



# Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day  
December 5, 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](http://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 5, 2021

10:00 a.m.

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## GATHERING

**Prelude**

*Andante*

*Eugène Bozza*

### **Welcome & Announcements**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*And also with you.*

### **Advent Candle Lighting**

L. If life was a home, then we would pray —

*P. may love be the foundation.*

*May God be the cornerstone.*

*May the Spirit be the windows — ushering light in.*

*And may hope be the walls — holding us together.*

L. As we reflect on the foundation of our faith in our lives,  
we gather together around the candle of peace.

The home we long for is a home that knows peace —

*P. peace that crests between us and our grief.*

L. Peace around our anxiety,  
peace between us and our self-criticism,

*P. peace amidst our relationships,*

*peace at the core of our being,*

*peace hovering through and in our world.*

L. The home we long for is a home that knows peace.

So today we light the candle of peace — as a reminder and as a prayer.

*P. Let it be so. Amen.*

**Hymn #404** What Is This Place

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Holy God,*

*When John was born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it.*

*We forget that in the beginning we were made good.*

*We doubt that we could possibly be enough.*

*We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out  
aiming for perfection.*

*We deflect words of praise.*

*We hide behind shiny first impressions.*

*Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job.*

*Open our ears as you open our hearts,  
so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness  
you have laid for us.*

*Gratefully we pray, amen.*

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Family of faith,

No matter how old we get,

God continues to say to us:

“You are loved; you are forgiven.”

That is the foundation of our lives.

That is the truth upon which we build our home.

So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here.

Join me in proclaiming this good news.

***We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our  
foundation. 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**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading**          Philippians 1:3-11

**Special Music**          *Scherzo*          *Eugène Bozza*

**Scripture Reading**          Luke 1:57-80

**Sermon**          Laying the Foundation

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

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

Words for the Beginning by Rev. Sarah Speed

If I could give you words  
for the very beginning-  
for the stretches and the yawns,  
and the opening of eyes,  
for the first hiccups, and the first smiles,  
and the first purse of your lips,  
I would say,  
"Oh dear child, how you are loved."

But the thing about love  
is you can't stop there,  
so I would go on to say,  
"You are strong, stronger than you think.  
And you are not alone —  
Look at these parents who adore you  
and these doctors and nurses fighting for you.  
And you are enough, already enough.

You haven't done anything yet.  
You've just been here, breathing, sleeping,  
and already, you are enough.  
And then I might say,  
"This world is a mess,  
but it is your home,  
and you can make it better,  
so always try to make it better.

And maybe most important of all:  
there is a love  
that is bigger than my understanding,  
that moves through this world,  
and I call that love God.  
And that love is here, here in this room,  
and that love knows your name by heart."

Those are the words I would say to you  
as you stretch and yawn and open your eyes  
on the very first morning  
of your very first day.  
Let that be your foundation,  
like Zechariah did for John.  
Let love be your beginning.

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

**Hymn #507**    *Come to the Table of Grace*

### **Communion**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **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 *Zechariah's Lullaby*

When "And We old you lay Zech child a will foun - ri - ah held be called a da - tion for his ba - by of pro - phet what is to

The first system of musical notation is in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "When 'And We old you lay Zech child a will foun - ri - ah held be called a da - tion for his ba - by of pro - phet what is to".

son Christ be He To Not blessed him and dreamed of what bring hope to yet hearts and to for pray - ing for

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "son Christ be He To Not blessed him and dreamed of what bring hope to yet hearts and to for pray - ing for".

he would be - come light see As For We ba - by John rocked in the sha - dows the can't see We God trust in God's vis - ions of i - mag - in -

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "he would be - come light see As For We ba - by John rocked in the sha - dows the can't see We God trust in God's vis - ions of i - mag - in -".



tem - ple that  
what you tion will  
a - tion will to

morn This  
do build A  
build From

song Zech - a -  
dream to prints and  
blue - prints and

- ri - ah sang  
- claim and for a  
hope for a

for his new -  
world dream to yet re -  
dream to yet re -

born  
new"  
filled

### **\*Charge & Benediction**

### **Postlude**

#### **Participants in today's service:**

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Estelle McGroarty

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

#### **Brass Quartet:**

Maggie Camp, soprano saxophone

Spencer Cox, alto saxophone

Ben Kuszak, tenor saxophone

Kody Grube, baritone saxophone

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: Cindy Nixon

### **Counters**

Matt Nixon, Dave Duryea

### **Greeter**

Barb Lowes

### **Flowers**

The flowers today are given in memory of Dr. "Buck" Bethards 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:**

*Dec. 5 through Dec. 12*

#### **TODAY, 12/5**

Worship with Communion 10:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Education 11:10 a.m.

#### **MONDAY, 12/6**

Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Trivia at Royal Scott 7:00 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, 12/7**

Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, 12/8**

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

**THURSDAY, 12/9**

Cultured Purls	10:00 a.m.
30/40s Gathering	7:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, 12/11**

Advent House	9:00 a.m.
UKirk Study Hours	12:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, 12/12**

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Education	11:10 a.m.
UKirk Study Hours	1:00 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. Next week join us for a friendly Gingerbread House Making competition! All the supplies will be provided.

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

**Monthly Advent House meal preparation:** We have all the volunteers we need for this month's Advent House meal, but we welcome people to sign up for future months.

**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.

**1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823**

**Phone: 517-337-0893**

**[www.eastminsterchurch.org](http://www.eastminsterchurch.org)**

**[www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing](http://www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing)**