



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
January 25, 2026**

The background of the bottom section is a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open Bible. The word "GENESIS" is clearly visible at the top of the right page. The text on the pages is in a serif font, and the paper has a warm, aged tone.

Inspired

Finding new ways to love the Bible

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.

In the pew racks there 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 25, 2026

10:00 a.m.

“I don’t want to become a person who is unbothered by these texts, and if Jesus is who he says he is, then I don’t think he wants me to be either. There are parts of the Bible that inspire, parts that perplex, and parts that leave you with an open wound. I’m still wrestling, and like Jacob, I will wrestle until I am blessed. God hasn’t let go of me yet.”

-Rachel Held Evans

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

***Call to Worship**

One: We come to hear the stories
of other people in another world
long ago.

***ALL: We come to hear the stories
that are also about us
today
in this place.***

One: We come to wrestle
to ask questions
to struggle

***ALL: We come seeking to be blessed.
God, give us ears to listen
and eyes to see.***

***Hymn #692 Spirit, Open My Heart**

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One,

We confess that while you call us to be peacemakers, we as a people are prone to violence. We want to claim that you are on our side and therefore against others. We glorify war in our stories. We avert our eyes from the horrors that occur far away and close to home. We want to believe that violence can be justified. Remind us that your son turned the war story on its head. Instead of charging into Jerusalem on a war horse he came on a donkey. Instead of rallying troops for battle he washed his disciples' feet. Remind us how Jesus refused to meet violence with more violence and renew our commitment to tell those stories. Hear now our silent confessions.

***Silent Confession**

***Words of Forgiveness**

***Sung Response #582** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B \flat E \flat B \flat Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F \sharp) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7)(D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

***Passing of the Peace**

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

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Message

Sung Prayer for Illumination

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing. Lord, send your

Spir - it in this place. Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

pray - ing. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Scripture Reading Joshua 6:15-27 Old Testament, p. 189

Sermon War Stories

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith** *from the Confession of 1967*

The Bible is to be interpreted in the light of its witness to God's work of reconciliation in Christ. The Scriptures, given under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are nevertheless words of human beings, conditioned by the language, thought forms, and literary fashions of the places and times at which they were written. They reflect views of life, history, and the cosmos

which were then current. The church, therefore, has an obligation to approach the Scriptures with literary and historical understanding. As God has spoken the divine word in diverse cultural situations, the church is confident that God will continue to speak through the Scriptures in a changing world and in every form of human culture.

God's word is spoken to the church today where the Scriptures are faithfully preached and attentively read in dependence on the illumination of the Holy Spirit and with readiness to receive their truth and direction.

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 racks) in the offering plate.

***Doxology #606**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***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 #821 My Life Flows On**

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Frank Boster

Director of Christian Education: Neil Myer

Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze, DMA

Worship Credits: The call to worship is adapted from a prayer by Joanna Harader on Spacious Faith; Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Usher

Head Usher: Estelle McGroarty

Greeter

Amanda Lanier

Video Producer

Susan Smalley

Fellowship

Jason Giddings

Flowers

Flowers today are given to the glory of God.

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 25th-Feb. 1st

SUNDAY, 1/25

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Adult/Children Education 11:15 a.m.

"1946" Documentary Screening 4:00 p.m.

MONDAY, 1/26

Girl Scout Troop Meeting 4:30 p.m.

CCR Rehearsal	6:00 p.m.
Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.
Queer Heart Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, 1/27	
LMM Chorale Ensemble	11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY, 1/28	
Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
UKirk Gathering	6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, 1/29	
Middle Ground Gathering	7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY, 2/1	
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Annual Meeting	11:00 a.m.
All-Church Lunch	11:15 a.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting will be held Feb. 1 immediately after worship. We will be voting on terms of call and nominating committee members. The annual report will be available in the Narthex and on the website.

Greater Lansing Food Bank

During the month of January, Eastminster will be collecting non-perishable food items to support the Greater Lansing Food Bank. Items most needed include cooking oil, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat, beans, rice, pasta, canned soup, boxed dinners, and baby food or formula. Donations can be dropped off in the Green Room.

The Greater Lansing Food Bank has led mid-Michigan's fight against hunger since 1981, serving families and neighbors across a seven-county area to ensure access to nutritious food that supports health and well-being. Thank you for helping us care for our community.

Inspired Books

We are in the midst of the sermon series, "Inspired: Finding New Ways to Love the Bible." This series is based on the book "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. See Kristin if you would like a copy of the book for \$10.

Join a Bible Study

We have two weekly Bible Studies that more deeply explore each week's sermon topic. If you are interested in attending, the Men's Bible Study meets at 8 a.m. every Wednesday. The second (unnamed) Bible Study meets at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. This week both are meeting online on zoom.

1946 Documentary Screening

This afternoon, several Lansing area churches, including ours, are partnering together to show the documentary 1946. This documentary follows the story of researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a mistranslation of the Bible in 1946. We will watch the movie at 4 pm and afterwards have dinner and table discussions. Join us and our neighbors at University Lutheran Church (1020 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing) for this event.

Women's Retreat

We will be joining together with The Peoples Church again for a Women's Retreat on February 27-28 at St Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt. Rebecca Mattern will be the retreat leader and the theme will be "Holy Paths: Discovering God Along the Way." Join as we reflect, observe, and discern the holy throughout our life's journeys. The cost will be \$100 per person. Please register by signing up in the narthex or by calling the church office.

Advent House

Our next Advent House meal is February 14th. Sign up in the narthex.



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

