



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
December 10, 2023



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 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.



** 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
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Opening Video

***Call to Worship**

***Hymn #106** Prepare the Way, O Zion

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

*We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.*

Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear.

We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,

and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.

Show us how to find joy in connection.

Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Sung Response** *Doxology for a Weary World*

CRANHAM ("In the Bleak Midwinter")

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Gustav Holst (1906)



Praise the one Cre - a - tor, praise the Liv-ing Christ



Praise the Ho-ly Spi - rit, praise both day and night



Praise when you are wea - ry, praise in times of joy



Praise, my soul, with all your strength and your heart and voice

***Passing of the Peace** (*Share the peace of Christ with the person next to you*)

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

Advent Wreath Lighting

Sung Response #314 Christ, Be Our Light

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Isaiah 40:1-11

Scripture Reading Luke 1:24-45

Sermon We find joy in connection

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith**

*We believe that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.*

*We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.
Joy is meant to be shared,
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.*

*And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community
is leaning on one another.*

*So together we say:
I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out.
And in doing so, we will both see God.
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 #87** Comfort, Comfort Now My People

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Matt Nixon

Children's Message: Neil Myer
Advent Wreath Lighting: Heitman family
Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Worship Credits: The liturgy is by A Sanctified Art and used with permission; Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Ushers

Head Usher: Cindy Nixon; Barb Stowitts

Greeter

Elizabeth Evangelista

Video Producer

Susan Smalley

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

This Week at Eastminster:

December 10 through December 17, 2023

SUNDAY, 12/10

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Education	11:15 a.m.
Deacons	12:00 p.m.
UKirk Study Hours	

MONDAY, 12/11

Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.

Study Hours

TUESDAY, 12/12

Session

7:00 p.m.

Study Hours

WEDNESDAY, 12/13

Men's Bible Study

8:00 a.m.

Bible Study

10:30 a.m.

Study Hours

THURSDAY, 12/14

Young Adult Holiday Party

7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/17

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship

11:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Education

11:15 a.m.

Advent

This year we are going to ask the question "How does a weary world rejoice?" Joy is often a companion to many other emotions. We can feel joy as well as grief, anticipation, anxiety, disappointment, exhaustion. Joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. This Advent we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. The world needs our joy and in this weary world, I pray that we find ways to rejoice.

This year's Advent devotional can be found in the narthex. You can also call the church office to request that one be mailed to you.

We have two Advent calendars that you can also use. One for adults and one for children. The adult Advent calendar prompts will also be posted on Facebook daily. We invite you to share with each other.

Join us TODAY after worship (and a brief fellowship time) in the Green Room as we explore the theme of joy in connection. Whether you are new to this community of faith or have been here for some length of time, this will be a guided and engaging time to make some connections, and get to know others in a way that you may not have had the chance to previously.



Cookies and Punch needed for Christmas Eve

The Deacons are hosting a reception after the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service and we need your help! Please consider baking 2 dozen cookies for the reception and/or making and serving the Christmas Eve punch.

Items can be dropped off during church office hours or during the 10 a.m. Christmas Eve service. A sign-up sheet is located on the Narthex table. Contact Bev Bonning if you have any questions. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

This year, coming together to reclaim Advent and Christmas can be humbling and fulfilling. As we excitedly await the birth of Christ, it's important to remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant of All, the perfect gift. With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope. Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and retired pastors and their families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.