



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
December 7, 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 7, 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: Family of faith, God is at work!

ALL: God is healing and creating,

One: redeeming and dreaming,

ALL: calling and sending,

One: listening and loving.

ALL: Yes, indeed, God is at work!

One: So may we worship our God who never gives up.

ALL: May we worship our God who holds onto hope.

***Opening Song #103 Come Now, O Prince of Peace (2x)**

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 peace of the Lord!

Repeat as prompted by the worship leader.

***Hymn God, Be With Your Weary People**



1. God, be with your wea - ry peo - ple,
2. God, be with your hun - gry peo - ple,
3. God, be with your har - dened peo - ple,



rise from sa - cred an - cient root. Branch of
serve a feast for all to eat. Bread of
ease each brit - tle mind and soul. Source of



ag - es, bud a - mong us, leaf and
life, a - bun - dant bless - ing, bring a
stir - ring, right - eous wa - ters, free us



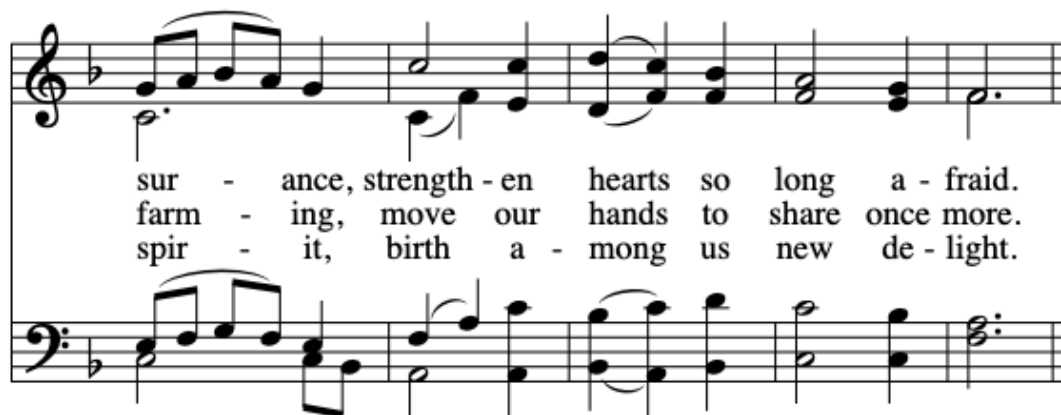
blos - som, fill with fruit. We a - wait your
jus - tice more com - plete. We have yearned for
as your mer - cies roll. We have longed for



new be - gin - nings, dreams de - ferred and
 peace and plen - ty, snared by greed and
 life un - bound - ed, fresh and flow - ing,



hopes de - layed. Meet de - spair with sweet as -
 worn by war. Make our weap - ons fit for
 clear and bright. Bap - tize us with fire and



sur - ance, strength - en hearts so long a - fraid.
 farm - ing, move our hands to share once more.
 spir - it, birth a - mong us new de - light.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

On-the-move God,

we have every reason to hold onto hope.

*We have every reason to believe that spring will come,
 that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise.*

And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers.

With anxious hearts we cry out to you,

“Will change ever come? Will things ever get better?

Will I ever make a difference?”

Soothe our wandering hearts

*and show us the places where the sun is shining.
Show us the places where you are on the move.
With open hearts we pray, amen.*

***Silent Confession**

***Words of Forgiveness**

Family of faith...

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 Isaiah 43:19-21

Old Testament, p. 632

Special Music Flocks in Pastures Green Abiding *J.S. Bach*

Scripture Reading Matthew 11:1-11

New Testament, pp. 10-11

Sermon When We're Running Out of Hope, God is at Work

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 #654 In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, while the Bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. 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 includes triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes) in the second and third systems. The piece concludes with a final double bar line.

*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 #105** People, Look East

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Rev. Shirley Paxton

Advent Wreath Lighters: Confirmation Class

Special Music: Sulin Campbell, Jim Engelkes, Sara Weeden

Flutists: Adam Gulley, Ivana Chacon Ramirez

Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Communion Servers: Jason Giddings, Estelle McGroarty, Dave Duryea, Sara Weeden

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 a bright light in the night in a way that strikes fear? It's a different way of experiencing light at night. Through many centuries in European art, the heavenly host of angels have been visually

represented as white women expressing a sense of calm, producing a sense of serene reverence. That is not what the Hebrew and the Greek are saying. These words that present fear of the army of God are literal fear, not a sense of calm or serenity. So, the first mention by the angel in Luke 2:10 is to tell us, “Do not fear.”

Notice in the banner, that people are bowed in prayer poses. There are also hands representing people overcoming fear and making room for the steadfast love of God in their midst.

Usher

Head Usher: Jeff Lapinski; Beverly Bonning

Flowers

Today’s flowers are given to the glory of God.

Greeter

Ruth Hartwig

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: *Dec. 7-Dec. 14*

SUNDAY, 12/7 Second Sunday of Advent

Worship	10:00 a.m.
All-Church Lunch and Youth Gathering	11:00 a.m.
Capital City Bell Ringers Concert	7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, 12/8

Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.
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TUESDAY, 12/9

Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
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Session	7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, 12/10	
Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
THURSDAY, 12/11	
Middle Ground Gathering	7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, 12/13	
Advent House	8:30 a.m.
SUNDAY, 12/14 Third Sunday of Advent & Centsability	
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Intergenerational Advent Event	11:15 a.m.

All-Church Lunch

Join us after church for an all-church potluck lunch and then a time of intergenerational faith formation.

Capital City Ringers Concert

Today at 7pm the Capital City Ringers will be performing their holiday concert "Retro Holiday Spectacular."

Advent House

Our next Advent House meal is Saturday, December 13th. We still need more people to sign up to bring a casserole. You can sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office.

Advent Devotionals

You can pick up an Advent Devotional and an Advent calendar in the narthex.

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

On Saturday, December 20th all children and youth are invited to the church for dinner, games, crafts, and baking from 5-8pm. At 8pm the youth (6-12th grade) will have a lock-in at the church. The next morning, Sunday, December 21st will be an all church breakfast at 9am. For more information or to RSVP talk to Neil Myer.

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.



 **CHRISTMAS JOY**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 21

We celebrate
emerging leaders in schools and colleges equipping
communities of color, honing talents and skills to serve God,
the Church and the world for years to come.

Thank You

Through the Christmas Joy Offering,
we come together to support past,
present and future leaders,
embodying God's perfect gift to us,
Jesus Christ.

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

 **CHRISTMAS JOY**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 21

1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Phone: 517-337-0893

www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing