

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For detailed information and to register for the below programs and events, visit our website: <https://eastminsterpres.org/>.

Bradley Lunch Buddies Needed...Mentor a Student this Fall: Beginning September 16th, additional volunteers are needed to help students with reading two Tuesdays a month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Bradley. Contact Stan Holland (sholland@eastminsterpres.org) or John McArthur (ibmsr360@gmail.com) to sign up for this mutually rewarding service opportunity by August 31st.

Blessing of the Backpacks Peace Service is Today: at 4 pm. (Thompson Hall TH). Teachers, school-aged children, and their families are invited for a unique worship experience followed by dinner. Visit Upcoming Events for all details. (Please RSVP for pizza). Children will join us for worship (including children's choirs). Parents, please pick up your singers in the courtyard at 5:30 pm.

The CLC Adult Fitness Open House is Today from 5-6:30 pm.: This free event is open to our community. You will be able to sample fitness classes and meet instructors. Stay after for Pickleball 101. Join us and bring a friend!

Our next "Mindfulness Monday" is Tomorrow at 5 pm, in the Parlor: Learn a variety of mindfulness techniques, co-led by pastors Emily Mooneyhan & Carol Byrd. No need to sign up- just join us in the parlor.

EPC Members Only Pickleball Play Starts Tomorrow (5:15-8 pm.): Join us on Mondays this Fall. Enjoy exercise, fun, and fellowship at the CLC.

All Are Invited to a Mission Trip Recap Dinner: August 20th, at 5:30 pm. (TH). Hear about Summer mission trips. Email kmcgrady@eastminsterpres.org to register. Regular meal pricing.

Transitions Third Thursday is August 21st: Visit Upcoming Events to serve either for lunch or dinner. Donations of bananas, pasta salad, and pound cakes are due to the Staff Kitchen by 3 pm. If questions, contact Becky (bairheart@gmail.com)- AM group or Alison (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com)-PM group.

Will For Hope's Evening with Jim Sonefeld is Next Sunday, August 24th: Dinner is at 5 p.m. (TH - Please RSVP) followed by speaker, Jim Sonefeld, musician (Hootie and the Blowfish) and author, who will share his experiences with mental health solutions and addiction recovery. This is a free event for High School Youth and older. Spread the word and plan to join us.

"Club 345" and "Kingdom Kids"- New Sunday Evening Children's Music Programs: led by Pastor Croskeys and Mrs. Stefanie, will kick off on August 24th, with a party on the field. Visit Upcoming Events to sign up! Registration is now LIVE.

Join us Labor Day Weekend on Sunday, August 31st: at 9 am. for Traditional Worship (Sanctuary) and at 10 am for an Intergenerational Brunch (TH- No Sunday School). At 11:15 am, we'll enjoy blended worship in the Sanctuary. No Sunday pm programs on August 31st. Eastminster's facilities are closed on Labor Day.

Eastminster Arts Academy (EAA) Six-week Group World Drumming Class: Thursdays beginning September 4 (ages 14 through adults). Visit our EAA homepage to learn more and register. Contact Dr. Augie Gil with any questions (agil@eastminsterpres.org).

Small Group Kick-off Dinner is Thursday, September 4th: from 5:15-7 pm. (TH). Rev. Dr. Jeff Smith will teach us what "Surrendering to Our Sovereign God" looks like through Small Groups, and how trust in God is key.

Jeremiah- Sundays@5 12-week Study led by Dr. Douglass Key Starts Sept. 7 (ARH): Walk through a biblical case study for surrendering to God's sovereignty. We will immerse ourselves in God's word that weighed heavily upon Jeremiah that he was to proclaim to the people of Jerusalem in the final days before the Babylonian exile.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ross Holcombe by his family.

FIRST READING: John 3:1-5; 16-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

...¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: MARY MCCANTS AND AUSTIN RHODES
HEAD USHER: DON HELMS (9:00) BILL COGGINS (11:15)

¹ © PUBLIC DOMAIN CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950

MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship and Arts
Blythe Lewis, Senior Communications Officer
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 17, 2025

9:00 AND 11:15 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

www.eastminsterpres.org

Welcome to Eastminster Presbyterian Church!
In Christ’s name, we welcome you to Eastminster. We hope that you will feel the love and peace of Christ as you worship with us. Please take this time to silence the world and focus your heart and mind on worshipping our living God.
“*So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God’s glory.” Romans 15:7*

PRELUDE
Meditation Louis Vierne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: Welcome to the house of the Lord, you who are thirsty for hope or meaning, for community or a new beginning.
People: **We come grateful and thirsty for the living water, Jesus the Christ.**
Leader: Whether we come to him with questions, or he comes to us in our vulnerable moments,
People: **The good news of the Gospel is that God reaches out, to us and to others, meeting us where we are.**
All: **Open our hearts, O Lord our God, to worship you in spirit and in truth!**

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #268
Crown Him with Many Crowns DIADEMATA

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. Emily Mooneyhan (9:00 am)
Rev. Robert Schoonover (11:15 am)

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED** *(Unison)*
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our LORD; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

****GLORIA PATRI** *(Please send the children forward.)*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

****TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** Rev. W. Croskeys Royall
The 3K—5K children may come to the front and bring their offering.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
O Lord our God, we thirst for something more in life, yet are reluctant to open ourselves to you. You offer new beginnings, but we are resistant to you. You provide for our needs and more, yet we thirst for more. Forgive our sinful ways, O Lord. Help us to be open to your Holy Spirit. Forgive our spirit of entitlement and awaken us to gratitude—gratitude for who you are, for all you do, for all you give, even for the forgiving grace you offer us in this time of silent prayer....

SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
Congregation: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #71
Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me FIRST SONG
Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS
If you or someone you know is in need of special prayer today or if you would like to speak personally with a pastor about making a first-time commitment to Christ or growing in the Christian faith and discipleship, a pastor is on hand to speak with you following the worship service today by the pulpit in the front of the Sanctuary.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM
Serve the Lord with Gladness Rollo Dilworth
Based on Psalm 100:2-4

***DOXOLOGY**
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***OFFICER’S PRAYER** Jay Hudson

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
First Reading: John 3:1-5; 16-17 Page 88
Second Reading: John 4:5-10; 23-26 Page 89

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
“The Christian Life: A Straightjacket or a Sail?”

HYMN OF PREPARATION #507
Come to the Table of Grace TABLE OF GRACE

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND. **CHILDREN MAY BRING THEIR OFFERING AT THIS TIME.
†THOSE WAITING IN THE NARTHEX MAY NOW BE SEATED.
FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED IN ALL WORSHIP SERVICES AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
The Invitation to the Table of the Lord
The Sursum Corda
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up unto The Lord.**
Leader: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.
People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer
The Words of Institution
Communion of the People

COMMUNION MEDITATION #513
This Is the Feast of Victory FESTIVAL CANTICLE

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #465**
What a Friend We Have in Jesus CONVERSE

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION#306**
Blest Be the Tie that Binds DENNIS
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE
Improvisation

***A TIME FOR GREETING AND FELLOWSHIP**



WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER
We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate this Lord’s Day with us, and we hope that in a real and meaningful way you will sense God’s presence, power, and purpose among us. If you would like for us to connect with you, please leave your contact information in the Friendship Pad when it is passed.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?
Contact the church office at 803-256-1654 to learn more and find out about our next First Step class which begins March 2, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

August 24, 2025
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith