



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
December 21, 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 21, 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: Here in worship -

ALL: we pray together,

One: we stand together,

ALL: we sing together,

One: we listen together.

ALL: Here in worship - we are not alone.

One: So when life gives you reason to grieve, to fear, to worry,
remember this moment.

ALL: We are not alone.

One: Let us worship our with-us 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 love of the Lord.

Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

*Hymn We're Not Alone

ADESTE FIDELES Irr. with refrain

Words by Anna Strickland, 2025

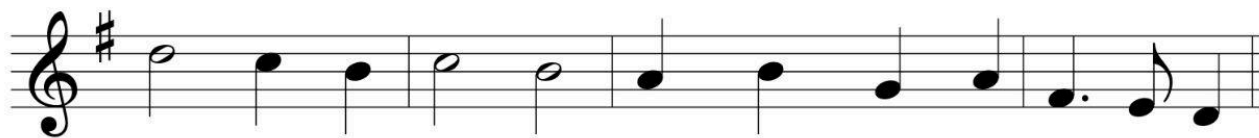
Music by John Francis Wade, 1751



Fear all a - round you tells you you're a - lone____
Give me your hand to hold when you feel frigh-tened
When peo - ple live in fear____ for their safe - ty
For - ward we march to - geth - er toward God's kin - dom



Urg - ing you to build walls and i - so - late
We can up - hold each o - ther in____ our fear
Let us put priv - ilege on the line____ for them
Build - ing a big - ger ta - ble, not tall - er walls



I know your fear be - cause I feel it, too____
Per - son by per - son, we'll find strength to - geth - er
Stand with our sib - lings in____ sol - i - dar - i - ty
Work - ing to - geth - er, no - thing is im - poss-i - ble



When fear grows deep in - side us, re - mem - ber what u - nites us



No, no-thing can di - vide us; we're not a - lone

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

When you were afraid,
did I stay by your side?
Did I offer my hand?
or did I leave you alone?

When you were afraid,
did I choose solidarity?
Did I see your fear,
or did I only see mine?

Friend, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.

Fortunately, God offers grace, and we do too.

So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

Now we must ask -

*when you were afraid,
did we stay by your side?
Did we offer our hands,
or did we leave you alone?*

*When you were afraid,
did we choose solidarity?
Did we see your fear?
Or did we only see yours?*

Friends, none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.

Fortunately, God offers grace, and I do too.

So take a deep breath, and let's start again.

Thank you. Your mercy is a gift.

We accept your grace and would love to start again.

May it be so, with God's help.

Alleluia, 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 Isaiah 41:5-10 Old Testament, p. 629

Special Music "Christmas Oratorio" Saint-Saens

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 New Testament, p. 1

Sermon When you're afraid, give me your hand

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/Alto and Bass/Tenor) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the bass part providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "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."

The score consists of three systems of music. The first system covers the first line of lyrics. The second system covers the second line of lyrics, including a triplet of eighth notes in the soprano part. The third system covers the third line of lyrics, also including a triplet of eighth notes in the soprano part. The piece concludes with a final chord in both parts.

***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 #727 The Servant Song**

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Tom Hardenbergh

Children's Message: Neil Myer

Special Music: Sulin Campbell

Advent Wreath: Mary Harvey and Barbara Lowes

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, DMA

Worship Credits: The liturgy is from A Sanctified Art; 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?

Angels: The angels are glowing in the open spaces of the heavens. Arriving with power and a fearful strength, they use the imperative mood, "Do Not Fear!" to direct those listening in every time and place.

Usher

Head Usher: Sacha Roennecke

Greeter

Sue Miller

Video Producer

Robin Bell

Fellowship

Jeff Lapinski

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. 21-Dec. 28

SUNDAY, 12/21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Church Breakfast

9:00 a.m.

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship

11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, 12/22

Staff Holiday Lunch

12:00 p.m.

Trivia at Royal Scot

7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 12/24

Christmas Eve Service

5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, 12/25 Merry Christmas!

Office Closed

SUNDAY, 12/28

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship

11:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed December 25th. The following week the office will be open on December 29th from 10am-4pm and then closed the rest of the week. Normal hours will begin again on January 5th.

Financial Donations

Please remember to get in your end of year donations as soon as possible. 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.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us on Wednesday, December 24th at 5:00pm for our Christmas Eve worship, a service of scripture, carols, communion, and candle light.



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.

Worship on Sunday, December 28th

On the Sunday after Christmas we will be having an interactive service in the Green Room, led by the Faith Formation committee. Please note that there will be no live-stream this Sunday.