



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
December 14, 2025**



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
December 14, 202510:00 a.m.

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

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

***Call to Worship**

One: Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy."

ALL: *Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"*

One: Mary said, "How can this be?"

ALL: *We often say, "But God, I am afraid."*

One: Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

ALL: *So may we trust the Inviter.*

One: May we heed God's invitation.

ALL: *May we summon the courage and sing God's praise.*

One: Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God.

***Opening Song #103** Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Come now, O Prince of Peace;

make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus;

reconcile all people.

***Candle Lighting**

People of God,

Live in the joy of the Lord.

Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

***Hymn** O Come, Take Heart

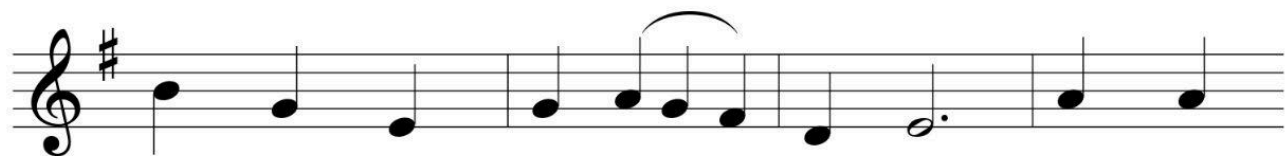
VENI IMMANUEL 8.8.8.8 with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

Plainsong adapted by Thomas Helmore, 1854



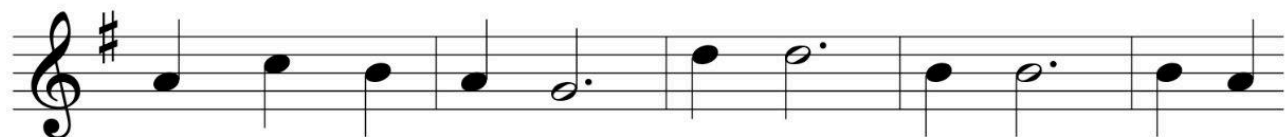
O come, O come though tim - id and un - sure And
O come, O come though you feel un - pre - pared When
O come and join God's kin _____ dom work And



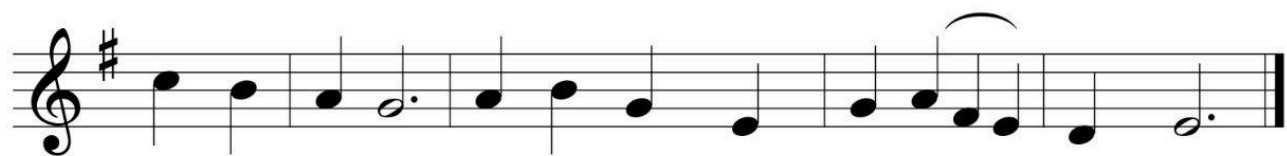
trust that God de - clares your worth Re - mem -
cour - age fails you, do it scared Don't let
be God's hands and feet on earth You're called



ber when you're feel - ing small That ev - ery child of
the fear of ma - king mis - takes Im - pede you from the
ex - act - ly as _____ you are To love the world with



God _____ is called
path you're called to take Take heart, take heart! The One
ev - ery bro - ken part



who calls to you Will give you strength and see you through

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Courageous God,

you invite us to live into our call.

You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.

Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”

we often hide our faces.

We dig our heels in.

We look for someone else to volunteer.

Spark courage in us.

Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.

Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone.

You invite us forward.

With baby steps, we hope, we pray, amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Words of Forgiveness**

Family of faith,

no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day.

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

Nothing can keep God’s love away.

We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

***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 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Old Testament, p. 656

Special Music "In the Stillness" Mark Miller

Scripture Reading Luke 1:26-39 New Testament, p. 53

Sermon Even in our fear, we are called forward

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection "Show Up" Music Video

***Affirmation of Faith**

We have seen the valley.

We have seen a sky without stars.

*We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.*

We believe in a with-us God.

We believe in the hope of tomorrow.

We believe that good news is louder than fear.

We believe this good news is for all people.

*So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.*

We will reach for each other.

We will look for God in our midst.

We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim:

Unto us, love is born.

We have seen the longest night,

and we have seen unimaginable love.

So still, we believe.

Amen.

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 #654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. There are three measures of music with lyrics, each consisting of a top staff and a bottom staff. The first measure has a repeat sign at the end. The second measure has a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above the notes. The third measure also has a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' above the notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -

joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Pastoral Prayer & 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.

***Hymn #726 The Summons**

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Cindy Mackay

Children's Message: Charlotte Smith

Advent Candle Lighting: Jeff Lapinski and Rick Johnston

Special Music: Sue Rosser

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Worship Credits: Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Advent Banner

Have you ever experienced light in the night in a way that strikes fear? It's a different way of experiencing light at night. In this banner light shines down from the heavens in rays of light; What do you see on either side of the light?

Doves: the doves represent the Holy Spirit showing us the way and journeying alongside us.

Usher

Head Usher: Jason Giddings

Flowers

Today's flowers are given by Bruce Augenstein in memory of his wife, Sue Augenstein.

Greeter

Marcia Kent

Video Producer

Mike Brown

Fellowship

Sulin Campbell

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: Dec. 14-Dec. 21

SUNDAY, 12/14 Third Sunday of Advent

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Advent Event 11:15 a.m.

MONDAY, 12/15

Kristin is out of the office

Trivia at Royal Scot 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, 12/16

UKirk Board Meeting 6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/17

Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m.

Bible Study at Kristin's 10:30 a.m.

THURSDAY, 12/18

Middle Ground Gathering 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, 12/20

Children & Youth Activity and Lock-in 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 12/21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Breakfast 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

Christmas Eve

December 24th at 5pm

- Sunday worship at 10am - Dec. 14, Dec. 21
- Advent Craft - Dec. 14 after worship
- Children's Christmas Activities - Dec. 20 from 5-8pm
- Youth Lock-in - Dec. 20-21st
- All Church Breakfast - Dec. 21st at 9am



Poinsettia Dedications

Would you like to dedicate poinsettias to a loved one? We will list dedications in the bulletin on Dec. 21, 24 and 28. Please see the dedication form in the Narthex. You can drop it in the offering plate or call/email the office. Dedications are due Dec. 17.

Children's Activity and Youth Lock-in

All children and youth (K–12) are invited to a fun and faith-filled Activity Night and Lock-In at the church on December 20–21! We'll kick off the evening on Saturday from 5:00–8:00 PM with cookie baking, pizza dinner, games and crafts. Youth in grades 6–12 will continue the night with bowling, followed by movies and popcorn.

On Sunday morning, everyone is invited to our All-Church Breakfast from 9:00–10:00 AM. Please sign up to bring a dish to pass and join us for a warm start to the day before worship.

How You Can Help: We welcome donations for the popcorn bar, snacks or drinks for the youth, and breakfast setup/cleanup.

We look forward to a joyful weekend of fellowship, fun, and community! Please contact Heather Myer or Heather Heitman for questions and signups.

Christmas Eve Cookies

Are you willing to bring homemade cookies for our Christmas Eve service? There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you for your help!



Christmas Joy Offering

We will be receiving the Christmas Joy offering through December 24th. This is one of the PC(USA)'s Special Offerings and it provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in times of need, leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Centsability

Looking for the perfect gift? Consider a contribution to Cents-Ability. Your gift can bless someone who shares your concern for those who struggle with hunger and poverty, while making a difference for families or communities in need. (If sending an honor or memory gift directly to the Presbyterian Hunger Program, designate the gift for H000107-Cents-Ability and mail to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700, or give online at <https://pcusa.org/donate/h000107-cents-ability>. Be sure to include the recipient's name and address if you would like PHP to send a card acknowledging your gift.)

Eastminster collects for the Cents-Ability offering every second Sunday throughout the year with money going to local organizations who help feed the hungry.



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

