



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2021



invited
Home
Christmas Eve

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.
Bold text is read or sung by the congregation.*

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

5:00 p.m.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting

Hymn #133 O Come, All Ye Faithful Eastminster Choir

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

You throw open the door and invite us into relationship, day in and day out. However, instead of running toward you, we dip our toes in the water of this faith. We hold our breath. We play it safe. We struggle to believe that a love so unfettered, so unfiltered, could be for us. As a result, we often deny this worth for ourselves and others. Forgive us for ignoring your invitation to be the people you call us to be. Forgive us for the ways in which we hold back from deeper connection to you or withhold your radical love from others. Open our ears to not only hear your invitation, but to trust that this good news exists even for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Reading Luke 2:1-5 Rev. Becky Brown

Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem String Trio

Reading Luke 2:6-7 Lacy Myer

Carol Away in a Manger Alex Mikeladze

Reading Luke 2:8-14 Tom Hardenbergh

Carol O Holy Night Tamar & Alex Mikeladze, Piano Duet

Reading Luke 2:15-18 Jason Giddings

Carol In the Bleak Midwinter Eastminster Choir

Reading Luke 2:19-20 Robin Bell

Christmas Meditation Rev. Kristin Stroble

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Handbell Duet Dona Nobis Pacem Becky Brown & Heather Myer

Prayers of the People & The 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 #122** *Silent Night*

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."

3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night! Wonderous star, lend thy light, with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our king: Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

***Charge & Benediction** *(You will be dismissed by pew. For those who desire, we will gather outside and sing some carols together.)*

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Liturgists: Rev. Becky Brown, Lacy Myer, Tom Hardenbergh, Jason Giddings, Robin Bell

Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer

Pianist/Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Handbell Choir Director: Heather Myer

Acolyte: Jacob Giddings

Strings: Sandro Sidmaonidze, Sofiya Levchenko

Eastminster Choir

Handbell Choir

Video Producer: Mike Brown

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art; Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831

Ushers

Head usher: Beverly Bonning; Jeff Lapinski, Mary Harvey

Greeters

The Nixon Family

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



ADVENT BANNERS

Below is the artist statement describing the banners at the front of the sanctuary.

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 Phillippians 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.



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
Shirley and Bill Paxton	Gratitude to the Christmas Carolers
Robert Kleine	The Kleine and Karandjeff Families
Shirley and Bill Paxton	Gratitude to Kristin

Important Information from the Session: All-Virtual Worship

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. At the December session meeting, session 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.

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. You can pick up your star words during the Christmas Eve service or you can contact the church (via phone or email) and Bridgette will mail one to you.

CAROLS TO SING OUTDOORS

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings
flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain

What Child is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet
with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch
are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard
and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear;
for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him
through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they
come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav'nly music floats

o'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov'ring wing,
and ever o'er its babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.
And you, beneath life's crushing
load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow:
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing;
oh, rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the
song
which now the angels sing.



"Ordinary Glory" by Lauren Wright Pittman

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www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing