



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
January 2, 2022



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

January 2, 2021

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship

L. We come to this place —

P. each of us on our own path.

L. The path is winding,

P. and the path is not always clear,

L. and the path changes,

P. but we are here.

L. God is walking us home.

P. What a gift it is to not walk alone.

L. Let us worship Holy God.

Hymn Epiphany Carol

Words: Francis Patrick O'Brien

Tune: BEACH SPRING
The Sacred Harp, 1844



1. Ev - 'ry na - tion sees the glo - ry of a
2. Ev - 'ry tongue shall sing the prais - es of his
3. Once a - gain may we dis - cov - er Word made
4. Gath - er, God, the world to - geth - er in the



star that pierced the night. As we tell the won-drous
birth in deep - est night. He is heal - ing for the
flesh sent from a - bove In our neigh - bor, sis - ter,
bright-ness of your day. Fill our hearts with joy for -



sto - ry we are bathed in ra - diant light. Star sent
a - ges; he is Christ, our God's de - light. He pro -
broth - er, in the lone - ly and un - loved. May we
ev - er; help us walk the ho - ly way. May your



forth from high - est heav - en, danc - ing light of God's de -
claims with - in his be - ing all our hopes, our great de -
touch him, may we hold him, may we cra - dle him with
jus - tice rule the na - tions; may all peo - ple live as



sign, Shine up - on the gift that's giv - en: Word made
sires. He shall die to rise re - deem - ing all who
care As we learn to love each oth - er, bring - ing
one. Now we see our true sal - va - tion in the



flesh now born in time.
fol - low with their lives.
hope from out de - spair.
glo - ry of your Son.

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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of changed plans,

The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home — a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way. We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.

Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**Passing of the Peace (Share the peace of Christ online, through text or with a person near you)*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon Home by Another Way

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Hymn The First Nowell *Video from Fifth Avenue Presbyterian, used with permission*

Poem

Muscle Memory by Rev. Sarah Speed

Going home is a form of muscle memory.

Start the car.

Turn on the lights.

Turn left, turn right.

Pass the big oak tree

and the empty school yard.

Look for the house with the light on.

Look for the house with the open door.

Look for the house that says, "Welcome home."
You'll know when you've arrived—
that's the thing about muscle memory.

But I am learning things of love,
and home is not home unless all are welcomed,
and muscle memory is not justice unless all are safe.
So I'm asking—
can we start the car
and get totally lost
chasing what is right
far off on the horizon?

Can we drive off the road
and get a flat tire
if it means paving the way
for justice and truth?

Can we circle the trees
and miss the school yard completely
if this new way home
includes space for grace?

Can we waste our time
driving in circles
if it gives us time
to add people to the car?

I am learning,
muscle memory and faith
are not one and the same.

So I am asking,
Will you start the car?
Will you turn on the lights?
Will you take a deep breath?

It might be time to get lost.
It might be time to find a new way home.

Call to Offering (*You can give online at www.eastminsterchurch.org or by mail*)

Communion

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 #110 Arise Your Light Is Come

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

*Charge & Benediction

Postlude *All'Offertorio*

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Susan Smalley

Children's Message: Beverly Bonning

Pianist/Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Video Producer: Heather Myer

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

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:

Jan. 2 through Jan. 9

SUNDAY, 1/2

Virtual Worship 10:00 a.m.

MONDAY, 1/3

Trivia at Royal Scott 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 1/5

Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, 1/6

Administration & Finance Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Cultured Purls 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, 1/9

Virtual Worship 10:00 a.m.

Big Questions Sermon Series: In January, Kristin will be starting a sermon series called "Big Questions." In preparation for that series, she invites you to submit your questions and topics about theology, faith, scripture, church that you'd like addressed from the pulpit. You can submit your questions online, by placing them in the basket in the narthex, or by emailing Kristin. Thank you!

Important Information from the Session:

Today and **January 9 we will have our worship service online only.** Session wants to let the season of increased risk and heavy travel over the holidays settle down, so that we do not increase the risk of infection. This is an act of love for our neighbors, frontline workers, wider community, and congregation.

The plan is to resume in person Sunday worship on **Sunday, January 16.** Thank you for your understanding.

Star Words

With the coming of Epiphany, we again celebrate our tradition of "star words." On the day that we remember the star that led the magi to Jesus, we paper stars with a printed word. If you would like one, contact the church (via phone or email) and Bridgette will mail one to you.