



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
January 4, 2026



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.



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.

There are welcome pads on the end of each pew. We invite you to sign in! On the welcome pads are prayer cards. If you have a prayer request you can fill that out and put it in the plate during the offering. If you only want the pastor to see it, please mark it confidential.

There is an offering time during the worship service. You can also give online on our website or by using the QR code at the end of the bulletin.

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

January 4, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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

*Call to Worship

One: In the dark of morning,

ALL: ***the stars still shine.***

One: In the depth of winter,

ALL: ***the birds still climb.***

One: At the start of the year,
tender and new,

ALL: ***God is here.***

God is near.

One: Do not rest in your fear.

ALL: ***God is here.***

One: So like the stars and the birds,

ALL: ***Let us worship holy God.***

*Hymn We've Seen God's Face

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

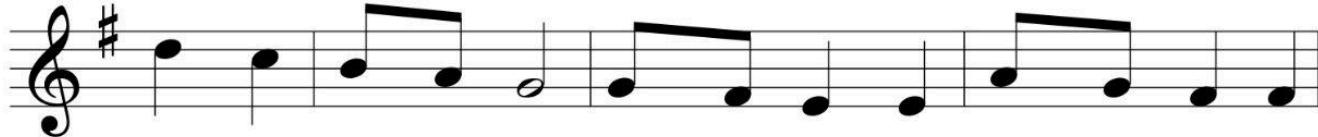
Traditional Polish melody



Like the ma - gi from the east we tra - vel in - to
If we find our path has led us to King Her - od's
We will trust that star to guide us to the place where
When new threats de - rail our jour - ney from the path we



the un - known Step by step we make the jour - ney, called by
den of fear Still we'll keep our fo - cus fixed on chas - ing
we were called Find - ing God em - bod - ied in the humb-lest
planned to take We won't let fear par - a - lyze us, no we



God to seek the throne O - ver moun-tains, through the des - erts
down that star so clear Though the ty - rants rage and threat-en
dwell - ing place of all As King Her - od sends his sol-diers
won't stay locked in place Stay - ing nim - ble, we'll move for-ward



Seek - ing Christ we fol - low e - ver 'Til at last
Noth - ing weak - ens our pro - fess - ion It is God's
Time stands still while we be - hold him Here's where we
Keep - ing safe by cross-ing bor - ders Move a - round



we reach the place Where we hope to see God's face
voice we have heard Fear will not have the last word
were called to be God's in - car - nate love to see
the fear with grace For we know we've seen God's face

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

*Ever-loving God,
we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy.
However we know that this is not how the world works.
Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear
once again.*

So today we pray -

*forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.
Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call.
Forgive us when fear is louder than love.*

Show us how to turn our fear into action.

*Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world.
With hope we pray, amen.*

*Words of Forgiveness

*Sung Response #132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!*

*Passing of the Peace *(Share the peace of Christ with the people around you.)*

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-18

Sermon Fear Doesn't Stop Us

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

Offering of Resources and Prayer

Financial offerings support the ministry and mission of Eastminster Presbyterian. You can also place prayer requests (cards are in the pew pads) in the offering plate.

***Doxology #143** Angels, From the Realms of Glory (vs 4)

*All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving and 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 may be served at their seats. All of the bread is gluten free.

Prayer after Communion

***Hymn #150** As with Gladness Men of Old

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Rachel Giddings

Children's Message: Cindy Mackay

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, DMA

Communion Servers: Brenda Ramsby, Norm Mackay, Sara Weeden

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.

Usher

Head Usher: Jeff Lapinski; Beverly Bonning

Greeter

Bob Kleine

Video Producer

Heather Myer

Fellowship

Beverly Bonning

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, DMA

Pianist

This Week at Eastminster: Jan 4-11th

SUNDAY, 1/4

Worship	10:00 a.m.
All-Church Lunch	11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, 1/5

CCR Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.
Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 1/6

LMM Chorale Ensemble	11:00 a.m.
Infrastructure Meeting	6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 1/7

Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, 1/8

Middle Ground Gathering	7:00 p.m.
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SATURDAY, 1/10

Advent House Meal	8:00 a.m.
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SUNDAY, 1/11

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

Financial Donations

Please turn in any donations you want credited for 2025. We will close out the financial year on January 7th, so any check received on that day or after (even if dated for December) will be considered a 2026 donation.

All-Church Lunch

Join us TODAY after worship for an all-church lunch. We are having pizza and salad.

Next Sermon Series

Next week we start a new sermon series: “Inspired: Finding New Ways to Love the Bible.” This series is based on the book “Inspired” by Rachel Held Evans. During this series we will have adult education every Sunday after worship to further discuss how we read the Bible.



With the coming of Epiphany, we again celebrate our tradition of "star words." On the day that we remember the star that led the magi to Jesus, we pass out paper stars with a printed word. This is a spiritual practice that invites you to receive a word as a gift that can guide, inspire, or challenge you in the coming year. Keep your star someplace where you will see it throughout the coming year. Below are some prompts to help you begin thinking about your word.

- What are your initial thoughts about the word?
- What is the definition of your word?
- What are the different forms your word can take? How do the different forms change its meaning?
- What synonyms of your word come to mind? How do they help to shape your understanding of your word?
- What scripture passage(s) or stories does your word bring to mind? If you need some help, try going to biblegateway.com or use a Bible concordance to look up passages.
- Any other thoughts or reflections?

Advent House

Our monthly Advent house meal is this Saturday, January 10th. Please sign up in the narthex to bring a casserole.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held Feb. 1 immediately after church. If you have any photos from church events throughout the year, we would love to have you share them to help tell the story of Eastminster in 2025.



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

You can also give via Venmo @EastminsterEL-Church

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Phone: 517-337-0893

www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing