



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
December 12, 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

December 12, 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. A voice calls out in the wilderness.

It sings of a home for all.

It speaks of justice and peace.

P. We could choose to ignore it.

We could choose not to listen.

L. Instead, we come into this space.

We let the world grow quiet and we hear:

P. Joy in the giggles and stretches of a newborn child.

L. Joy in seeing people you love after months apart.

P. Joy in making it home when the journey is long.

L. Joy in your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

P. Joy in feeling found when you thought you were lost.

L. So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome

God has for us is nothing short of joyful. Rest in that good news.

P. Family of faith, we are close to home. Let us worship God.

Hymn #106 *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Expansive God,

We know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope 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 Zephaniah 3:14-20

Special Music *Still, Still, Still* Handbell Choir

Scripture Reading Luke 3:1-18

Sermon A Home for All

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

Advocating for Home by Rev. Sarah Speed

I know you don't feel at home in your body.

Your clothes don't feel right.

Your bones don't feel right.

Your name, just a word that people have labeled you with.

I see the way you try on pronouns like I try on clothes,
looking for something - *anything* - that feels right.

And what I would *give* to build you a shelter -
a safe space where you could be,
a home where you were safe and free.

What I would give to carve out some room
for you to process and grieve
and dance and sing your way
into your true self.

But I know
it's not that easy.

My hands cannot build you safety.

My words cannot give you time.

My heart cannot be home enough.

So until the day when you are truly at home,

I will keep marching for you.

I will keep advocating for the home you deserve -
the home in your own skin.

I will keep praying.

I will give you my second coat,
and the shirt off my back, and the food from my table.

I won't give up on preparing the way.

A voice is calling out in the wilderness.

Do you hear it?

There's more for us here than has been before.

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 *A Home For All*

Text: Anna Strickland (2021)

Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1840)

Light the can - dles, deck the halls
Stack the gifts be - neath the tree
Set the ta - ble for a feast

We are mak - ing room for all
Hang the lights where all can see
Crys - tal, chi - na, sil - ver gleam

Prac - tice hos - pi - tal - i - ty
 Send cards full of Christ-mas cheer
 Once the ban-quet has been blessed

Give in Chris - tian char - i - ty
 To the fam - ily far and near
 Ga - ther 'round in Christ-mas best

But to cre - ate las - ting change
 But the great - est gift we share
 But Christ's ta - ble has been set

A trans - ac - tion al ex - change
 Is a world that's just and fair
 With the sim - plest meal of bread

Won't make straight our crook - ed ways
 Though it feels so far a - way
 Of - fer - ing a bun - dant grace

Or lift val - leys in - to plains
 We work for God's pro - mised day
 Here all peo - ple have a place

Pro - phets of the ag - es call: "We must build a home for all!"

The image shows a musical score for piano, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef) with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Pro - phets of the ag - es call: 'We must build a home for all!'". The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with a supporting bass line in the bass clef.

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Mike Brown

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Handbell Choir Director: Heather Myer

Handbells: Rev. Becky Brown, Debi Cox, Terry Graham, Sacha Roennecke

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



ADVENT BANNERS ARTIST STATEMENT

Imagery inspired by the texts for this season of Advent (from the RCL, Year C), as well as our theme and sub-themes for Close to Home, emerge in the doorways of this banner design. In the center, the star of Bethlehem radiates, representing the Magi traveling home by another way in the Epiphany story (Matthew 2:1-12). In the second threshold, stars of David surround the scrolls of the Torah to depict the story of Jesus remaining in the temple (Luke 2:41-52). For the story of the birth of Jesus, the third entrance portrays the

stables with light radiating between the slats in the walls (Luke 2:1-20). The safety of the womb draws us into the fourth doorway as Mary sings her magnificat (Luke 1:39-55). A home for all is represented in the fifth arch with creation imagery (Luke 3:1-18 and Zephaniah 3:14-20). Laying the foundation is portrayed in the sixth doorway with a pattern of interwoven hands (Luke 1:57-80 and Phillipians 1:3-11). The overall motif, originally designed by Lauren Wright Pittman as the theme logo for the Close to Home Advent series, incorporates a hand reaching up and one reaching down. In the banner design, these hands are patterned with doves in motion to represent the Holy Spirit.

Flowers

The flowers today are given in memory of Sue Augenstein by Bruce Augenstein.

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. 12 through Dec. 19

TODAY, 12/12

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Gingerbread Competition	11:10 a.m.
UKirk Study Hours	1 p.m.

MONDAY, 12/13

Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
UKirk Study Hours	
Trivia at Royal Scott	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 12/14

UKirk Study Hours	
Session	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/15

Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	11:00 a.m.
UKirk Study Hours	

THURSDAY, 12/16

Cultured Purls	10:00 a.m.
Blue Christmas	7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/19

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Education	11:10 a.m.
Christmas Caroling	3:00 p.m.

Advent Sermon Series

Now is 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."

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. Today during the education hour we will be making Gingerbread houses. Bring your best decorating skills to compete in groups!

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.

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing