#### WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER

Lessons and Carols Worship Services are today in the Jubilee service, and December 18 in the Sanctuary.

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 18 at the conclusion of 11:15 am worship for two purposes: 1) to act on the Rev. Brian Marsh's request for dissolution of his call and 2) to act on the Officer Nominating Committee's recommendation that Jeff Thordahl be elected as an Elder for the class of 2025 to fill a vacancy.

Join us today for a Reception Honoring the Marsh Family: Following 11:15 am worship, gather in the Gym to celebrate the Marsh Family as they prepare to move to North Carolina where Brian will be pastoring a church. If you'd like to contribute to the Farewell Offering honoring Rev. Brian Marsh, visit the "Give" page of the website; contributions can be made through December 30, 2022.

Young Adult Sunday School and Social: This morning and next Sunday, December 18, Young Adults will gather in the Adult Reception Hall at 10 am for fellowship and discussion. There will also be a Young Adult Social at Casa Linda on December 18 (after the 6 pm Living Nativity performance) at 7:30 pm. See you there!

The Longest Night Peace Service is today at 4 pm (Adult Reception Hall): Join us for this service of hope and light as we gather quietly before God in prayer and remember those we've lost. The Peace Service is a Communion Service on the second Sunday of every other month.

Grief Share Group Meets tonight and December 18 at 6 pm (Room 357 - Education Building): This Congregational Care and Concern group will meet to give support and comfort for all who are grieving the loss of a loved one during the holidays. Dr. Ben Sloan will lead our discussions.

Middle and High School Christmas Parties are Tonight (5 pm - 6:30 pm): Middle Schoolers should meet in the Arts & Crafts Room (CLC - 3rd Floor), and High Schoolers will be in Thompson Hall.

EPW's Joy Gift Social is this Tuesday, December 13, in Thompson Hall (11:30 am - 1:30 pm): Join us for this annual event where we gather in fellowship and benevolence as we collect monetary donations for the Women's Shelter.

Gingerbread House Drop-in (Babies - 5th grade) is this Wednesday, December 14: Meet Croskeys in the Gym anytime from 5 pm - 7 pm. We'll enjoy pizza and fellowship as we build our houses (\$20/one per family). Bring a canned good for Harvest Hope.

Transitions Third Thursday is this week, December 15: Donations of pound cakes, pasta salad, and clementines (*December only*) need to be delivered to the Church Staff Kitchen by 4 pm. Servers should meet at Transitions at 5 pm. To help with Christmas Day Lunch at Transitions, please contact Alison McGowan (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com).

Living Nativity is December 18 at 5 pm, 6 pm, & 7 pm (Courtyard): Our annual petting zoo makes these three shows lively and fun each year. Contact Croskeys Royall (<a href="mailto:croyall@eastminterpres.org">croyall@eastminterpres.org</a>) if you'd like to help. Young Adults are encouraged to attend the 6 pm performance followed by dinner with Pastor Nick.

**Socks in a Box Meets Undies for Sundays:** Learning Differences Ministry is collecting socks and underwear at designated spaces now through January 8. Contact Andrea Ferree (aferree@eastminsterpres.org) or Alyssa Good (alyssagood@live.com) with questions.

Mall to Manger Challenge Cards Are Available in our Welcome Centers: Pick up cards and give as gifts this year. Donations go to Meals on Wheels. Please write "M2M" on the memo line of your check.

# Unison Reading: Luke 1:5-7

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

#### SERMON NOTES

## Pledge Status Report as of December 5, 2022

Thank you to those who have pledged. If you have not yet pledged, please join us in pledging to support Christ's work through Eastminster in 2023.

186 Pledges Increased

89 Pledges With No Change

38 Pledges Decreased

42 New Pledges

For a total of 355 pledges totaling \$3,047,800

128 Pledges were made for 2022, but not yet for 2022

**DEACONS:** CHARLIE MIMMS AND TERESA SHELTON HEAD USHER: DON HELMS (9:00 AM) BILL COGGINS (11:15 AM) <sup>1</sup> © PUBLIC DOMAIN CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950

## MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

## **STAFF**

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor Rev. Nicholas P. Demuynck, Associate Pastor Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry Bethany Parker, Director of Middle School Youth Bill Collins, Business Manager Christy Rippy, Treasurer Emmet Hough, Dir. of Christian Life Center Rev. Brian J. Marsh, Associate Pastor Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Interim Parish Associate Josh Evanovich, Organist Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian Alex Rogers, Director of Plant Operations





THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 11, 2022 9:00 AM & 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 worshiping our Living God.

"So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory." Romans 15:7.

All Eastminster worship services and activities are mask optional, with masks available at the Welcome Center if you'd like one.

#### **PRELUDE**

Once In Royal David's City Adeste Fidelis

Philip Moore David Schelat

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Hannah and Danny Buckner (9:00)

Lauren and John Hobbs, Mary Wesley and Penelope (11:15)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." Leader: The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice." People: The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Rejoice." Leader:

The world says, "Be happy," and the church says, "Be People:

As we light our third Advent candle, we pray for hope, peace, and Leader:

Come now, O child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Joy. All:

### **†\*HYMN OF ADORATION #362**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

# \*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.

#### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Douglas Scott Schultz III and Sarah Lyndon Schultz

(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 look 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 the there.

#### \*\*TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Rev. W. Croskevs Royall The 3K—5K children come to the front and bring their offering.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we come to You this day seeking your tender mercy and grace. We admit that we have sinned, too often seeking comfort in the darkness instead of resting in Your light. Help us this day to lay before You those actions and thoughts that cause us to drift away from Your will and Your ways, and remind us again of Your holiness and righteousness. Hear us now as we silently confess our sins to You...

### SILENT PRAYER

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

# RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING (CARSON)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come; Jesus, our Lord Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

# PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

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**

Song of Mary

Richard Shephard

My Lord and Saviour is my song; He fills my spirit with delight To raise me up his arm is strong, The Lowly precious in his sight. Magnificat anima mea Dominum. My name shall live from age to age, And ev'ry tongue his servant bless, For mercy is their heritage Whose hearts the Holy One confess. Magnificat anima mea Dominum. The proud beguil'd by dreams of pow'r Divided and degraded lie: He casts them down from throne and tow'r And stoops to lift the humble high. Magnificat anima mea Dominum. He feeds the hungry at his board And sends the rich unfill'd away, And mindful of his promis'd word Has answer'd Israel's prayer today. Magnificat anima mea Dominum. With all the elders of our race, and those unborn who seek this birth, I sing the glory of his grace Who brings eternity to earth. Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

#### **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

Alex Dillard

\*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND. \*\*CHILDREN MAY BRING THEIR OFFERING AT THIS TIME. †THOSE WAITING IN THE NARTHEX MAY NOW BE SEATED THE FLOOR LEVEL OF THE SANCTUARY HAS A HEARING LOOP FOR HEARING AID USERS

#### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Unison Reading: Luke 1:5-7 Page 52 Scripture Focus: Luke 1:67-80 Page 54

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

# **SERMON**

"Preparing the Way"

Rev. Brian J. Marsh

# \*HYMN OF DEDICATION #146 (verses 1 and 2)

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

\*CHARGE

#### \*BENEDICTION

# \*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #100 (verse 3)

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Gentle Mary Laid her child lowly in a manger; he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger. Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story; praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

## **POSTLUDE**

\*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 Christina Siokos (csiokos@eastminsterpres.org or 256-1654 x123) to learn more and find out about our next First Step class, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our on-going ministries.

### **DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:**

Douglass Scott Schultz and Sarah Lyndon Schultz, son and daughter of Scott and Molly Schultz, will receive the sacrament of baptism during the 11:15 am worship service. Marsha McCrory, maternal grandmother, and deacon at First Presbyterian, Charlotte, NC, will offer the baptismal prayer.

## December 18, 2022

Dr. Bradley D. Smith Matthew 1:18-25 "Wonder What the Neighbors Said" Lessons and Carols