

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Today is Peanut Butter Sunday: Thank you to all who make peanut butter donations on fourth Sundays. Harvest Hope bins are located in our reception areas. Your donations help fight hunger in The Midlands.

Welcome Home College Students: Come enjoy a delicious brunch, great company, and some holiday cheer. It's a perfect opportunity to catch up with friends and get into the holiday spirit. Meet in the CLC Gameroom on December 22, at 10:15 am.

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

Year-End Giving: Thank you for your support of Eastminster in 2024 and to those who have pledged for 2025. Year-end contributions can be made via the offering plate by Sunday, December 29, or by mail if postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. If you are bringing your balance by the Church Office, please mark "Attn: Treasurer," and deliver it to the receptionist by Tuesday, December 31, (5 pm). To donate stock, contact Christy Rippy, Treasurer, at crippy@eastminsterpres.org for stock transfer instructions.

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). Our Mall to Manger collection ends with the Christmas Eve offerings.

We will have one service on Christmas Day at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Dress casually and get ready to sing your favorite Christmas Carols.

Serve Lunch at Transitions on Christmas Day or donate a dessert: There will be two opportunities for servers this year- 11:15 am to 12 pm (Transitions) and 11:45 am to 12:30 pm (Rapid Center). We also need pound cakes, *brownies, *cookies and *snack mix. (*Please put these treats in sandwich bags.) Email Alison McGowan to volunteer to participate (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com).

On December 29, we will have a time of worship and fellowship. Join us for: Inter-generational Brunch at 10 am in Thompson Hall and worship at either 9:00 or 11:15 am in the Sanctuary. (No Sunday School)

Next Steps Class Begins January 5, at 10 am in The Adult Reception Hall (ARH): Are you looking to deepen your spiritual walk and connect with other members? Join us for Next Steps, Eastminster's new four-week class designed to help you grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and discover your purpose within our church family.

WE@EPC Bible 201 Starts January 8: This is a pastor-led study of the Gospel of Luke. We'll explore the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and how his message continues to inspire us today. Join us for WE@EPC meals at 5:15 pm in Thompson Hall.

Sundays@5 Vanishing Grace Class Starts January 12: Led by Dr. Douglass Key, we'll delve into a study of Philip Yancey's book, "Vanishing Grace." Learn about the power of grace and its impact on our lives and the world around us.

Pledge Status Report as of December 16, 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 2025.

240 Pledges Increased
98 Pledges With No Change
24 Pledges Decreased
60 New Pledges

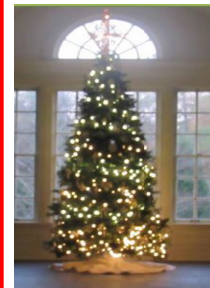
For a total of 422 pledges totaling \$4,020,230
66 pledges were made for 2024, but not yet for 2025

UNISON READING: Luke 1:26-33

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

SERMON NOTES

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

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 AM (NO CHILDCARE)

DEACONS: LISA NEWMAN AND DARREN KNIGHT
HEAD USHER: BERRY MATTOX (9:00 AM) AND WILSON MCDONALD (11:15 AM)

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

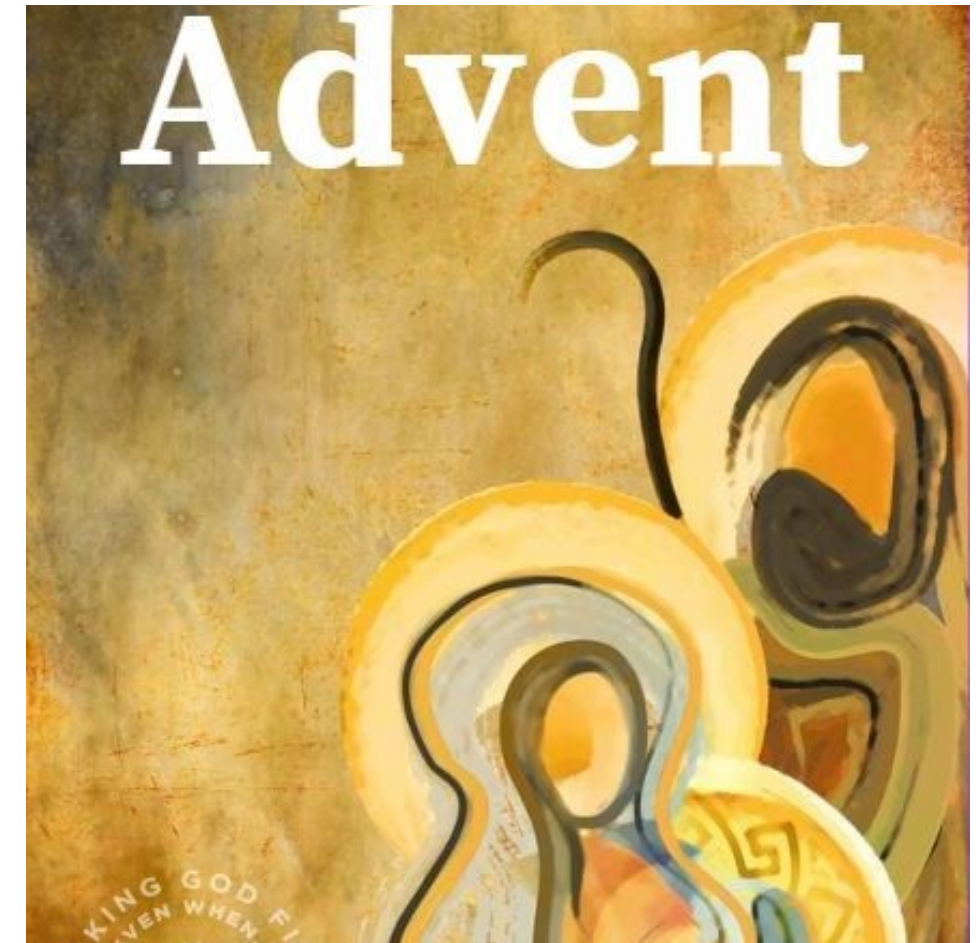
Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

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



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 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

PRELUDES

*Sing with Joy, Glad Voices Lift
O Come All Ye Faithful*

Hermann Schroeder
arr. Louis Shirer

Memorial Handbells

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Keith, Dori, Callie & Finnley Poston, and Ayla Connor (9:00 am)
Cliff, Elizabeth & Charlotte Ballew (11:15 am)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Give ear to our cries, O Shepherd of Israel;

People: let your face shine, and save us.

Leader: Though we've been fed the bread of tears,

People: let your face shine, and save us.

Leader: Though our enemies rise up, though we feel consumed and surrounded,

People: let your face shine, and save us.

Leader: Awaken your might; lead us gently in your light.

All: Restore us, O God, so that we might be saved. Amen.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #143

Angels from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

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

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. Key
Prepare our hearts, O God, to greet the Christ of glory, who was foretold in sacred story. Forgive us that we fall short of the justice, truth and love of He who came from heaven above. Heavenly Father, grateful for your goodness and mercy in Jesus the Christ, hear now our confessions as we come before you in 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 #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. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

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

Sans Day Carol

arr. John Rutter

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk: And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the green-wood it was the holly. Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross. And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the green-wood it was the holly. Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, And Mary bore Jesus who died for us all. And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the green-wood it was the holly. Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red, Then trust we our Saviour who rose from the dead. And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the green-wood it was the holly.

Traditional Cornish Carol

*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

George McCutchen

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Luke 1:26-33

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Scripture Focus: Luke 1:34-45

Page 53

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Earwitnesses to the Holy?”

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #147

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*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

The First Nowell

Alec Wyton

*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.

December 24, Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm Children's Service

7:00 pm Candlelight

9:00 pm Candlelight and Communion

December 25, Christmas Day Service

10:30 am

December 29, 2024

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd