



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022**



WELCOME!

Whether you are a member or a visitor, worshipping 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.



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.*

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2022

5:00 p.m.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting

*Hymn #133 O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

We admit — we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

We are not familiar with angel choruses.

We have not walked many miles to be counted in a census,

and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

We don't fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it. Instead of running out into the streets to shout that there is a love bigger than we could imagine,

we whisper this good news.

Instead of throwing open the doors and inviting people in,

we simply leave them unlocked, hoping folks will figure it out.

Instead of telling the next generation why this night matters so much,

we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure.

Forgive us for our silence.

Forgive us for our hesitation.

Forgive us for the moments when we fail to share your good news.

Plant this story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation. Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Special Music O Holy Night Sue Rosser, soprano

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-5

Special Music Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Eastminster Choir

Scripture Reading Luke 2:6-7

Carol #115 Away in a Manger

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-14

Special Music It Came Upon a Midnight Clear Handbell Quartet

Scripture Reading Luke 2:15-18

Sermon *We tell this story*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn #134** Joy to the World

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Joy to the World!

The Lord is come!

Sing to the Lord all the people of the earth!

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Please come forward down the center aisle to receive by intinction. Take a piece of bread and then dip it in the cup and partake. You may return down the side aisles. Those unable to come forward will be served at their seats.

***Sharing of the Light**

(Please keep the lighted candle vertical and tip the unlighted candle toward the flame to light it.)

***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! Wondrous 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**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Advent Wreath: Tom Hardenbergh, Lacy Myer, Abby Nixon, Sara Weeden

Liturgists: Rev. Becky Brown, Abby Nixon, Rick Johnston,

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey O'Neill

Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer

Pianist/Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Eastminster Choir Director: Sulin Campbell

Handbell Choir Director: Heather Myer

Video Producer: Mike Brown

Worship Credits: Prayers by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC,
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Usher

Head usher: Jeff Lapinski; Barb Stowitts

Greeter

Mary Lou Clifton

Communion Servers

Barb Dalzell, Cindy Nixon, Terry Graham, Heather Myer

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
Heather Myer

Organist
Bell Choir Director

Christmas Day Service: Tomorrow at 10:00am we will be having a casual service with brunch in the Green Room. You are welcome to come in your pajamas and if you are able bring a dish to share. There will not be a virtual option tomorrow.

New Year's Day Service: On Sunday, January 1st our worship will be virtual only. You can view the service on our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing).

Holiday Office Hours: The church will be closed Monday, December 26th-through January 2nd. Bridgette, our Office Administrator will be in the office on Wednesday, December 28th from 10am-4pm. Regular office hours will begin again on Tuesday, January 3rd.

Ways to Give: Thank you for your support of Eastminster. You can give by placing your offering in the plates outside the sanctuary doors, by mailing in a donation, by giving online at our website (eastminsterchurch.org), or by scanning the QR code below.



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



Poinsettia Dedications

Given By	In Memory Of
Bruce Augenstein	Sue Augenstein
Elaine Cable	Allen Cable
Maxine Cleary	Bill Cleary, Ethel and Pete Cleary, Helen and Ed Barlow
Barb Dalzell	John Dalzell
Tom and Linda Hardenbergh	Our parents: Clark and Ellen Grant, Clay and Beki Hardenbergh
Suzanne and Chase Hunt	David Hunt
Phyllis Irwin	Don Irwin, Cecelia Goodrich
Robert Kleine	Mary Alice Kleine and Glenn Kleine, loving mother and son
Estelle McGroarty	Dennis McGroarty
Irv Nichols	Christy Nichols
Brenda Ramsby	My mother, Joyce Travis

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

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