



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
December 19, 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.

In an effort to keep our community safe and to love our neighbor, we are requiring masks in the building regardless of vaccination status.



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.*
Text is read or sung by the congregation.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 19, 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

We are seeking -

*deeper faith,
a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.*

We are seeking -

*joy that overflows,
the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.*

We are seeking, but here in this space,

We are found. This is our sanctuary. God's love is here.

God's love is like an open door, the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for families and friends, for enemies and partners.

God's love is a home for all. Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

***May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.
Amen.***

Hymn #105 *People, Look East*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary.

God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

Rest in this promise:

If we get lost,
we will be found.

If we mess up,
we are forgiven.

If we withhold love,
God is lavish in loving us.

We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

Special Music *Mary Did You Know?*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 1:39-55

Sermon Seeking Sanctuary

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

Come on Home by Rev. Sarah Speed

*We all know the feeling -
the shaky ground, sinking sand,
water-is-rising,
sun-is-fading feeling
that makes steady breathing
an entire miracle,
and holding back tears
a marvel in and of itself.*

*And when those days come,
I call my parents.
And I call my church,
and I call my friends,*

*and they say in unison
what God had said
from the very beginning,
which is, “Come on home.”*

*Is there anything more healing
than an open door?*

*If you're seeking sanctuary,
if the waters are rising - listen.*

*It may be hard to hear,
but God is always saying,
“Come on home.”*

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 #100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - ery ty - rant from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

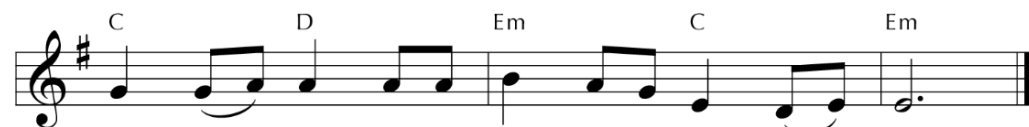
Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the



fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the



dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Debi Cox

Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Special Music: Sue Rosser

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

Ushers

Head usher: Susan Kalvonjian; Tom Hardenbergh

Greeter

Mary Lou Clifton

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:

Dec. 19 through Dec. 26

SUNDAY, 12/19

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Caroling 3:00 p.m.

MONDAY, 12/20

Trivia at Royal Scott 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/22

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

Bible Study 11:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, 12/23

Cultured Purls 10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, 12/24

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/26

Virtual Worship 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Caroling: We invite you to meet at Eastminster this afternoon at 3pm to go Christmas caroling at the homes of our Eastminster friends. Please sign-up in the narthex if you plan on coming. We are also looking for folks to sign-up to bake cookies to hand out as we carol. Let us bring joy to others this Advent season!

Christmas Eve: The Christmas Eve Service will be at 5pm this year. The service will be in-person and will be live-streamed.

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:

Each month, the session evaluates our COVID practices and protocols, takes into consideration local COVID case numbers, hospital availability and discusses the prudent course of action. Session supports the Deacons' choice in recent weeks to not have fellowship. At the session meeting Tuesday night, session also considered the expected higher rate of travel that will happen over the holidays and wants to make sure we do all we can after Christmas to make sure we keep everyone as healthy as possible for the long haul.

Session decided to have the three Sundays following Christmas Eve: **December 26 (previously decided), January 2, and January 9 be weeks where the worship service is 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.



Poinsettia Dedications

Given By	In Memory Of
The Augenstein Family	Sue Augenstein
Beverly Bonning and Jeff Lapinski	Bill and Shirley Bonning Joseph Lapinski
Maxine Cleary	Bill Cleary
Dan and Judy Dickinson	Emory and May Bates Bill and Maxine Dickinson
Barbara Lowes	Ross E. Lowes
Dennis and Estelle McGroarty	Our parents
Brenda Ramsby	My mother, Joyce Travis
Given By	In Honor Of
Barb Dalzell	To the Glory of God

1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-337-0893

www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing