



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023**



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023

5:00 p.m.

GATHERING

Gathering Music

Welcome

Prelude

O Holy Night

Alex Mikeladze

Advent Candle Lighting

***Hymn #133** O Come, All Ye Faithful

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving Christ,

Scripture tells us that you were placed in a manger
among livestock and hay
because there was no place in the guestroom.

The space was full, and yet—

your parents made room.

Scripture tells us that shepherds arrived
from the fields beyond town.

The space was full, and yet—

they made room.

Scripture tells us that Mary pondered
what the shepherds had to say.

Her heart was full, and yet—

she made room.

Too often we assume there is no more room.

*Teach us how to make room for one another.
Teach us how to make room for you.
Carve out space in our hearts to love as you love,
for we do not want to build hostility here.
We want to build your promised day.
Guide us forward.
With hope and honesty we pray, amen.*

***Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

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

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Carols and Scripture

The Story of Mary Luke 1:26-35

Special Music Still, Still, Still Handbell Choir

The Story of Joseph Matthew 1:18-23

Carol #110 Love Has Come

The Story of the Birth Luke 2:1-7

Carol #128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

The Story of the Shepherds Luke 2:8-14

Special Music O Leave Your Sheep Sulin Campbell, soprano
-Trad. French Carol; arr. Cecil Hazelhurst

The Story of the Shepherds II Luke 2:15-18

Carol #119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Sermon How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

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

All are welcome to take communion. 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 can be served at their seats. Gluten-free bread is available, please ask the servers.

***The Story of Home and Sharing the Light John 1:1-14**

(Please keep lighted candles vertical and tip unlighted candles toward the flame to light them.)

***Hymn #122 Silent Night, Holy 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

Liturgists: Beverly Bonning, Robert Kleine, Amanda Lanier, Abby Nixon, Emmanuel Yewah

Advent Wreath Lighting: The Jones Family

Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer

Pianist/Organist: Tamar Mikeladze

Handbell Ensemble Director: Heather Myer

Handbell Ensemble: Terry Graham, Linda Hardenbergh, Megan Jones, Heather Myer, Rev. Kristin Stroble, Sara Weeden

String Quartet

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

Ushers

Head Usher: Sulin Campbell; Barb Dalzell

Greeters

Maddy Trimby and Bob Walter

Communion Servers

Barb Dalzell, Cindy Nixon, Linda Hardenbergh, Susan Smalley

Video Producers

Mike Brown and Robin Bell

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 24 through December 31, 2023

SUNDAY, 12/24

Traditional Christmas Eve Service	5:00 p.m.
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Fellowship	6:00 p.m.
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MONDAY, 12/25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

Office Closed

TUESDAY, 12/26

Office Closed

WEDNESDAY, 12/27

Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, 12/28

Office Closed

SUNDAY, 12/31

Worship	10:00 a.m.
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Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
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Poinsettia Dedications

Given By	In Memory Of
Bruce Augenstein	Sue Augenstein
Barb Dalzell	John Dalzell
Dan and Judy Dickinson	May and Emory Bates Maxine and Bill Dickinson
Ted Hagan	Pat Hagan Dr. Ray Hagan Our parents
Linda and Tom Hardenbergh	Our parents
Suzanne and Chase Hunt	David Hunt Mr. and Mrs. Clarence O. Mahn, Sue's parents Mr. and Mrs. George G. Hunt, Chase's parents
George and Sue Miller	Our parents
Jeff and Sam O'Neill	Our parents Rev. Robert and Carol O'Neill Tom and Jan McGowan
Brenda Ramsby	Her parents, Bill and Joyce Travis