



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

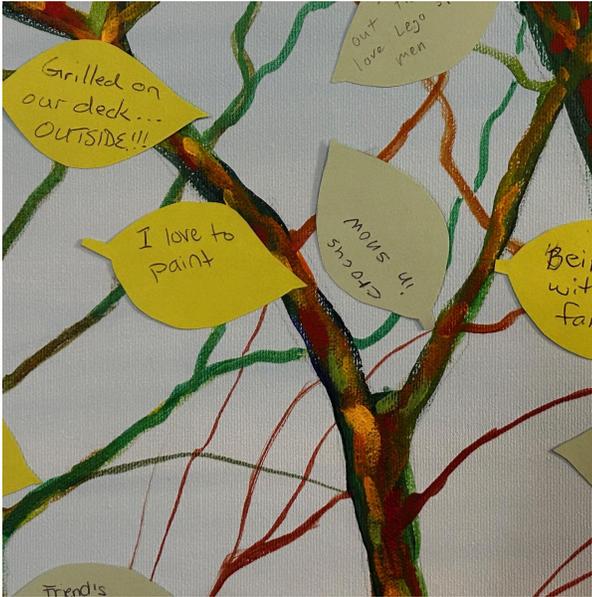
**Service for the Lord's Day
March 22, 2026**



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

March 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: Welcome to the weary and the worn.

ALL: *Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.*

One: Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

ALL: *Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.*

One: Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

ALL: *Welcome to those hungry for justice
and those desperate for mercy.*

One: Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

ALL: *This is God's house.*

One: You can make yourself at home here.

ALL: *Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!*

*Hymn #301 Let Us Build a House

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

we love to live our lives by the rules.

We love clear answers.

We love right and wrong.

We love swift justice.

We love to pick up stones,

but you show us another way.

You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation.

You prioritize mercy over legality.

You prioritize people over tradition.

You prioritize love over everything.

Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters.

Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you.

Forgive us. Soften our hearts.

Root us in mercy, justice, and love.

With hope for a better tomorrow, 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are written below the notes.

***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 23:23

Scripture Reading John 8:2-11

Sermon The good news is...rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness

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 pads) 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 #649** Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Minister: Rev. Kristin Stroble

Worship Leader: Marcia Kent

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: Estelle McGroarty

Greeter

Heather Heitman

Video Producer

Susan Smalley

Fellowship

Sue Kalvonjian

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 22-March 29*

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.

MONDAY, 3/23

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, 3/24

LMM Chorale Ensemble 11:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, 3/25

Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m.

Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

UKirk 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, 3/26

Middle Ground Gathering 7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, 3/29 - Palm Sunday

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday Path 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Community Bell Ringers Rehearsal 3:30 p.m.

New (temporary) office hours

The church office administrator, Bridgette, is out on medical leave. During this 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.

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.

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 Flowers

If you would like to make a dedication for Easter flowers, please email office@eastminsterchurch.org or fill out the online form on our website: <https://www.eastminsterchurch.org/easter-lilies/>. Dedications are due in by Wednesday, March 25th.

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.

Maundy Thursday

On April 2nd at 7:00pm we will have a Maundy Thursday service at Eastminster.

Daily Devotionals: The Good News is Rooted in Justice, Mercy and Faithfulness

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.

Monday, March 23: *Have you ever been on the receiving end of someone's mercy? How did it impact you? How can you pay that forward?*

Prayer: Merciful God, I can think of times when someone extended grace to me—when I was met with understanding instead of judgment, compassion instead of criticism. That mercy stayed with me. It softened something in me. It taught me about your heart. As I move through this week, let that memory shape the way I treat others. Make me quick to offer mercy, generous in compassion, and willing to extend the same grace I have received. Amen.

Tuesday, March 24: *What rhythms and rituals help you cultivate a life of faithfulness?*

Prayer: Faithful God, you meet me in the small and steady rhythms of my days. You meet me in quiet moments, in simple prayers, and in the choices I make again and again. Teach me to notice the rituals that root me in your love. Help me lean into practices that make my heart softer, my spirit steadier, and my life more aligned with you. Shape my days so that faithfulness becomes the quiet pattern of my life. Amen.

Wednesday, March 25: *We often think of justice on a macro scale. Are there ways to practice justice through small, daily acts? What comes to mind?*

Prayer: God of justice, you care about the small choices I make each day. You care about how I speak, how I listen, how I treat the people right in front of me. Show me where I can choose what is right and just in the ordinary moments of my life. Help me act with honesty, kindness, and courage, trusting that these simple choices matter. Let my daily living reflect the justice you desire. Amen.

Thursday, March 26: *When you think about justice, mercy, and faithfulness, which one feels hardest for you to live out? Why might that be?*

Prayer: Gracious God, you know the places where my heart resists your way. Sometimes mercy feels costly, justice feels overwhelming, and faithfulness feels like slow work. Meet me gently in those places. Help me name the fears and habits that hold me back, and teach me to grow with patience instead of shame. Show me how to take one small step toward the life you're calling me to live. Amen.

Friday, March 27: *What does it mean to you that Jesus protected someone others were ready to condemn? (John 8:2-11) How might that shape the way you live today?*

Prayer: Jesus, you stood beside a woman when everyone else stepped back. You quieted the voices of accusation and made room for her to breathe again. Let that story transform me. When I am tempted to judge too quickly or overlook someone's dignity, slow me down. And when I am the one who feels surrounded by shame or accusation, remind me that you stand beside me too. Teach me to choose mercy even when it costs me something. Amen.

Saturday, March 28: *What area of your life feels complicated right now? Could justice, faithfulness, or mercy help you find your way forward?*

Prayer: Holy God, you walk with me in the places where life feels uncertain. When my thoughts are tangled or the path ahead feels unclear, steady my spirit. Anchor me in the things that matter most to you—justice that restores, mercy that softens, and faithfulness that keeps me near your heart. Lead me in your way, so that my choices bear witness to your love. Amen.

The Good News is Inspiring Us to Act

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

Sunday, March 29: *As Jesus processes into Jerusalem, the people cry "Hosanna!" which means "Save us!" Who is crying out to be saved now? How can you act with mercy?*

Prayer: Merciful God, whether I'm shouting in the streets or whispering from my bedside, I know you hear my cries of "Hosanna!" Help me to hear the cries of others, too. Give me ears to listen for the voices of those crying out to be saved from a world hell-bent on violence, oppression, domination, and destruction. Let me join my "Hosannas!" with theirs. Let me act mercifully, justly, and compassionately until the world comes back into harmony again. In hope I pray, amen.

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www.eastminsterchurch.org

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing