



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

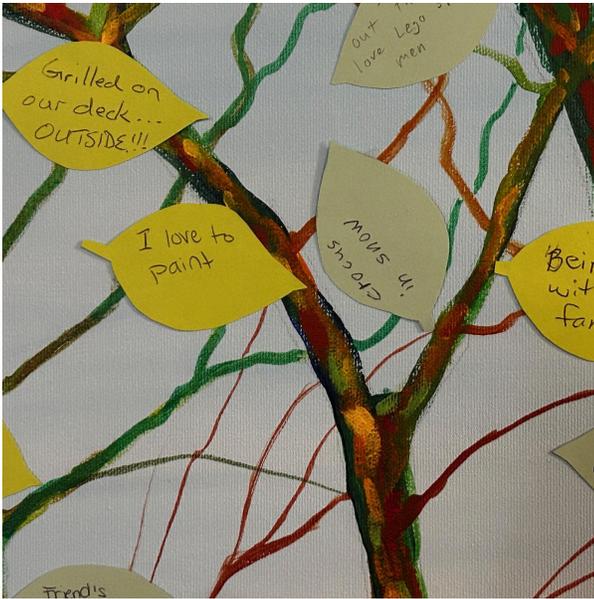
**Service for the Lord's Day
March 15, 2026**



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

March 15, 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: God loves the field mouse.

ALL: *God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.*

One: God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

ALL: *God loves the child who rocks and claps.*

One: God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

ALL: *God loves the bumblebee and the tabby cats.*

One: God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

ALL: *God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens,
standing strong over all of us.*

One: God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

ALL: *There is no bit of creation that God does not love.*

One: So let us worship this good-news God!

ALL: *Amen.*

*Hymn See the Precious Children



See the pre-cious chil - dren seat - ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
 See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo - men glean-ing har-vests from the field
 See the pre-cious for - eign stran - gers as they car - ry all they own
 See the pre-cious dis - poss - essed ones ask - ing for some food to eat
 See the pre-cious world im - pov - erished by our ma - lice and our greed



Called the great - est in the king-dom, held so gent - ly and a - dored They
 Then re - turn - ing to their kit - chen to pre - pare their dai - ly meal They
 To a land that's full of dan - gers for the pow - er - less and prone They
 Sleep-ing un - der star - ry heav-ens, dai - ly liv - ing on the streets They
 Hu - mans, a - ni - mals, and pla - net cry - ing out for some re - lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti - ny toe In their
 are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro - ken hearts In their
 are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
 are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
 all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho - ly thing In our



weak-ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
 sor - row they're held by love that re - deems each fra - gile part
 jour - ney they're held by love as they start each day a - new
 hun - ger they're held by love as they guard their hu - man pride
 liv - ing we're held by love as we care for ev - ery being

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (includes verses from Leviticus 19:33, Matthew 5:9, Deuteronomy 24:21, Matthew 19:14, and Isaiah 43:1)

One: God said, “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them.”

ALL: *Holy God, we confess,
we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.*

One: Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

ALL: *We confess, we have clung to guns and war
more than we have pursued peace.*

One: God said, “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.”

ALL: *We confess, we have hoarded our resources
and failed to care for our neighbors.*

One: Jesus said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them.”

ALL: *We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.*

***Words of Forgiveness**

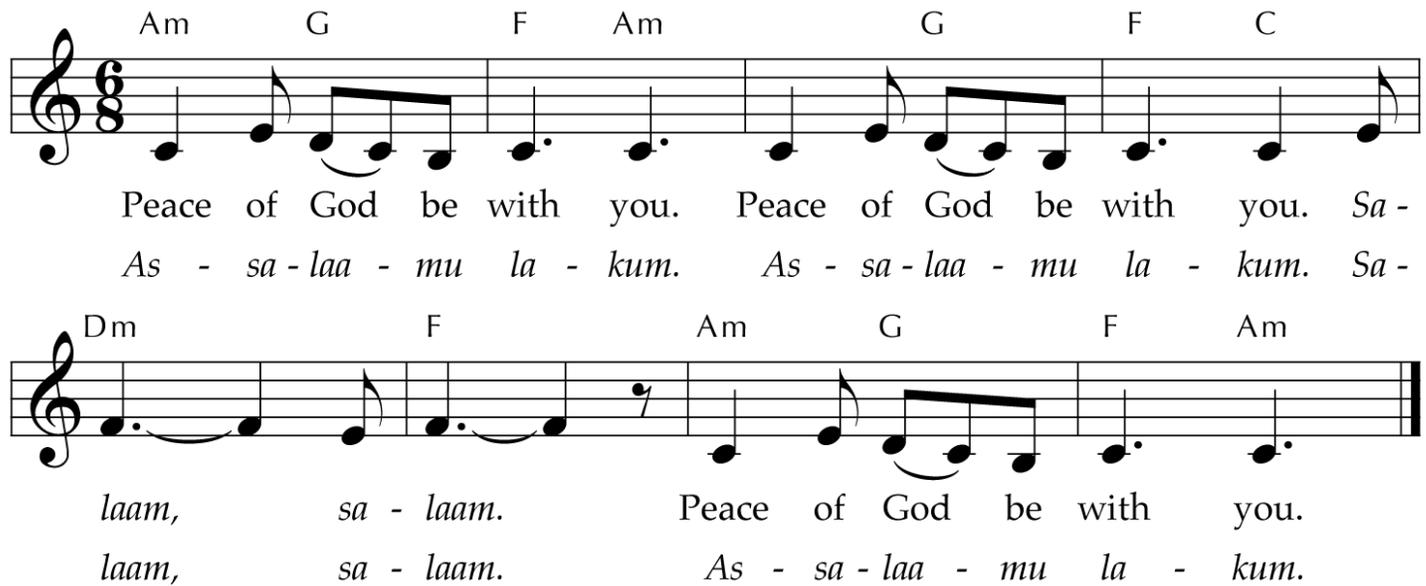
One: Fortunately for all of us, God also said,
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.”

ALL: *By God’s grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.*

One: May this good news change our lives!

ALL: *Amen.*

***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 Deuteronomy 24:17-22 Old Testament, p. 173

Scripture Reading Matthew 19:13-15 New Testament, p. 20

Sermon The good news is...protection and care for the vulnerable

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 #100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout**

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Ryan Cunningham

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: Sacha Roennecke

Greeter

Susan Smalley

Video Producer

Linda Hardenbergh

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: *March 15-March 22*

SUNDAY, 3/15

Worship

10:00 a.m.

Fellowship

11:00 a.m.

Children and Adult Education	11:15 a.m.
Brass Quintet Rehearsal	2:00 p.m.
Community Bell Ringers Rehearsal	3:30 p.m.
MONDAY, 3/16	
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, 3/17	
LMM Chorale Ensemble	11:00 a.m.
UKirk Board Meeting	6:15 p.m.
Faith Formation Meeting	7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, 3/18	
Advocacy Day	
UKirk Gathering	6:30 p.m.
Community Connections Meeting	7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, 3/19	
Middle Ground Gathering	7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, 3/21	
Page Turners	10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY, 3/22	
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.

Bridgette will be out of the office on medical leave starting March 17. Kristin will be out of the office on Wednesday for Advocacy Day and Thursday.

Memorial Service for Rev. Dr. Jeffrey O'Neill

We will give thanks for Jeff's life and celebrate the promise of resurrection on Saturday, May 2nd at Eastminster. Visitation with the family will begin at 10am, the Memorial Service at 11am, and a lunch will follow.

Advocacy Day: March 18, 2026 at Central United Methodist, Lansing

United Methodists and friends from across Michigan will spend the day meeting with lawmakers and encouraging policy action. The focus for this day of advocacy will be on hunger and the need for food security. This is an opportunity to deepen one's advocacy skills, to meet your legislators, and to join with the ecumenical community in prayer and action. Pastor Kristin will be attending and can help you navigate this event. To learn more and register go here: <https://miumc.swoogo.com/advocacyday/10295035>

New (temporary) office hours

The church office administrator, Bridgette, will be out of the office on medical leave starting on March 17. She will be out for 6-8 weeks. During that time, there will be reduced office hours, which will be covered by volunteers: Monday, 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Palm Sunday Path: March 29th from 3-5pm

The Palm Sunday Path is a movement of Christians anchored in Matthew 25 values, organizing in contrast to White Christian Nationalism. On Palm Sunday, March 29th at 3pm there will be a procession in Lansing from Pilgrim Church (125 S Pennsylvania Ave, Lansing) to the Capitol. Presbyterians are invited to park at First Presbyterian, Lansing (510 W Ottawa St, Lansing) and we will shuttle you to the start of the procession. For more information, reach out to Pastor Kristin.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Received during Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

You can give to this offering using the envelopes in the pew racks or online at Eastminster's giving page.

Easter Sunday Cookies

Want to make Easter Sunday a little sweeter? We are looking for volunteers to each bring two dozen homemade or purchased cookies to church on Sunday, April 5 for Easter. Please sign up in the Narthex if you can do this.

PageTurners: March 21, 10 a.m.

Linda Hardenbergh will lead a discussion on "A Single Thread" by Tracy Chevalier. Set in 1932 England, it spotlights Violet Speedwell, a "surplus woman," who joins a community of women embroidering cushions for the cathedral while navigating the growing threat of European fascism.

Daily Devotionals: The Good News is Protection and Care for the Vulnerable

Good news mantra: Like Jesus, I will choose love.

Sunday, March 15: When in your life have you felt cared for? How did that care impact you?

Prayer: Nurturing God, the world may be a harsh place, but I have known love. I have been on the receiving end of a prayer, a casserole, or a “thinking of you” text. I have been given a hand to hold, an encouraging word, an “I see you” head nod. The world may be a harsh place, but I have known love and care. So on long, hard days, help me be sustained by these acts of loving care. On long, hard days, may this love be a balm to my spirit. Amen.

Monday, March 16: Who in your community needs protection and care? How is your community responding?

Prayer: Protecting God, there are so many in my community that need protection and care. I worry for children that are hungry, for the elderly that need assistance, for those whose native tongue is not the primary language. I worry for those living paycheck to paycheck, and for those who just moved to town. Give me the eyes to see the need in my own community, and the energy to join the response. Amen.

Tuesday, March 17: Is there a difference between offering protection and offering care? What is the value of both?

Prayer: Nurturing God, when your children need protection, turn me into a mother bear. Turn me into the bravest and strongest version of myself. Turn me into courage and conviction on behalf of my neighbor. But when your children need care, God, turn me into something gentle. Turn me into a kind word, a safe place to land, a warm hand to hold. Use me as you need. Move through me as you can. Make me strong, and make me gentle. Amen.

Wednesday, March 18: Scripture calls us to care for the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, and the child among us. In our current time, who would you add to that list?

Prayer: Holy God, you ask us to care for the orphan, the widow, the immigrant, and the child. To that list, would you add the sick? The grieving? The single parent? The neurodivergent child? The addict? The individual

going through a transition? Would you add me? Remind me that your call to care is expansive. Remind me that your call to care knows no end. So help me pay attention to who is on your all-inclusive list, and to love them like you would. Amen.

Thursday, March 19: Acts of care and protection can often require different emotions and energy levels from us. Between the two, what comes easier to you—care or protection? How can you use that skill for good?

Prayer: Both/And God, some of us find energy at the protest, in the crowd, lobbying for change. Some of us find energy in prophetic spaces, challenging voices of power. Others of us find energy in the quiet of the hospital ward, by the bedside, in the nursing home, or in baby snuggles. Help me pay attention to what kind of love comes easily for me and show me how to act on that inclination wherever and however I can. As the saints before me said, “I am here. Send me.” Amen.

Friday, March 20: When in your life have you felt cared for? How did that care impact you?

Prayer: When you think about protecting the vulnerable, what actions come to mind? How can you live into this call faithfully?

Saturday, March 21: What boundaries or practices help you care for others with compassion while also honoring your own limits? How might tending to your wellbeing strengthen your ability to love like Jesus?

Prayer: Compassionate Christ, you cared for the vulnerable with steady, sincere love, and yet you still sought quiet places to pray and renew your spirit. Teach me that care cannot come from depletion but from being rooted in you. Help me honor my limits with honesty and rest without shame. And when I rise again to serve, let my actions flow from a restored heart and a grounded spirit. Let the care I offer always flow from your love at work in me. Amen.

Good news mantra: I am rooted in what matters most.

Sunday, March 22: Jesus tells the Pharisees that the most important part of the law is not simply following the rules, but enacting justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Matthew 23:23). What does this interpretation teach you about our faith?

Prayer: Reforming God, I can get fixated on following the rules. I can get fixated on purity. But instead of emphasizing retribution, you emphasize mercy. Instead of emphasizing religious perfection, you emphasize justice. Instead of emphasizing rigidity, you emphasize faithfulness. Help me to hear the truth in this message. Help me release the pressure to be perfect, and to trust that faithful effort in the direction of mercy, justice, and love is the call you place on my life. In all things, I hope to move closer to you. Amen.



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

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

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