



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
November 21, 2021**



WELCOME!

Whether you are a member or a visitor, worshiping with us in-person or online, you are welcome here.

Information about our church is found in the narthex or online: eastminsterchurch.org. At the welcome table or on our website, you can sign up for our weekly emails.

After worship please join us outside for refreshments and a time of fellowship.



In an effort to keep our community safe and to love our neighbor, we are requiring masks in the building regardless of vaccination status. For those who desire more space, the service will be playing in the Green Room (west of the sanctuary).

Children are always welcome in worship at Eastminster. Your child can sit with you in the pew, sit in the space created for children at the front of the sanctuary or right now in the back of the sanctuary on the padded chairs. We have not yet resumed childcare, so if you are worried about your child getting a little wiggly or loud you can also worship in the Green Room where your child will have more space to move.

This is a livestream worship service, and the camera and microphones are on the whole time. While the camera is most often focused on the front of the sanctuary, there is a chance that you will be captured on camera. We do turn the camera off during the children's sermon and have that part audio only. If you would prefer to stay out of the camera's eye, you're encouraged to sit on the left side of the sanctuary.

** Congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit.
Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 21, 2021

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Introit *Handbell Choir*

Call to Worship

L. Praise the Lord!

P. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

L. I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

P. I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Hymn #692 *Spirit, Open My Heart*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we have done wrong in thought, word, and deed. We too have sought security in the wrong places leaving a trail of brokenness behind us. Broken pieces that reflect how we have not loved you with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, O God, and help us embody love toward you and all of creation so that we may faithfully follow in the ways of our savior. Hear now our silent prayers.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***Passing of the Peace** (*Share the peace of Christ with the person next to you*)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Ruth 1:1-18

Sermon "Love in Action"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

Affirmation of Faith *from the Confession of 1967*

In the experience of Christ's cross and resurrection, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Pastoral Prayer & 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 #756 *O God of Every Nation*



1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
3 Lord, strength-en those who la - bor that all may find re - lease
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,



re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand.
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc - tion through the night,
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,



Where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,
when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Guest Preacher: Heather Thum-Gerber

Worship Leader: Neil Myer

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Hand bell Choir Director: Heather Myer

Worship Credits: Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Today we welcome our Guest Preacher, Heather Thum-Gerber.

Heather is currently a candidate in the Presbytery of Lake Michigan. She is in her final year of the Master of Divinity program at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. This summer she moved back to the Lansing area to finish her degree remotely with her husband and two children. Heather is looking forward to seeing where God is calling her next as she is rapidly approaching the call process.

Ushers

Head usher: Sue Kalvonjian

Greeter

Linda Hardenbergh

Flowers

The flowers today are given in memory of Doug Stowitts, by the Stowitts and Nixon families.

Church Leadership and Staff

Rev. Kristin Stroble	Pastor
Rev. Shirley Paxton	Parish Advisor
Neil Myer	Director of Christian Education
Bridgette Redman	Office Administrator
Tamar Mikeladze	Organist
Heather Myer	Bell Choir Director

This Week at Eastminster:

Nov. 21 through Nov. 28

TODAY, 11/21

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Decorate the Church	11:10 a.m.

MONDAY, 11/22

Trivia at Royal Scott 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 11/24

Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, 11/25 Office Closed--Happy Thanksgiving

SUNDAY, 11/28

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Adult Education 11:10 a.m.

Help Decorate the Church!

Today after worship help us prepare the church for Advent and Christmas. The worship committee will let you know how you can help. Many hands will make the work go quickly.

Pastor Kristin is on vacation through Saturday, November 27th. If you have pastoral needs, please contact the church office. The church office will be closed this Thursday for Thanksgiving.

Advent Devotionals are now available. You can pick them-up in the narthex. Please let us know if you would like us to mail you a copy.

Advent begins next Sunday, November 28th.

The season of Advent, in which we prepare and wait for Christ to be born, begins next Sunday. I am very excited that we are once again partnering with A Sanctified Art for one of their sermon series. This year the theme of our Advent - Epiphany season is "Close to Home." This is what one of their pastorists (pastor + artist) had to say about the series:

"In developing this series, it has become abundantly clear that the theme of home intersects with the full range of human experience. Home can be soothing and sacred or unsettling and painful. It can be grounding and

particular, or it can feel hard to name or pin down. It can be invitational and warm, or it can poke at wounds of exclusion and displacement. For some, home can be the source of war, stolen lands, or economic loss. We navigate this tension of comfort and unsettledness in the season of Advent. In the midst of cheery holiday celebrations, grief and nostalgia may become unwelcome guests. We give thanks for the gifts and blessings of our lives, while longing for the dreams that are not yet realized. We celebrate the closeness of a God who chooses to dwell with us, while remembering what that closeness will cost: Jesus will face displacement, marginalization, suffering, and, ultimately, death. No matter if this season brings great comfort and joy, or hits a bit too close to home, may we remember that God is also just as close.”—Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Founding Creative Partner

I look forward to worshipping with you this season either in person or online as we welcome the Christ child into our hearts and homes.

Ways to help new Afghan arrivals...

Donations: Refugee Services at STVCC is collecting donations of household goods for new arrivals. You can go to their website: <https://stvcc.org/donating/in-kind-donations/> to see what they need and to check out their Amazon and Walmart wishlists. They also need financial donations to their Immigration Law Clinic, as all Afghan arrivals need to see a lawyer to gain status. You can go to their website to donate and designate your gift for the law clinic.

Volunteers: Refugee Services at STVCC seeks to pair up refugee families with a mentor to help them with cultural orientation. Learn more about volunteering by going here: <https://stvcc.org/services/refugee-services/getting-involved/>.

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing