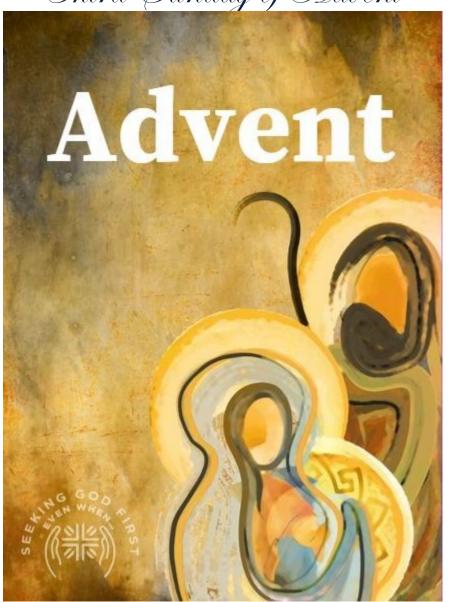


Third Sunday of Advent



3200 Trenholm Road Columbia, SC 29204

803-256-1654

www.eastminsterpres.org

Tor Unto Us a Child Is Born Lessons, Carols and Musical Excerpts from George Frideric Handel's Messiah December 15, 2024 Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

"Overture" George Frideric Handel

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

Lighting of the Advent Candle/Call to Worship

Gabriel, Mallie, Bett & Grier DiBiase (9:00 am)

John and Agnes Asman(11:15 am)

Leader: God, you are our salvation and trust.

People: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

Leader: You redeem your people; you restore our fortunes.

People: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

Leader: You have become for us our strength and salvation.

People: Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

Leader: Let us sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things.

All: Let us offer joy, thanks, and praise this day. Hallelujah!

*Congregational Carol of Adoration

O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. David Willcocks

- 1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
 - Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
 - O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (to refrain)
- 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (to refrain)

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan (9:00 am)

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key (11:15 am)

O Jesus, God's own Son, you came to earth as a child, to be cradled in all hearts. Forgive us, O Lord, that all too often we push you to the periphery of our minds and the margins of our lives. Awaken us afresh this Advent season, that we would step away from the clutter and clamor to open our hearts to receive you anew. Thank you that you hear our silent confessions....

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2a, 6-7

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan (9:00 am) Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key (11:15 am)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light: those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rest upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Recitative, Aria and Chorus: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 40:9, 60:1"

"Behold a virgin shall conceive/O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion"

G.F. Handel

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his son Emmanuel, GOD WITH US.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinuis was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and the family of David. He went to registered with Mary, to whom, he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Chorus: Isaiah 9:6

"For unto us a child is born"

G.F. Handel

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

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.

Third Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

Recitative and Chorus

G.F. Handel

There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heav'nly host praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God"

G. F Handel

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, goodwill toward men.

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:15-16

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*Congregational Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. John Rutter

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
- 3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.
- 4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descent to us we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell: O come to us; abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Unison Reading: Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

Scripture Focus: John 1:1-14

Meditation

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

"A Fresh Beginning"

Offertory

"Pastoral Symphony"

G.F. Handel

Prayer of Dedication

John Hart

Fifth Lesson:

Recitative Isaiah 35:5-6

G. F. Handel

Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the dear unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing,

Air: Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 11:28-29

"He shall feed his flock"

G. F. Handel

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. Come unto him, all ye that labour, come unto him, that are heavy laden, and he will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of him; for he is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

from Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen

*Congregational Carol of Dedication

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

- 1. Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled: Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies, With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem. Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.
- 2. Christ by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord, Late in time behold him come Offspring of a virgin's womb: Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th'incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.
- 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings; Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.

Benediction

Postlude

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Edwin C. Johnson

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL MUSICIANS WHO PARTICIPATED THIS MORNING, ESPECIAL-LY ORCHESTRA MEMBERS Julia Jacobsen, Wenxin Xi, Steven Humphries, Bri Harris, Margie Moore, Savannah Elgin, Mia Bailey, Derek George, Eunice Koh, Heidi Carey, Jaden Bowers, Madison Constantine, Aaron Nealy, Christina French, Pacho Ballestas, Ben Pouncey, and Ian Mahaffey. Soloists: Ella Canney, Briona Robinson and Alex Thompson



In honor of Liz Agee, proof that angels walk among us - Sam

In Appreciation for all Lib Foster and Laura Long do for Eastminster - Becky Airheart

In Loving Memory of Dr. Jay Pearson - Garland and Schipp Ames

Given with appreciation and love to Jackie Stallings, Martha Studstill and Nancy Schultz for guiding our small group

In Thanksgiving for our grandchildren, Clarke, Foster. Evelyn, Yates, Ivy and Wren Anderson - Joe and Carol Anderson

In loving memory of Furman and Evelyn Gerrard - Joe and Carol Anderson

In loving memory of Joe and Clarissa Anderson - Joe and Carol Anderson

In memory of Faye Jeffcoat - Joe and Carol Anderson

In loving memory of Fran Hall DiBiase and Mac T. Atkins, Jr. Given with love by Mac, Carmen, Tilden and Carter Atkins

In loving memory of Florence Moffett Fowler and in honor of Lewis W. Fowler, Jr. - Ginger, Reese & Tucker Bates

In loving memory of Roy, Sarah and Steve Bates - Ginger, Reese & Tucker Bates

In loving memory of Brian Tucker Bates, Jr. - Ginger, Reese & Tucker Bates

To the glory of God and in honor of Peggy M. Batten - Robert Batten

In loving memory of my dear, sweet brother, Alex Jenkins. I miss him every day - Margie Brown

In honor & love of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church staff, for your service, care and commitment - Sharon and Steve Bryant

In honor of our children and grandchildren Lyndey and Peyton Bryant, Ellery and Addy, and Paige and Cordes Kennedy, and Baxter. -Sharon and Steve Bryant

In loving memory of William Bratton Steele Chandler, Jr, & Rita Johns Scott Chandler, parents of Martha Bratton Chandler, grandparents of William Alexander Kennedy & Cordes Baxter Kennedy (Paige) and great-grandparents to Cordes Baxter Kennedy, Jr.

In loving memory of Alec Chaplin Sr. by his grandchildren May, Luke and Alec

To the glory of God and in memory of Brian Bates - the Ted Haigler Sunday School class

To the glory of God and in memory of John Allan Ferguson- David and Connie Chase

To the glory of God and in memory of Robert O. Jones- David and Connie Chase

To the glory of God and in memory of Vivian and Eugene Chase and Eugene Bowen Chase, III (Bo) and Christina Chase

To the glory of God and in honor of Wendle and Anne Snapp - David and Connie Chase

To the glory of God and in honor of Elaine Littlejohn- David and Connie Chase

In loving memory of our grandmother, Marny Carol Karr - Caroline and Charlotte Coble

In loving memory of Oliver Counts by Mary and their children Warren, Cary and Robin

In loving memory of our nephew Jay St. John - Sark and Vicky Derderian

In loving memory of Carl Salisbury - Alex, Sarah and Hank Dillard

In loving memory of Meg Dillard - Jim Dillard

In loving memory of Meg Dillard - Alex, Sarah and Hank Dillard

In loving memory of our mother, father and grandparents, Annette and Jake King, from Gus, Kim, Drew & Robert Dixon

In loving memory of our mother, father and grandparents, Augusta and King Dixon, from Gus, Kim, Drew & Robert Dixon

In loving memory of Frances S. Dye - Madison and Lisa Dye and family

In honor of my wife Lisa - Madison Dye

In memory of our parents W.R and Ruth Dunn and Col. and Mrs. Tom Ellzey - Jane and Dan Ellzey

In honor of our grandchildren Jane and Mills Babcock, Abner, Barmore and Campbell Jones, and Daniel and Jimmy Ellzey - Jane and Dan Ellzey

In loving memory of Woody Sanford (Pop) - by his wife, Kiki Sanford, Julie and Bruce Fewell, and grandsons Alex and William Fewell

In loving memory of Jane's parents, Frank and Dorothy McFaddin, given by Bill and Jane Francis

In loving memory of Bill's parents, Marion and Jane Francis, given by Bill and Jane Francis

In loving memory of Jane's siblings, Frank McFaddin, Jr., Jack McFaddin, Lorraine M. Walker and Henry McFaddin, given by Bill and Jane Francis

In loving memory of Violet and Lyle Warner and Mollye Ruth and Rock Gandy, given by Karen and Harry Gandy

In honor of Tripp, Katie, Todd, Pippi and Robbie Gandy, and our five grandchildren, given by Karen and Harry Gandy

In memory of Bartow Gilbert, with love from Betty and family

In honor of ministers, staff, and friends at Eastminster who have prayed and supported us - Mike and Robin Gorman

In honor of my husband. Robin

Robin Gorman: Small yet mighty. Thank you for being my wife and best friend - Mike

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Phyllis and Joe Williams by their family

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Dot and Bill Halligan by their family

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Blair Babb Smoak by Kyle, Meredeth, David and Grace Hewett

In loving memory of Ross Holcombe by his family

In loving memory of George Alexander Jenkins, Jr. and Mary Ball Graham - Spence and Stuart Jenkins

In loving memory of Butch Jones. Glory be to God - Susan

In loving memory of Grady Babb Kay, Jr. from the Kay family

In honor of the Poston family: Keith, Dori, Callie and Finn

In memory of Jeff Kososki - Carol, John, Leah and Julia Kososki

To the glory of God and in honor of all the dedicated and faithful musicians of Eastminster

To the glory of God and in honor of Carol Anderson and the Flower Guild

In loving memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cameron, and Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Leppard - Mac and Connie Leppard

In loving memory of Rankin Craig, given by the Livingston family

In loving memory of Johnnie Livingston, given by the Livingston family

In loving memory of John Sim, given by the Livingston family

In loving memory of our parents, Paul and Sara Lovingood, by Kevin Lovingood, Belinda Lennon, and Vivian Lovingood

In loving memory of Judy Love by Paula, Brian, and Alex Magargle

In loving memory of Betsy Sommerkamp by Paula, Brian, and Alex Magargle

In loving memory of Kenny Sommerkamp by Paula, Brian, and Alex Magargle

In loving memory of Meg Dillard, beloved mother and grandmother to Anne, Coke, Mary Margaret and Virginia Mann

In memory of God's dedicated servant, Brian Bates - Carolyn and Mark McClam

In memory of Brian Bates, Roy and Sarah Bates, and Steve Bates by the Butterbean Boys Club and Beantathletes everywhere

In gratitude for Blair, Eliza and Will by Bill McDow

In honor of Alison McGowan-For all that you do and have done for me and our family, with love - Bryant

In honor of Gena McGowan, thanks for everything you do; you are a blessing to our family - your son, Bryant

In loving memory of Helen, Claude and Ginny McMillan - Liz McMillan and Keith Postal

In loving memory of Josephine, Gus and Nancy Postal - Liz McMillan and Keith Postal

Given in thanksgiving for Susi and Robert McWilliams and in honor of Dale & Larry Pedrick, and Josephine & Mac McWilliams by your children and grandchildren

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Reece McWilliams, from Robert and Susi McWilliams

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Larry E. Pedrick, Jr., from Robert and Susi McWilliams

To the glory of God and in loving memory of two extraordinary great-grandmothers, Dale Bennett Pedrick and Kathy Spurgeon Marsha, from Madelyn, Hall, Clara, LJ, Elizabeth, and Anne James McWilliams

In memory of C. Marshall Kibler and in honor of Anna Belle Kibler

In memory of Carlos Moca and in honor of Kathy Moca

In memory of our grandparents: Teddy & Mary Jane King, Miriam Moffat, and Lt. Col. William Glasgow

In loving memory of Vance and Janie Morrow - Doug and Pam Morrow

In loving memory of William L. Jones - Doug and Pam Morrow

In honor of Frank and Margaret Moses, in love and appreciation - Marion & Ashlee Moses family, Guy and Elizabeth Johnson family, Frank and Tracy Moses family

In honor of Felicia Carmichael and in memory of Marvin Carmichael - Marion and Ashlee Moses family

In memory of Emmie, our beloved Boykin Spaniel - Marion & Ashlee, Claire and Marion Moses

In honor of Peggy and Robert Batten - the Moses and Johnson families

In memory of Faye Jeffcoat - Marianne Murphy

In honor of Jackie and Bill Stallings - Ann Niland

In loving memory of our precious grandson, William "Beau" Snell given by Deane & Susan Pennington

In gratitude for our daughters Laney and Claire Pound - Kit and Leigh Pound

In honor of Mitzi Trotter - Kit and Leigh Pound

In loving memory of Ann St. John by the No Name small group.

In honor of Pastor Emily by the Stephen Ministers.

In loving memory of Juda Reinhardt from Amy Reiland, Rich Reinhardt and families

In loving memory of Juda Reinhardt by her family

Given to the glory of God and in memory of our parents John and Jane Dunbar, and Roy and Ann Sawyer

In honor of Fredna Lee and the Chancel Choir - Ellen Douglas Schlaefer

In honor of Lucy V. Scoville- Ellen Douglas Schlaefer

In honor of the George T. McCutchen Family - Ellen Douglas Schlaefer

In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Schlaefer - Ellen Douglas Schlaefer

In memory of Jack and Ellen Scoville - Ellen Douglas Schlaefer

To the glory of God and in memory of Helen Childers, Ginger Foster and Bobby Fuller by the Ichthus/Disciples Sunday School class

In memory of Sue and Paul Mitchell - Jan and Carey Shackelford

In honor of Betty Barton - Doug and Lyn Schultz

In honor of Mitzi Trotter - Doug and Lyn Schultz

In memory of Sarah Burgess Auman, mother of Lib Foster, by Frank and Jane Shuler

In memory of my beautiful mother, Rankin Suber Craig - Polly Sim

In memory of my shining light, John Anson Sim II - Polly Sim

To the glory of God and in loving memory of Ann H. St. John from Melissa St. John Raith and Jim St. John

To the glory of God and in loving memory of our brother, Alex Jenkins, rejoicing that he is with his Lord and Savior - Doris & Ed Stapel

In loving memory of our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eutace Studstill and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Strait. - Martha and Harvey Studstill

Given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for our grandchildren, William, Lolly, Nan, Anna, Warren, Charlie, Lee, & James

- Nancy & Bill Theus

Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of our parents, Lolly and Frank Dana, and Julia and Walter Theus - Nancy & Bill Theus In loving memory of Laval and Beaulah Osteen by Phyllis and Paul Trippe

Dedicated to the glory of God for his gift of our grandsons- Groves, Charlie, and Legare -Audrey and Charles Varn

In loving memory of my parents Mary and Lacy Blanchard - Emily Walker

In honor of Sara Ellison, our dedicated, prepared, organized insightful leader. With love, your small group

Tripp and Sloane Whalen dedicate this poinsettia in honor of their grandparents: Rob and Martha Peddrick and Jeff and Karen Whalen

In memory of our loving, wonderfully weird daughter Kacy. We love and miss you so much - John and Kathy Winterhalter

In honor of the Weekly Weeders

In appreciation of Beth Oliver for opening her house for the EPW Holiday Social - from the EPW Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EPW Holiday Social is Today from 2:30 - 4:30 pm at the Olivers': All Eastminster ladies are invited! A shuttle from Eastminster's upper Medway lot will be available beginning at 2:15 pm.

The Living Nativity is Tonight in the Courtyard (5, 6 and 7 pm): The cast of Angels, Wise Men, Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus will be played by Eastminster members.

Mall to Manger Challenge for 2,500 Children's Bibles (Salvation Army): Pick up Mall to Manger cards in our Welcome Centers. Donations should be marked "M2M." You may place donations in the offering on Sunday or drop by the Church Office (Attn: Treasurer). All donations should be received by December 24th.

Join us for Lectio Divina on December 18 (6 - 7 pm) in the Sanctuary: This "divine reading" class is led by Rev. Emily Mooneyhan. Learn how to slow down and listen to the Word of God.

Seniors Ministry Christmas Drop-in is December 19 (12:30 - 1:45 pm) in the ARH: Join us for Christmas goodies and fellowship.

Transitions Third Thursday is December 19: Donations (pasta salad, pound cakes and *mandarin oranges*) are due to the Church Office (Staff Kitchen) by 3 pm. We will also serve lunch after worship on Christmas Day at Transitions. Contact Alison McGowan for details. (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com).

"Carols and Keyboards," Dinner and a 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 perform carols including pieces arranged by Skip Stradtman and Bryon Black. Please RSVP for dinner via our website

Longest Night Peace Communion Service is December 22 at 4 pm: Join us in the Sanctuary to remember and celebrate loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant during the past year. All are welcome. Bring a friend who may benefit.

Pledge Status Report as of December 9, 2024

Thank you to those who have pledged. If you have not yet done so, please give us an estimate of your giving to support Christ's work through Eastminster in 2024.

235 Pledges Increased

97 Pledges With No Change

23 Pledges Decreased

59 New Pledges

For a total of 414 pledges totaling \$3,945281

73 pledges were made for 2023, but not yet for 2024

Dear Eastminster Church Family,

We are so glad you are worshiping with us today, and what a gift that our God has come to the world in the flesh in Jesus the Christ! Join us for our coming services (listed below) so that, filled with awe and wonder, each and every one of us may live lives of gratitude and generosity, reaching out to others as our Savior has first reached out to us.

In Christ,

Brad

Brad

Christmas Worship Services



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM: CHILDREN'S SERVICE

(CHILDCARE PROVIDED FOR INFANTS – 2K)

7:00 PM: FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

(CHILDCARE PROVIDED FOR INFANTS—5K) 9:00 PM: CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

MINISTERS—ALL OF US! STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor

Dr J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate

Alisha Hudson, Business Administrator

Katie Herndon, EDS Director

Alex Rogers, Facilities Manager

Emmet Hough, Christian Life Center Dir.

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor

Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate

Emily Higgins, Middle School Youth Director

Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer

Blythe Lewis, Communications Director

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry

Louis Shirer, Organist

Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Caroline Bennett, Small Groups & Librarian.

James Cassidy, A/V Director