



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
November 28, 2021



Homesick
First Sunday of Advent

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Advent Candle Lighting

L. Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

*P. We are homesick for a world where all are fed,
where laughter is contagious,
where the doors are wide open.*

L. We are homesick for a world with more bridges than walls,
where trees grow tall and rivers run clear.

*P. We are homesick for a world where all people feel at home —
in their bodies, in their churches, in their homes.*

L. We long for that world.

P. We hope for that world.

L. So today we light the candle of hope,
because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.
May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

P. We are homesick, but we are on our way.

Let us worship God.

Hymn See Fig Leaves Now Sprouting (Text: Anna Strickland; Music: Geisliche Kirchengasang)

*See fig tree leaves now sprouting,
soon summer comes again
Creation groans in labor
for God's reign to begin
We wait with bated breath
homesick for God's true kingdom
Age without hate or death*

*Sun, moon, and stars above us
speak of God's promised day.
To make space for our new home
this world must pass away.
When we are filled with dread
the words of Christ uphold us:
"Arise and raise your head."*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

*Gracious God,
We find ourselves with two options every day—
to stay homesick for the world you had in mind,
or to allow cynicism to win.*

Do we hope against hope, or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world, or do we assume it's impossible?

Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.

*Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt
instead of using it to fuel a better world.*

Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

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 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Special Music "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Alex Mikeladze

Scripture Reading Luke 21:25-36

Sermon Homesick

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection (*As music is played, reflect on the sermon or the poem below.*)

"Homesick" by Sarah Speed

How do you describe homesickness to a child?

You don't.

They know.

Children know the feeling of being away from home.

*It's fear, dipped in loneliness,
that "What if I've been forgotten?" sonnet,
or the "What if I can't go back?" refrain.*

*Even a healthy, scrubbed-clean,
showered-with-love child*

*knows the longing of home.
But if I had to.
If I had to describe
that aching feeling, I would say:
“Homesickness is when longing and grief
wrap themselves around you like a blanket.
It’s the door to comfort thrown open.
It’s an eye on the horizon for what could be
and the only way out is to keep walking,
to keep dreaming,
to keep looking
for signs that will point you back home.”*

*And if you tell that to a child,
you just may realize
that a part of your spirit
has shoes on
and has always been walking,
always been dreaming,
always been looking for the home that could be.*

*The door to comfort has been blown open.
Tell God I’m homesick.
I’m on my way.*

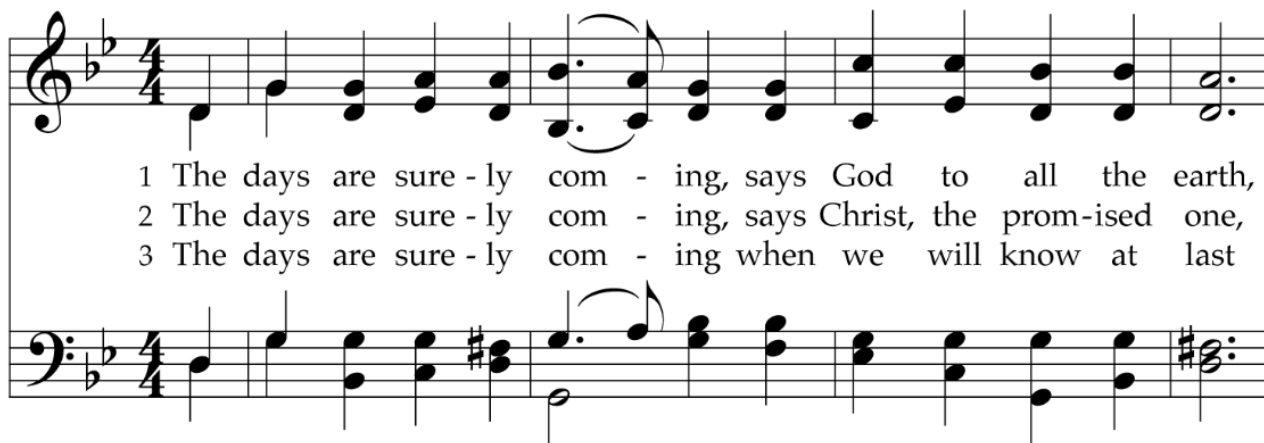
Call to Offering *(You can give online at www.eastminsterchurch.org, by mail, or by placing your offering in the plates as you enter/exit the sanctuary.)*

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;

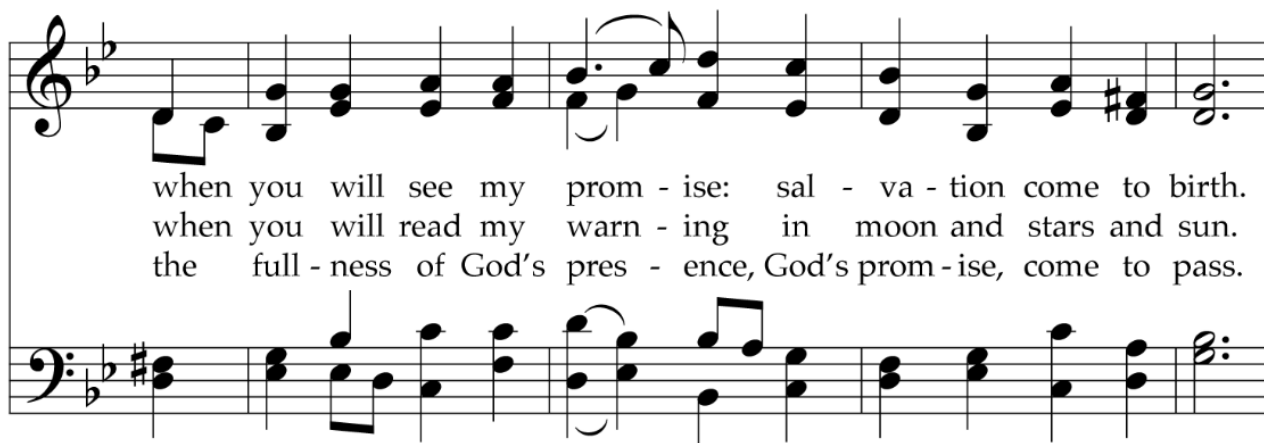
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn #357** *The Days Are Surely Coming*



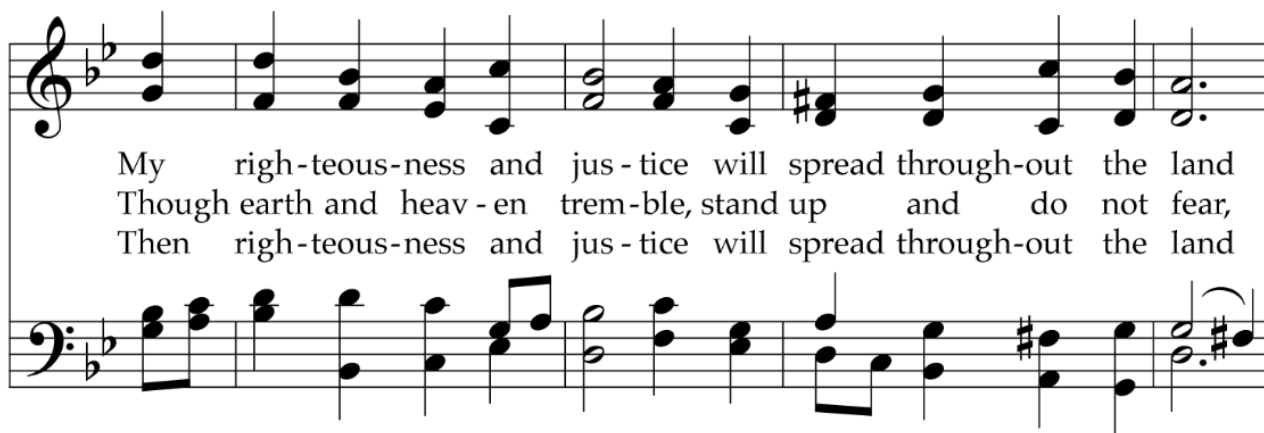
1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom-ised one,
3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and a bass staff, both in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves.



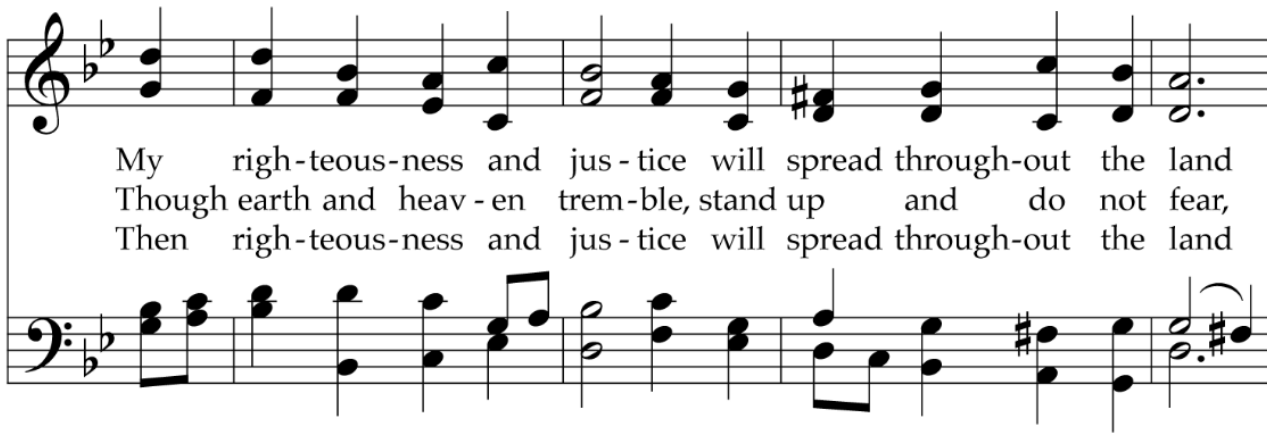
when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom-ise, come to pass.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the staves.



My righ-teous-ness and jus - tice will spread through-out the land
Though earth and heav - en trem-ble, stand up and do not fear,
Then righ-teous-ness and jus - tice will spread through-out the land

The third system of musical notation. It concludes the hymn with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the staves.



***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Sam O'Neill

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Special Music: Alex Mikeladze

Livestream: Mike Brown

Worship Credits: The liturgy is by Rev, Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art; The opening hymn is by Anna Strickland, used with permission. Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Ushers

Head usher: Brenda Ramsby

Counters

Jeff Lapinski

Greeter

Heather Heitman

Flowers

The flowers today are given in memory of James Scott by Ted and Pat Hagan.

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. 28 through Dec. 5

TODAY, 11/28

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Education	11:10 a.m.

MONDAY, 11/29

Trivia at Royal Scott	7:00 p.m.
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TUESDAY, 11/30

Handbell Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
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WEDNESDAY, 12/1

Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	11:00 a.m.
UKirk	7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, 12/2

Administration & Finance	9:00 a.m.
Cultured Purls	10:00 a.m.
30/40s Gathering	7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/5

Worship with Communion	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.

Advent Sermon Series

Today we begin the season of Advent, in which we prepare and wait for Christ to be born. 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:

"When something hits close to home, it affects us deeply. During the Advent and Christmas season we journey through scriptures and rituals that are tender, heavy with emotion, and vulnerable. Close to Home acknowledges the "already but not yet" tension of our faith: Emmanuel is with us, and yet, God's promised day - our everlasting home - is not fully realized. It names our deep longing for God to come close to us."

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

Advent Devotionals are now available. You can pick them-up in the narthex.

Intergenerational Education: We invite all ages to join us after worship on Sundays to continue to talk together home and the ways that draws near to us and makes a home on earth. We will be using the Advent devotionals to guide our time together.

Pledge Envelopes: The 2022 pledge envelopes are in the narthex. Please look for your name and take your envelopes.

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/>.

Advent Schedule

Besides our Sunday worship services on Thursday December 16th at 7:00pm we will be having a Blue Christmas Service as a way to create space for grief during this time of year. Also, please note that the Christmas Eve Service will be at 5pm this year. On December 26th, the Sunday after Christmas we will not be having an in-person service. Instead, we invite you to use our virtual service, which will premiere on YouTube at 10am.

Eastminster Prayer Concerns

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

- For Larry & Margie Osborn; who both have COVID.
- For Larry Hartwig, recovering from another surgery.
- For Ed Rosser.
- For Dave Merchant, now at Dobie Road rehab.
- For Jeff O'Neill
- For Norm Mackay
- Amanda Lanier's father, who is under treatment for a rare and serious blood disorder.
- Virginia Allen, as she recovers
- Rich Mather, Dave and Mary Ann Merchant's daughter-in-law's father who has bone cancer
- Wynn Bonning, Beverly's 12-year-old grand-nephew

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

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing