



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
December 11, 2022**



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.

Masks are now optional in the building. We do have masks available at the welcome table for those who would like to wear them.

Children are always welcome in worship at Eastminster. Your child can sit with you in the pew or sit in the space created for children at the front of the sanctuary. Our nursery is on the lower level for children 3 and under. It is staffed by two background-checked volunteers.

Hymn books and Bibles can be found under the pews.

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. 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 11, 2022

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Song From Generation to Generation, vs 1-3

From gen-er - a - tion to gen-er - a - tion, we have shared the Christ-mas sto - ry

5

of a ba - by in a man - ger, who was born in Beth - le - hem.

9

Hope is wing - ing, Peace now ring - ing, Joy we're sing - ing, Love he's bring - ing.

13

1. There is room for ev - 'ry sto-ry. There is hope through God's great glo-ry.
 2. God will meet you in your fear. And bring peace both far and near.
 3. We can choose a bet - ter way. And find joy in ev - 'ry day.
 4. We see God in one an - oth er- As we learn to love each other.

Words: Debi Bums, using material from "From Generation to Generation"© A Sanctified Art|A Sanctified Art.org

Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY *public domain*

Advent Candle Lighting

*Hymn A Better Way

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Traditional English carol (18th cent.)

When He Said Like
Jo - seph planned to Ga - briel, Jo - seph
learned to leave her "Jo - seph, woke
of her from
Ma - ry's state he
qui - et - ly and
do not fear to
sleep to find his

pon - dered her dis - grace
not cre - ate a scene
make Ma - ry your wife
path - way had been changed
He But He cal - cu - lat - ed
Still Ma - ry still would
bears in - side her
here to - day God

all the shame the
grow with child; what
womb the hope of
calls us all to
scan - dal would cre - ate
then would her fate
ev - er - last - ing be?
choose the bet - ter life way
But
When
The
Be -

not con - tent to see her stoned he of - fered her some
 Jo - seph went to sleep that night an an - gel in - ter -
 son that she will bear to you is Je - sus the Mes -
 - yond our wild - est dreams is still a call - ing that re -

grace - vened Oh there is a bet - ter way, God's bet - ter way Oh
 - siah"
 - mains

we can choose the bet - ter way

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

*God of mercy,
 a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
 to assume the best in others,*

to give the benefit of the doubt.

*A million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't.*

Fear and greed kick in.

Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel.

Comparison and critique lead the charge.

Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph.

Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.

Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.

*Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way.*

Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Sung Response #82**

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

***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 Isaiah 35:1-10

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon We can choose a better way

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

*We believe in a God who offers second chances
and does not hold grudges.*

*We believe in a God who opens the door to new life
and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost.*

*We believe in a God who believes in us —
believes that we can make a difference,
that we can choose grace over comparison,
love over hate,
peace over war.*

And so we strive to live our lives in love.

*We strive to listen as Joseph listened,
and to be the people that God calls us to be.*

It's all that easy, and it's all that hard.

This we believe. Amen.

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 #93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Robin Bell

Pianist/Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Video Producer: Heather Myer

Worship Credits: Prayers by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctified art.org; Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Usher

Head usher: Cindy Nixon

Greeter

Mary Lou Clifton

Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Bruce Augenstein in memory of his wife, Sue 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. 11 through Dec. 18

SUNDAY, 12/11 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Art Project	11:15 a.m.
Tech Meeting	12:00 p.m.

UKirk Study Hours

MONDAY, 12/12

UKirk Study Hours

Trivia at Royal Scot 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 12/13

UKirk Study Hours

Bell Choir 6:00 p.m.

Session 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/14

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

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, 12/15

Piano Tuning 10:00 a.m.

Young Adult Gathering 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/18 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Art Project 11:15 a.m.

“From Generation to Generation” is our theme for Advent and Christmas this year. The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Advent and Christmas season have been passed down to us through generations. This Advent as we explore our theme, may we remember that we belong to God and to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to a love that won't let us go. We will also gather each Sunday after worship in the Green Room for an intergenerational art project that connects with our theme.

Christmas Eve Choir

We are putting together a special choir that will sing on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to join, the more voices the better! There will be rehearsals on Thursday, December 15th and December 22nd at 7:00pm. Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5pm. Contact Sulin Campbell or the church office if you are interested.

ADVENTures

School children who will be on break (K-6th grade) are invited to participate in a special December series called "School Break ADVENTures" at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. ADVENTures will be held Dec 19-21, from 9am-3pm at the church. We will explore the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, and prepare to celebrate God coming into the world at Christmas! Daily activities will include stories, songs, arts and crafts, yoga, quiet reflection time with interactive stations, games, and more. Children are encouraged to bring their own lunch. Space is limited to 20 kids. Please contact the church office to sign up.

Advent House Needs

The following items are what Advent House says they need for their weekend guests. They can use both the smaller, travel sizes* for individuals and the larger size for families.

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Toothpaste
- Disposable razors
- Socks in men's sizes
- T-shirts (Men's sizes L-XXXL)
- Toothbrushes, single-wrapped
- Styrofoam plates and cups
- Plastic forks and spoons

*Guests are generally homeless and the travel size takes up less space in backpacks.

Please bring whatever you can and place them in the baskets in the Green Room. We will then deliver the items periodically to Advent House.