



Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
August 17, 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 offering plate as you leave the sanctuary. If you only want the pastor to see it, please mark it

confidential.

There are offering plates just outside the sanctuary doors, for those who wish to give. You can also give online on our website or 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

August 17, 2025

10:00 a.m.

BODY

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Threshold Moment

The Pilgrim by Luke Spehar

Not knowing how I got to where I started

I dare to step foot upon the way

And though a few words have come to mind

I learn more than I could ever say

With a proud man's mind a younger man's legs

I said

Let's walk from the dawn till the setting sun

Suspiciously ambitious,

What's this desire in me?

For this road was not meant to just get done

Refrain: Give me food for today's journey

Just enough would be just fine

And slowly I will keep on walking

By your way and in your time

With more than I needed on my back

Weight's not measured only in pounds

The things I carry to comfort my weariness

Were the same things that were weighing me down

Some days the sun was only shining

Some days the rain just fell

*Some days I knew just where I was going
Some days it was just so hard to tell*

Refrain

*So for my destination I look to the horizon
Let's set my eyes on the ground at my feet
I prayed when the mountain's howling at the hardest part
But to rise from my bed when I wanted to sleep*

Refrain

*What to say about the day that goes below my feet
So many miles only to find
That the journey's end was not the end
At all
But the way was the treasure the whole time*

***Call to Worship**

God Creator, Christ Redeemer, Holy Spirit Comforter

***Hymn #684** Faith Begins by Letting Go

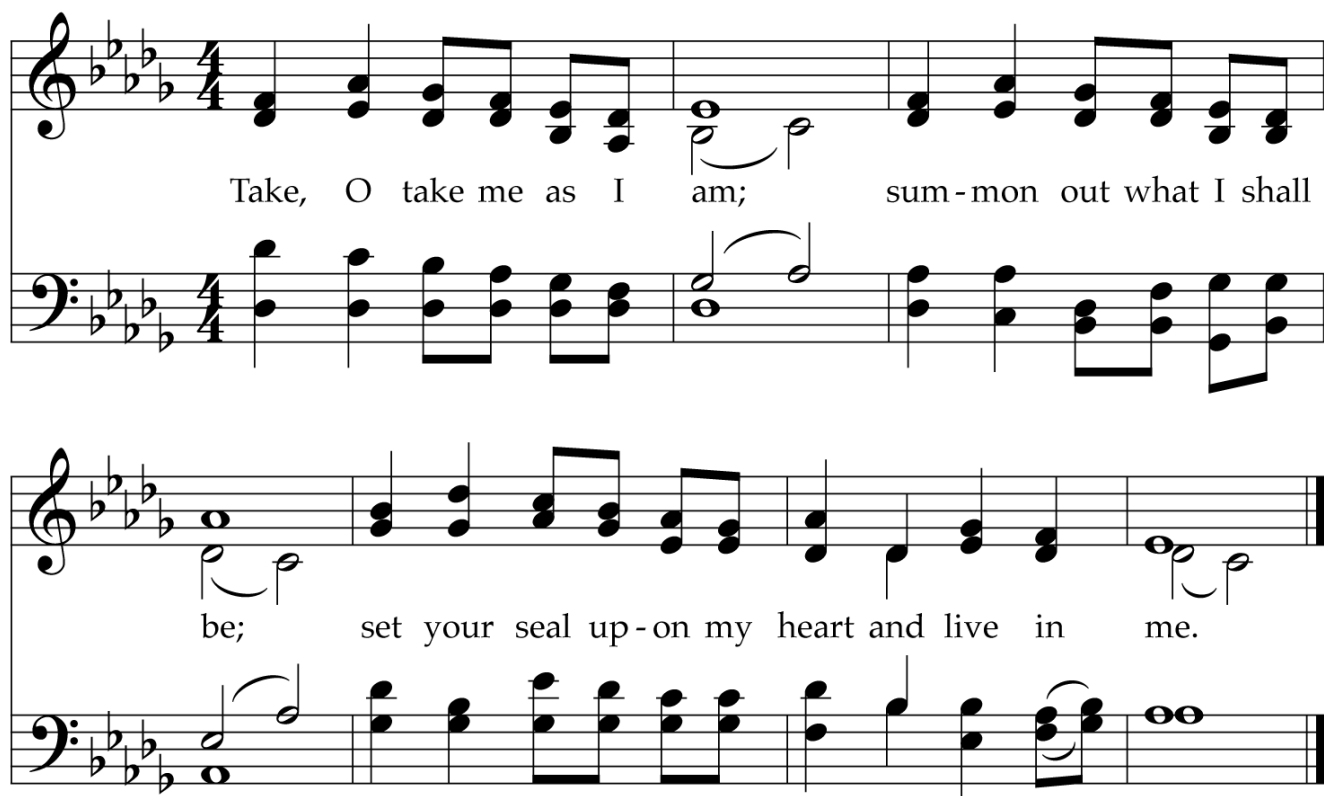
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

When you are ready, bring forward your stone and place it in the baptismal font, releasing the burdens that you carry, offering them to God. Bowls of water will be brought to the pew for those unable to come forward.

***Words of Forgiveness**

***Sung Response #698** Take, O Take Me As I Am



***Passing of the Peace**

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

MIND

Children's Message

Blessing of the Backpacks

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Psalm 121

Old Testament, p. 539

Luke 24:13-35

New Testament, pp. 84-85

Sermon Lessons on the Road

SPIRIT

Time of Reflection

Pilgrim Beatitudes

Blessed are you pilgrim, if you discover that The Way opens your eyes to what cannot be seen.

Blessed are you pilgrim, if what occupies your mind is not simply getting there, but getting there alongside your companions.

Blessed are you pilgrim, when you contemplate The Way and you discover that it is overflowing with names and daybreaks.

Blessed are you pilgrim, when words cannot express your gratitude at every surprise that springs from each twist and turn of the Way.

Blessed are you pilgrim, because you have discovered that the true Way begins when it ends.

Blessed are you pilgrim, if your rucksack becomes emptier and emptier of clutter while your heart struggles to find room to hang so many emotions.

Blessed are you pilgrim, if you seek the truth and turn your “way” into a life and your life into a “way” in your quest for the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Blessed are you pilgrim, if you discover that one step backwards to come to someone’s aid is worth more than a 100 steps forward without a single glance.

Blessed are you pilgrim, if while on the Way you find your true self and reward yourself with unhurried time, while not forsaking the image of the heart.

Blessed are you pilgrim, if you find the Way is paved with silence, the

silence of prayer and prayer for a meeting with God, who is with you, loves you, and waits for you.

Blessed are you, pilgrim.

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 #727** The Servant Song

***Charge & Benediction**

***Postlude**

Participants in today's service:

Worship Leaders: Rev. Kristin Stroble, Rebecca Mattern, M.Div, Rev. Dr. Lisa Schrott
Pianist: Tamar Mikeladze

Worship Credits: Hymns are printed and streamed with permission from One License #A-725831.

Ushers

Head Usher: Jeff Lapinski; Beverly Bonning

Greeters

Jim Engelkes and Mike Brown

Video Producers

Heather Myer and Robin Bell

Fellowship

Jeff Lapinski

Flowers

Today's flowers 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: *August 17 to Aug. 24*

SUNDAY, 8/17

Joint Worship with PCO	10:00 a.m.
Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Camino Presentation	11:15 a.m.

MONDAY, 8/18

Trivia at Royal Scot	7:00 p.m.
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TUESDAY, 8/19

UKirk Board Meeting	6:15 p.m.
Faith Formation Meeting	7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 8/20

Community Connections Meeting	7:00 p.m.
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THURSDAY, 8/21

20s/30s/40s Gathering	7:00 p.m.
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SUNDAY, 8/24

Outdoor Worship	10:00 a.m.
Congregational Meeting	11:00 a.m.
Cookout	11:15 a.m.

Kristin will be out of the office for continuing education and planning from Aug. 18-21.

Camino Pilgrimage

This week, Pastor Kristin Stroble and Rebecca Mattern will share insights and stories from the pilgrimage they made together on the Camino Frances this summer.

The Camino de Santiago, also known as the Way of St. James, is a network of ancient pilgrimage routes that lead to the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. These routes converge on the city, which is believed to be the final resting place of the Apostle James.

The pilgrimage dates back to the 9th century, with evidence of routes used by early pilgrims. Many pilgrims find the experience profoundly personal and transformative, often seeking a sense of peace, reflection, or connection with nature. The Camino de Santiago is primarily a Christian pilgrimage, though it also attracts walkers for recreational, spiritual, or personal reasons.

Cookout Signup

Our next outdoor worship is Aug. 24 and we will be having a cookout. Eastminster will supply the burgers, hotdogs, buns and chips. Can you help bring the rest? A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex for sides, salads and desserts or you can let the church office know you wish to bring something. Thank you!

Advent House

The next Advent House meal will be served on Sept. 13. This month's meal is spaghetti pie. Pans, recipes and the sign-up sheet are in the Narthex.

Congregational Meeting

The Session has called a special congregational meeting on Aug. 24 immediately following worship to elect an officer and to inform the congregation about a building contract.

Backpack Tags

Today we hand out backpack tags to our children to bless them at the beginning of a new school year. Below is a prayer for the school year from Illustrated Ministry. Join us in praying for all students, teachers, staff and parents.



*Kind and compassionate God,
thank you for these beloved children of God.*

*They are worthy of kindness and care, and precious to our community.
Today, we bless and send these young people and grown-ups into a world
where kindness isn't always the easiest path - where meanness and cruelty
can show up without warning.
But we send them with confidence,
knowing they carry the courage to choose kindness anyway.
Give them the courage and the compassion to show kindness to others
in the classroom, at the lunch table,
on the playground, in the office,
in the group chat, on social media,
on the athletic team, in the extracurricular club,
in their committees, and anywhere kindness is lacking.
When these beloved children of God encounter bullying or prejudice,
immaturity or gossip, help them resist the temptation to join in the nonsense.
Help them to stand firm in compassion, knowing that the wisest decision is
sometimes a lonely choice.
Remind them they won't be lonely for long because they have the support of
Eastminster.
Encourage parents, teachers, colleagues, coaches, and youth leaders to step
in and defend our youth when necessary;
to take protective action to create safer spaces.
And when we fail to be kind, inspire us to repent, apologize, forgive,
and try again.
We pray all these things in the name of the one who is friend to the friendless
and sibling to the lonely. Amen.*

Per Capita

There's still time to pay your 2025 per capita. The rate this year is \$42. If you aren't certain whether you've paid it, call the church office and Bridgette can look it up for you.

Kick-Off Sunday

On Sunday, September 7th we will officially kick off our school year and our confirmation class. Mark your calendars and we will give more information soon.

Eastminster Prayer Concerns

Please remember the following persons in your prayers:

- For Phyllis Irwin, recovering from surgery after a fall
- For the family of Ted Hagan, who died last week
- For the family of Margaret Pearson, who died on July 29
- For Jeff O'Neill
- For Kim, Robin Bell's mom
- For Everett, Sara Weeden's nephew
- For Lizzy, Ruth Hartwig's great-niece who dealing with lupus and kidney failure
- For those who fear deportation for themselves or their loved ones
- For Dave Merchant
- For Mary Ann and Dave Merchant's son, David, who is in heart failure
- For peace in the Middle East
- For Donald Trentel
- For Chase Hunt

Names to be included on the prayer list can be suggested to the church office.



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

www.youtube.com/eastminsterpresbyterianchurcheastlansing