

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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 today, 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 p.m.). For stock transfer instructions, contact Christy Rippy, Treasurer, at crippy@eastminsterpres.org.

Join us for an Intergenerational Brunch this morning: at 10 a.m. in Thompson Hall and worship at either 9 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. (No Sunday School)

Cradle Role Sunday is January 5: Join us for worship at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary as we celebrate new life in the Eastminster Family, and welcome families with babies born over the past year. New parents, see emails from Rev. Croskeys Royall (croyall@eastminsterpres.org) with more information about Cradle Role.

Next Steps Class Begins January 5, at 10 a.m., 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.

Officer Installation for the Class of 2027: is January 5th, when we'll be installing our new Deacons and Elders during the 11:15 a.m. Traditional Worship Service. Please join us in welcoming these dedicated servants.

WE@EPC Meals Kick off on January 8 at 5:15 p.m.: Visit our website and select the "Ministries" button at the top. You will see "Fellowship" in the menu. Select "Fellowship" and look to the right for the "WE@EPC RSVP" tab. You will see the menu graphic as well and pricing information. You may now pay online when you make your reservation (by Wednesday at noon), or you can bring cash or a check and pay when you get to Thompson Hall.

WE@EPC Bible 201 Starts January 8, at 6 p.m., in the Adult Reception Hall: 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 in Thompson Hall prior to the study.

WE@EPC Divorce Care Starts January 8, at 6 p.m., in the CLC Room 263: For those who are facing the challenges a divorce can bring, our Care ministry offers a safe and supportive space to heal and grow. Led by compassionate pastors, this group provides biblical guidance, practical advice, and the opportunity to connect with others who understand the pain of divorce.

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.

ECAMP (Eastminster's Children's Afternoon Music Program) Kicks off on January 12 at 5 p.m.: Singers in grades first through fifth are welcome! We will have a devotional, a rehearsal, and then dinner near the choir room in the Sanctuary basement. Drop off and pick up in the Sanctuary. Parents, we would love your help. You will be able to sign up to volunteer for ECAMP soon. Look for emails with more information from Stefanie Hammond (shammond@eastminsterpres.org) who leads our programming.

Pledge Status Report as of December 23, 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.

243 Pledges Increased
99 Pledges With No Change
27 Pledges Decreased
62 New Pledges

For a total of 431 pledges totaling \$4,060,273
59 pledges were made for 2024, but not yet for 2025

UNISON READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

SERMON NOTES



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



DEACONS: GEOFF REABOLD AND KAREN HUDGENS
HEAD USHER: RUSS PURDY (9:00 AM) AND BILL STALLINGS (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 CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 29, 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

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

King/Tan/Sieff

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

People: Praise him you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

All: Let the whole earth praise the Lord!

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #127

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing/ Jesus the Light of the World WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Mr. James Blackwelder

*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

Holy God, though we are in awe of the dawn of your light in Jesus Christ, we remain self-centered and cling to the sin of the world. We celebrate the birth of our savior, yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him. We are called to pursue justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you; yet we are content to seek our own comfort and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need. By the light of the Christ child, lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness, as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation. In silence we pray...

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

(9:00 AM) #110 *Love Has Come*

BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

(11:15 AM) *In Christ Alone*

Getty/Townend

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand;

Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand

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

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Craig Courtney (9:00 AM)

When I Think Upon Christmas

Yasmin Bradshaw and Chelse Lawson

*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

Nancy Scott

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

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Scripture Focus: Luke 2:41-52

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

“The Boy Jesus”

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

(9:00 AM) #150 *As With Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

(11:15 AM) #192 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #150

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

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 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.

January 5, 2025

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

9 am, Cradle Roll

11:15 am, Officer Installation