

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER

A Piece of Eastminster's Story- Transitions Christmas Day Lunch

began in 2011: The then support staff admin for MSB came up with the idea to serve a meal for some who otherwise may not have "Christmas dinner" with family and friends. Today, 11 years later, we are meeting at Transitions after worship to serve and fellowship with our friends. Thank you all for your regular donations as well as the turkeys, hams, homemade cookies and hygiene bags! Contact Alison McGowan (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com) if you would like to help on Third Thursdays in 2023.

Mall to Manger Donations are due today: You may drop your donations, which will benefit Meals on Wheels, in the offering plate. Please write "M2M" on the memo line of your check.

Start the New Year Out Well! Journey Through the Bible Continues: After immersing ourselves in the history and theology of Israel throughout the Fall, the Journey Through the Bible is moving into the Gospel according to Matthew in the New Year. Between the focus texts and the daily readings, the congregation has the opportunity to read and reflect on Matthew in its entirety between now and Easter. Join us for Sundays@5 beginning January 8, and WE@EPC evening classes on January 11.

There will be one worship service on New Year's Day at 10 am in the Sanctuary: There will be childcare for babies-2K and Children's Church for children 3K-5K. Please join us for worship.

Register for "The Vine" by January 2: Enjoy fellowship and study at The Cove with Dr. Angela Ford-Nelson February 2-5. Visit our website's Upcoming Events to register.

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 (aferee@eastminsterpres.org) or Alyssa Good (alyssagood@live.com) with questions.

Cradle Roll Sunday is January 8 at 9 am Traditional Worship: Join us as we celebrate new life in our congregation. Parents and infants will be part of a processional before worship. If you have questions, contact Croskeys Royall (croyall@eastminsterpres.org).

Two New Young Adult Sunday School Classes Begin January 8 at 10 am: Young Professionals will meet in room 350 of the Education Building and Young Families will meet in room 356 of the Education Building. Both groups will study the Journey Through the Bible starting with the gospel of Matthew.

Officer Installation (Class of 2025) is January 8th at 11:15 am Traditional Worship: Elders and Deacons will officially begin their three-year terms.

Eastminster's 75th Anniversary Celebratory Weekend is January 28-29, 2023: We will join in fellowship to celebrate 75 years of ministry on Saturday evening at the 75th Anniversary Gala followed by worship on Sunday when we'll welcome back Rev. Amos Disasa, Dr. Mark Durrett, and Dr. Lynn Grandsire, who will be assisting in worship that day. If you haven't sent in your RSVP for the Gala, please RSVP by January 13. You can RSVP via the emailed invitation, the newsletter, at the Welcome Centers, or on our website.

Mark your calendars for The CORE Retreat, March 3-4, 2023: Join us for mind, body and soul revitalization in the CLC. Guest speakers and teachers will be part of our curriculum again this March. More information to come. If you have questions about CORE, contact Caroline Bennett (cbennett@eastminsterpres.org)

Unison Reading: John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

SERMON NOTES



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



DEACONS: DOLORES LONG AND LEIGH POUND
HEAD USHER: BERRY MATTOX (9:00 AM) 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
Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, 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 Rippey, 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

CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 25, 2022
10:00 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.

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

PRELUDE

The First Noel

Joshua Evanovich

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Simmons, Russ, Francis, Jacquie, and Julia Purdy

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "Good news of great joy," the angel said, "for to you a savior is born."

People: **"Peace on earth," the choir sang, "for God reigns in the highest."**

Leader: "Follow me," the star beckoned, "For Hope was born in Bethlehem."

People: **As we light the Christ candle, we watch for the Christmas story around us.**

Leader: Emmanuel has come and is coming.

All: **Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.**

†*SONGS OF ADORATION

#133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
2. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

#146

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

1. Gentle Mary laid her child, lowly in a manger; there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger. Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.
2. Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him; heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him. Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing; all the plains were lit that night; all the hill were ringing.

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

SONG OF PRAISE #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why our joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyne

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, 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

O Night Divine

Joshua Evanovich

OFFICER'S PRAYER

Leigh Pound

HYMN OF DEDICATION #112

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

SUSSEX CAROL

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring; o Christmas night all Christian sing, to hear the news the angels bring, news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.
2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our redeemer made us glad; then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad, when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: John 1:1-5

Page 86

Second Reading: John 1:6-14

Page 86

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“The Best Gifts of All”

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

*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

*HYMNS OF JOY

#136

Go Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

1. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every-where; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
2. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ever-where; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
3. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and every-where; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

#137

He Came Down

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

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.

January 1, 2023

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyne

Matthew 2:1-12