



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
December 18, 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 18, 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- 4

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

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

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

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 Burns, using material from "From Generation to Generation"© A Sanctified Art|A Sanctified Art.org

Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY *public domain*

Advent Candle Lighting

***Hymn #88** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of today and tomorrow,

when Mary was pregnant and afraid,

she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house.

Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.

How often do we have that same opportunity?

*How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn,
and the lights off?*

*How often do we shower critique or judgment
instead of blessings and joy?*

Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs.

We want to see you when we see our neighbor. 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 Luke 1:39-58

Sermon We see God in each other

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that creation is inextricably linked.

We belong to one another in an undeniable way.

We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh, life breathed into dust.

We believe that God invites us to live into that truth —

to love without abandon,

to see the good in one another,

to trust that all belong to God.

We know that this life of connection is easier said than done,

which is why we gather in this space, week after week,

generation after generation, to be reminded:

We see God in each other.

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

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Norm Mackay

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: Sue Kalvonjian; Elizabeth Evangelista

Greeter

Jan Coye

Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God.

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. 18 through Dec. 25

SUNDAY, 12/18 — 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Art Project	11:15 a.m.

MONDAY, 12/19

ADVENTures	9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 12/20

ADVENTures	9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bell Choir	7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/21

ADVENTures	9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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THURSDAY, 12/22

Young Adult Gathering	7:00 p.m.
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SATURDAY, 12/24

Christmas Eve Service	5:00 p.m.
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SUNDAY, 12/25 — Christmas

Worship with Brunch	10:00 a.m.
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“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! Contact Sulin Campbell or the church office if you are interested in singing

Holiday Services

Our **Christmas Eve Service** will be at 5pm and will include special music, communion, and candle lighting.

We will be having a **Christmas Day Service** on Sunday, December 25th at 10:00am. This will be a casual service in the Green Room and will include brunch. Feel free to come in your pajamas!

On **Sunday, January 1st** we will not be gathering in-person. There will be a virtual service that you can watch on YouTube.

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.

Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias are coming soon to beautify our Sanctuary for the Christmas season! Would you like to make a dedication? A list of memorials/honoraria will be in the bulletin on December 24 and 25. You can fill out a form from the narthex. Return the form with a check to the Office or drop it in the collection plate, noting that the check is for poinsettias. You can also pay through the website by selecting "Sanctuary Flowers."

Please submit your order by **TODAY**. Thank you!



Christmas Joy offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families.

Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

We will be collecting Christmas Joy offerings this week or you can contribute through the website.



Scan the QR code with your phone to donate online to Eastminster.