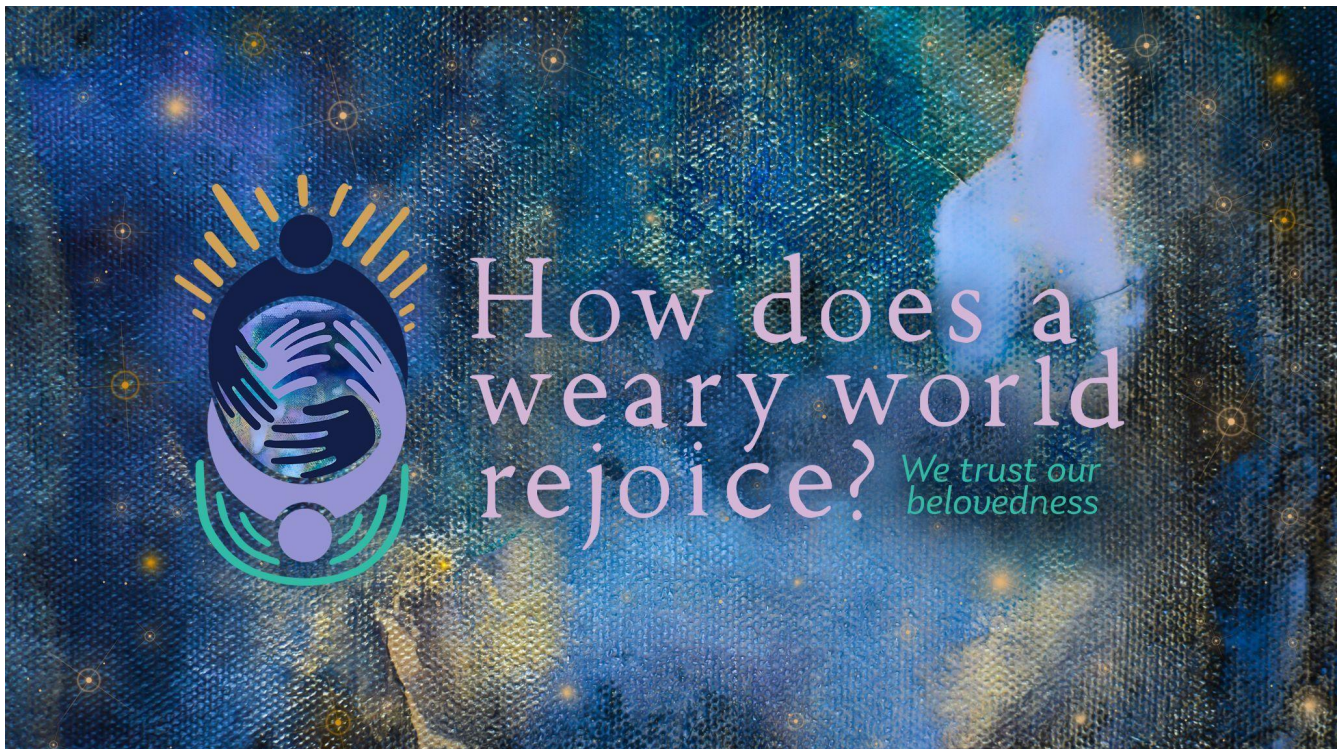




# Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day**  
**January 7, 2024**



# WELCOME!

Whether you are a member or a visitor, worshiping with us in-person or online, you are welcome here.

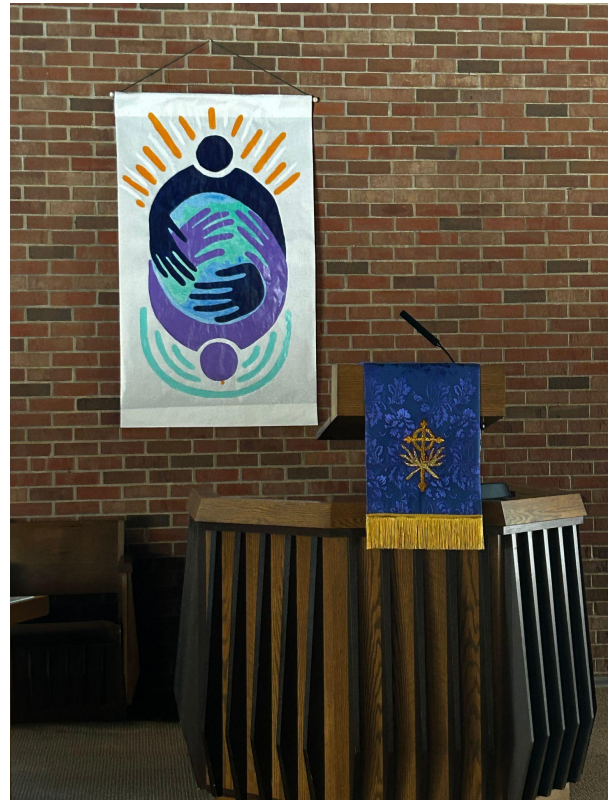
Information about our church is found in the narthex or online: [eastminsterchurch.org](http://eastminsterchurch.org). At the welcome table or on our website, you can sign up for our weekly emails.

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

## Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING

#### Prelude

#### Welcome & Announcements

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

#### \*Call to Worship

One: There are some days  
when I need the reminder that I belong to God.  
Do you ever feel that way?

*All: Yes. We do.*  
*The world can be a harsh place;*  
*we often need that reminder.*

One: Well then, let us care for one another.  
Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.  
Church, you belong to God.  
You are God's beloved.

*All: Friend, you belong to God.*  
*You are God's beloved.*

One: Let us worship the God who knows our names.

*All: Let us worship the God who calls us beloved.*

\*Hymn #156      Sing of God Made Manifest

#### \*Call to Confession

## \*Prayer of Confession

*Loving God,*

*From the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.” Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. 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**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Reading** Luke 3:15-22

**Sermon** We trust our belovedness

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**Time of Reflection**

**Communion & Lord's Prayer**

Great Thanksgiving

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 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.*

## Prayer After Communion

**\*Hymn #547**          Go, My Children, with My Blessing

## **\*Charge & Benediction**

## **\*Postlude**

### **Participants in today's service:**

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Jim Engelkes

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

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## **THE THEOLOGICAL STATEMENTS BEING MADE IN THE STAR WORD TRADITION:**

1. The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.
2. We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.
3. We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.
4. We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe

that star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.

5. By not looking or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not us that are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

### **Ushers**

Head Usher: Estelle McGroarty; Elaine Cable

### **Greeter**

Elaine Cable

### **Communion Servers**

Sue Kalvonjian, Sulin Campbell, Mike Brown, Heather Heitman

### **Video Producer**

Mike Brown

### **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:**

*January 7 through January 14, 2024*

#### **SUNDAY, 1/7**

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Congregational Meeting	11:00 a.m.
All-Church Lunch	11:15 a.m.
Community Bell Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, 1/8**

Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
CCR Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.
Trivia	7:00 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, 1/9**

Choral Ensemble Rehearsal	10:00 a.m.
Session	7:00 p.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY, 1/10</b>	
Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
<b>THURSDAY, 1/11</b>	
UKirk Dinner and Gathering	6:30 p.m.
Young Adult Gathering	7:00 p.m.
<b>SATURDAY, 1/13</b>	
Advent House	8:30 a.m.
PageTurners	10:00 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY, 1/14</b>	
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Deacons	12:00 p.m.
Community Bell Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.

### **All-Church Lunch—January 7**

We will be having an all-church lunch next Sunday after worship. We will be handing out star words at that time.

### **Advent House**

Advent House has requested that during the winter months we return to providing soups and salads for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. We need people to bring soup, items for sandwiches, and to help assemble the sandwiches on Saturday, January 13th.

### **Congregational Meeting—January 7**

We will be holding a congregational meeting on Jan. 7 after worship for the purpose of electing an elder to fill an open position. Our annual congregational meeting in which we receive financial reports and vote on the pastor's terms of call will be on Jan. 28.



## **Housewarming Celebration for Tamar and Alex Mikeladze**

Please join us on **Sunday, January 14** during Fellowship Hour as the Deacons host a housewarming celebration of Tamar and Alex Mikeladze's recent and long-awaited move to their new home. As a way to show our appreciation to both of them, we are collecting monetary donations ahead of the celebration to present them with a gift card from the congregation. Please consider donating any amount within your budget by writing a check to Beverly Bonning (memo line: Tamar's housewarming) or placing cash in an envelope with your name, the purpose, and depositing it in the black lock box outside of Bridgette's office. All donations are welcome.

## **Interfaith Security Donations**

Many of you may have heard that Congregation Shaarey Zedek was the victim of a bomb threat last weekend. We are still taking donations to help defray security costs for our Jewish and Muslim neighbors at Shaarey Zedek, Kehillat Israel and the Islamic Center of Greater Lansing. All donations will be split equally between the congregations. Donations can be given as a check to the church or online. Please designate that the gift is for "Interfaith Security Funds."



**Scan the QR code with your phone to donate online to Eastminster Presbyterian Church and its ongoing ministries.**