship with open, untamed, and porous hearts, so that we can walk freely with God.

L. Let it be so.

P. Amen.

Hymn #684 *Faith Begins by Letting Go*

Faith Begins by Letting Go 684

1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what
 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ory's
 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en -

had seemed sure, tak - ing risks and press - ing on,
 roots a - live so that hope may bear its fruit;
 larg - ing hearts, shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer,

though the way feels less se - cure: pil - grim - age both
 prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive, not through mer - it
 bind - ing up the bro - ken parts; till we find the

right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
 we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
 com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

We admit to holding tight to that which we know and understand.

We put you in a box to avoid the shades of gray that come with faith.

We put worship in a box to avoid the discomfort of change.

We put ourselves in boxes labeled with gender expectations and societal norms.

We put others in boxes labeled "worthy" and "unworthy."

We put all that we have in a box and pray we won't run out.

So in this moment, we confess to holding tight to fear, greed, and worldly structures.

Forgive us for missing the point.

Open our eyes to a new way-

*to a holiness found in open boxes, unclenched fists,
shades of gray, and holy release.*

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

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

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Scripture Reading Matthew 19:16-22

Sermon "Release"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Special Music Tom Hardenbergh, Cane Flute

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that on the first day,

God released love and creativity over a void;

and that void became mountains and rivers, sunsets and starry nights.

*We believe God released
God's people from the grips of slavery,
liberating us day in and day out.*

*We believe God laid down with death
and was released from its grip,
knowing suffering and freeing us from this fragile life.*

*And we believe God invites us -
day in and day out -
to release our fears,
let go of assumptions, tear down walls,
throw open the doors, and walk closer to love.*

*May it be so.
Amen.*

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 *Release What Holds You Back*

Release What Holds You Back

A Hymn Inspired by Matthew 19:16-22

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2020

Tune: KINGSFOLD

Meter: CMD

Music: English County Songs, 1893
harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are as follows:

System 1:
I heard the voice of Je - sus say: "Re - lease what holds you back.
"If you de - sire to be com - plete, then this is what you do:
I turned a - bout and walked a - way, his words in - side my head.

System 2:
If you will li - sten, search your heart, I'll show you what you lack.
Go back in - to your fan - cy house and sell what you've a - ccrued.
I won - dered if I had the strength to do as he had said.

System 3:
You have so much; it holds you down. I see it in your eyes.
Then give the mo - ney to the poor and live life gra - cious - ly.
I came to him to find the truth, but now I'm feel - ing lost.

System 4:
You've come to me to seek the truth. Now hear what I ad - vise."
Once this is done you'll be re - leased to come and fo - llow me."
I treas - ure all the things I own. They're mine, but at what cost?

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Charge & Benediction

Postlude "The Solid Rock"

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble
Acolyte: Lacy Myer
Liturgists: Rev. Becky and Mike Brown, Irv Nichols, Charlotte Smith
Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer
Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze
Choir Director: Jadrian Tarver
Special Music: Tom Hardenbergh
Vocals: GeDeane Graham
Tech Guru: Heather Myer

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