

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Thank You to All Who have Submitted 2025 Pledge Commitments: Pledge cards are available at our Welcome Centers. Fill out a pledge card and drop it: in the offering plate or by the Church Office to Christy Rippy’s (EPC’s Treasurer) attention. You may also pledge online via our website.

Giving for “Homeless No More”: Fulfill specific needs at St. Lawrence Place and Family Shelter. Donate gifts from wish lists by tomorrow, December 2, or volunteer to serve a Christmas Lunch on December 14. Visit our website for detailed information.

Eastminster’s Mall to Manger Challenge Begins Today: You may pick up Mall to Manger cards in our Welcome Centers honoring loved ones. Donations should be marked “M2M” (cash envelope or memo line). Place in the offering on Sunday or drop by the Church Office (Attn: Treasurer). Your donations will allow Eastminster to donate 2,500 Children’s Bibles to The Salvation Army. Donations must be received by December 24th.

Lectio Divina Begins Wednesday, December 4, in the Sanctuary from 6 - 7 pm: This three-week “divine reading” class is led by Rev. Emily Mooneyhan. Learn how to slow down and listen to the Word of God.

Advent Lunchtime Bible Study with Pastor Ben: Meet on two Thursdays, December 5 and 12, from 12:30 to 1:45 pm in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH). You may RSVP and sign up for lunch from Regina’s Kitchen via our website or bring your own lunch.

Poinsettia Dedications (\$25.00) for Advent are Due December 9: The Flower Guild is accepting memorials and honoraria donations to decorate Eastminster for Christmas. Pick up a form at the Welcome Center or fill out the online form with the wording you would like to have printed in the bulletins. Checks should be made out to Eastminster with “Poinsettia Memorials and Honoraria” in the memo line.

Salvation Army Service Day for Eastminster is Friday, December 13: Volunteer at the warehouse, sorting and assembling gifts. Visit Upcoming Events for shift times and to sign up.

“Lessons and Carols” is on December 15: Join us at 9 am or 11:15 am in the Sanctuary for “For Unto Us a Child Is Born,” with music from Handel’s *Messiah*. Join us for a well-loved Eastminster tradition.

EPW Holiday Social is December 15, from 2:30 - 4:30 pm, at the Oliver’s: All Eastminster ladies are invited to gather for a time of fellowship. A shuttle from Eastminster’s upper Medway lot will be available beginning at 2:15 pm. Please RSVP by December 9 via our website, where you may also make a donation to the Women’s Shelter.

The Living Nativity is December 15 in the Courtyard (5 , 6 & 7 pm): Children’s Choirs of Angels, Wise Men, and Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus will be played by Eastminster members and youth. There will even be livestock amidst the stable.

Seniors Ministry Christmas Drop-in is December 19 (12:30 - 1:45 pm) ARH: Join us for Christmas goodies and fellowship. Catch up with friends and sing your favorite carols.

“Carols and Keyboards,” Dinner and Concert is on December 19: Join us for dinner in Thompson Hall at 5:45 pm followed by the concert at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Eastminster’s talented musicians along with nine pianists playing four pianos will play carols including pieces arranged by both Skip Stradtman and Bryon Black. Please RSVP via our website.

Advent Devotionals are Available in our Welcome Centers: If you receive our Daily Devotionals via email, you will see them there as well, culminating on Christmas Day. To sign up to receive Daily Devotionals, visit our website’s “Resources” tab.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given in honor of the baptism of Sloane Sweet Mothena by her grandparents Don and Trish Mothena and Wes and Sharon Shuler.

Current Pledge Totals: (Week 4)	390
Prior Year Pledge Totals: (Week 4)	374

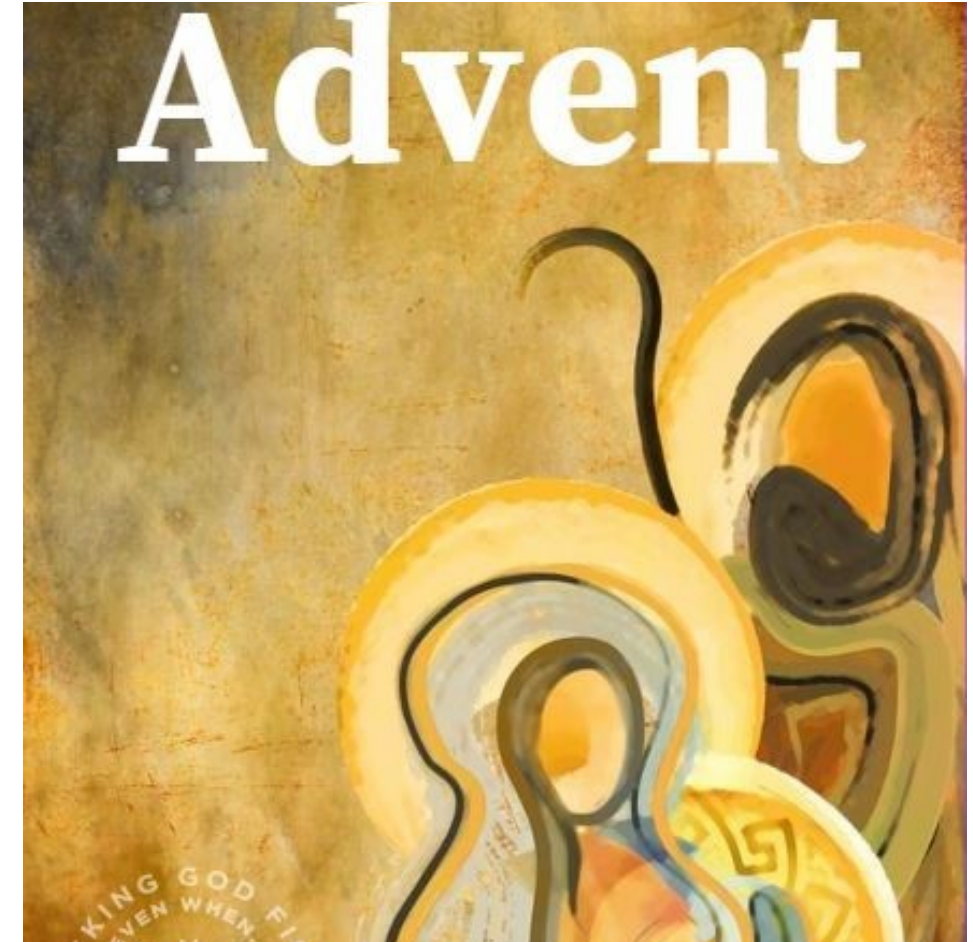
UNISON READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

SERMON NOTES



**EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN**



DEACONS: LEIGH POUND AND RICHARD SLATER
HEAD USHER: RYAN BARNES (9:00 AM) AND SCOT SEIGLER (11:15 AM)

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2024
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

Savior of the Nations, Come

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Before This Fleeting Season

Libby Larson (1950-)

Lord, before this fleeting season is upon us, let me remember to walk slowly. Lord, bless my heart with love and with quiet. Give my heart a leaning to hear carols. Grace our family with contentment, and the peace that comes only from You. Lord, help us to do less this busy season; go less, stay closer to home; kneel more. May our hearts be Your heart. May we simply, peacefully celebrate You, Lord.

Mary Ann Jindra (1939-2019)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Boyd and Nancy Scott (9 am)

Bill and Susan Coggins (11:15)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The days are coming; your salvation is nearing.

People: Teach us your paths as we wait on your coming promise.

Leader: The heavens are speaking; your kingdom is arriving.

People: Strengthen our hearts as we wait on your coming promise.

Leader: The world is turning; new life is appearing.

People: Keep us alert as we wait on your coming promise.

Leader: We worship you with waiting hearts this day.

All: Fill us with hope in this season. Let us worship God!

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #88 (verses 1, 6 and 7)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

*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

The 3K—5K children come to the front and bring their offering.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sloan Sweet Mothena *(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #115 *(verses 1 and 3)*

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy; receive our prayers in this moment of silent confession that our hearts may be alert to your approach, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 #92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord; Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come. With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

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.

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

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Michael John Trotta

O come, O come the “I Am” that is with us. Break the bond of the captive people who mourn in exile derived of the incarnation of the Father. Rejoice! Rejoice the great “I AM” will be born for you. O come gatherer of all nations, come to make all whole, to save your servants from their separateness. O come thou Light of Life to shine on us by your coming. Dispel the clouds of night, drive away the shadow of death.

18th C. Latin Hymn

*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

*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

Robin Gorman

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Page 694

Scripture Focus: Luke 21:25-36

Page 80

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

“The Lord Is Our Righteousness”

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

Then let us all with one accord sing praise to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Veni Emmanuel"

Louis Shirer

*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, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Sloan Sweet Mothena, daughter of Lauren and Stephen Mothena, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 am service. Maternal grandmother Sharon Shuler will offer the baptismal prayer.

December 8, 2024

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan