



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

**Service for the Lord's Day
February 22, 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.

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

February 22, 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: The good news of the gospel is:

*ALL: manna in the desert,
water turned into wine,
love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.*

One: The good news of the gospel is:

*ALL: release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.*

One: So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

ALL: Let us worship this good-news God.

*Hymn #395 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

*Call to Confession

***Prayer of Confession**

Loving God,

*somewhere along the way we picked up the message
that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.*

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

*But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—
unruly and untamed.*

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed?

Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious?

Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already.

The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.

Forgive our doubt.

Pull us closer into your embrace.

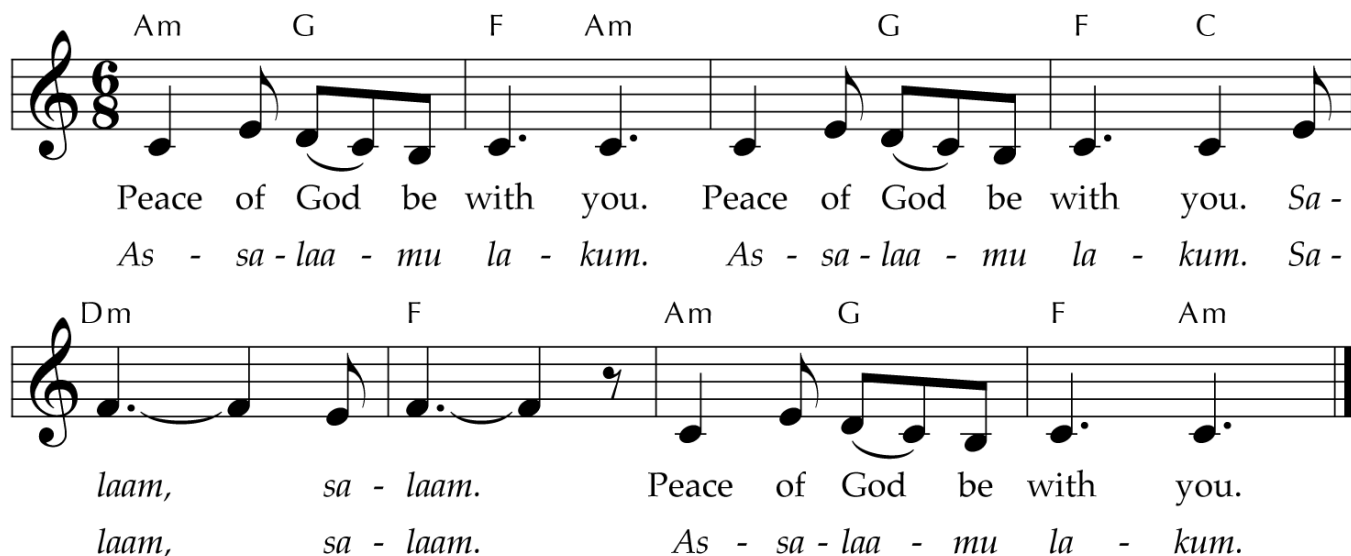
With faith like a mustard seed, we pray.

Amen.

***Silent Confession**

***Words of Forgiveness**

***Sung Response #448 Peace of God Be With You**



Am G F Am G F C

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you. Sa -
As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum. Sa -

Dm F Am G F Am

laam, sa - laam. Peace of God be with you.
laam, sa - laam. As - sa - laa - mu la - kum.

***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 13:31-32 New Testament, p. 14

Scripture Reading John 2:1-11 New Testament, p. 87

Sermon The good news is...so good it catches us by surprise

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Time of Reflection

***Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

*It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.*

*It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.*

*It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.*

*I have seen it alive in the world.
And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.
I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God! 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 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**

Prayers of the People & 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 #771 What Is the World Like**

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Tom Hardenbergh

Children's Message: Neil Myer

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.

Usher

Head Usher: Brenda Ramsby

Greeters

Bruce Augenstein

Video Producer

Susan Smalley

Fellowship

Jeff Lapinski

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: Feb.22-March 1

SUNDAY, 2/22

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship

11:00 a.m.

Brass Quintet Rehearsal

2:00 p.m.

Community Bell Ringers Rehearsal

3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, 2/23

Adventures	9:00 a.m.
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, 2/24

LMM Chorale Ensemble	11:00 a.m.
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WEDNESDAY, 2/25

Men's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
UKirk Gathering	6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, 2/26

Middle Ground Gathering	7:00 p.m.
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FRIDAY, 2/27

Women's Retreat	5:00 p.m.
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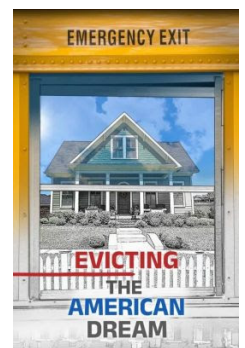
SUNDAY, 3/1

Worship	10:00 a.m.
Tacos & Testimonials	11:00 a.m.
Brass Quintet Rehearsal	2:00 p.m.
Community Bell Ringers Rehearsal	3:30 p.m.

Evicting the American Dream

Churchwide Study Film

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is hosting a weekly online gathering to discuss this film. This film amplifies the voices and stories of children and families confronting eviction and homelessness. This is taking place each Monday in February from 7:30pm-8:45pm on Zoom. Register here:
<https://hubs.ly/Q03-cQ9p0>



Daily Devotionals: The Good News is So Good It Catches Us by Surprise

Good news mantra: God's love is delightfully surprising.

Sunday, Feb. 22: In the Gospel of John, Jesus' ministry starts with joy. It begins with a wedding. What in your life is bringing you joy?

Prayer: Celebrating Christ, your story begins with a dance floor, a wedding banquet, a happy couple, a community gathered. Your story begins with abundant joy. As I go through my days, teach me to be a curator of joy. May I see and appreciate the sparks of joy in my own life, and may they draw me closer to you. Amen.

Monday, Feb. 23: Jesus tells stories about the Kingdom of God, and his stories almost always surprise us. What do you imagine the Kingdom of God to be like?

Prayer: Storytelling God, you are constantly painting pictures of what the world could be. You can take one small seed and see the ramble of beauty it might become. I want to see the world in that same way. Give me the creativity to imagine beauty where there is none. Give me the persistence to imagine justice when injustice rages. Help me imagine what could be. Amen.

Tuesday, Feb. 24: The Kingdom of God is described as a mustard seed—something small, but surprisingly powerful. How does this metaphor make you feel?

Prayer: Creator God, you have told us that even small acts, small dreams, and small bits of love can make a difference. I need to hear this reminder because it is tempting to believe that the hurt in this world is out of my control. It is tempting to believe that I cannot make a difference, but you say otherwise. Remind me that I have planting to do. Remind me that even small acts can make great change. Amen.

Wednesday, Feb. 25: When was the last time you were surprised by an act of love, generosity, or kindness?

Prayer: Surprising God, so often we are surprised by bad news and taken hostage by the media cycle of the day; but from time to time, we are surprised by love. From time to time, we are surprised by joy. From time to time, we are surprised by hope. In a world full of surprisingly bad news, show me how to be someone who can surprise others with love, generosity,

and kindness. Show me how to be someone who can fan the flame of good news. Amen.

Thursday, Feb. 26: What takes your breath away? Where are you most in awe?

Prayer: Awesome God, the whole universe reflects your goodness. The stars at night shine like jewels in the deep. The trees tower over me, taller than anything I could build. The waves crash onto the shore, over and over, like the rhythm of your heartbeat. When I am too certain of what I know, when I am closed off to wonder and surprise, bring me back to the places where I can be awestruck. Remind me that you are more magnificent than anything I can imagine. Amen.

Friday, Feb. 27: When has something unexpected changed your life for the better?

Prayer: God of my days, time and time again I have been faced with a fork in the road, an opportunity to try something new. I could not have anticipated every open sky or winding path that the road might bring, but I know that you were with me every step of the way. Thank you for the roads less traveled that brought joy to my days. Thank you for the unplanned paths that taught me how to grow. Thank you for the changed plans that brought me closer to you. Amen.

Saturday, Feb. 28: How is God surprising you in this season?

Prayer: Holy One, sometimes I get choked up when something beautiful crosses my path. Is that you in my midst? Sometimes I find myself tearing up from laughing so hard. Is that you in my midst? Sometimes the sky is such a radiant shade of pink and orange that I can hardly breathe. Is that you in my midst? Thank you for speaking to me through the moments of surprising beauty, joy, and wonder. I am grateful. Amen.

The series at a glance

ASH WED.	1ST SUN IN LENT	2ND SUN IN LENT	3RD SUN IN LENT	4TH SUN IN LENT	5TH SUN IN LENT	PALM / PASSION SUNDAY	MAUNDY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	EASTER SUNDAY
The good news is... all are invited	The good news is... so good it catches us by surprise	The good news is... great love for God and neighbor	The good news is... together, the impossible is possible	The good news is... protection and care for the vulnerable	The good news is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness	The good news is... inspiring us to act	The good news is... even Judas gets his feet washed	The good news is... revealed through non-violence	The good news is... alive in the world
<u>Luke 14:15-24</u> (Parable of the wedding banquet)	<u>John 2:1-11</u> (Wedding at Cana) <u>Matthew 13:31-32</u> (Parable of the mustard seed)	<u>Luke 7:36-50</u> (Woman with the alabaster jar washes Jesus' feet) <u>Matthew 25:35-40</u> (“Whoever you did for the least of these, you did for me”)	<u>Mark 6:32-44</u> (Feeding of the 5,000) <u>Ephesians 3:20-21</u> (“By the power at work within us [God] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine”)	<u>Matthew 19:13-15</u> (Jesus blesses the children) <u>Deuteronomy 24:17-22</u> (Care for the alien, the orphan, and the widow)	<u>John 8:2-11</u> (Jesus refuses to condemn a woman caught in adultery) <u>Matthew 23:23</u> (“You have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness.”)	<u>Mark 11:1-11</u> (Triumphal entry into Jerusalem)	<u>John 13:1-35</u> (Jesus washes the disciples' feet)	<u>Luke 22:47-53</u> <u>Luke 23:33-38</u> , <u>44-46</u> (Judas betrays Jesus; Jesus kneels the servant's ear after his disciples draw swords; Jesus forgives those crucifying him)	<u>Matthew 28:1-10</u> (“Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”)