WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER

ECAMP Resumes Tonight (5 pm - 6 pm) in the Sanctuary: There will not be a meal served so please pick up promptly at 6 pm. See emails from Fredna for December's rehearsal schedule.

Youth Groups Meet Tonight (5 pm - 6:30 pm): High School meets in the Multi Purpose Room (3rd floor CLC). Middle School will meet at Beltline Lanes; meet there and bring money for food and arcade games.

Dedicate a Poinsettia in Honor or Memory of a Loved One: You may fill out a form online or pick one up in the Welcome Center. Please return your dedications to Julie McDaniel by this Wednesday, December 7.

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.

For Those Hurting This Holiday Season, Eastminster Supports You: The Divorce Care Group will meet today at 6 pm in Room 357 of the Education building. The Grief Share Group will meet on December 11 and December 18 at 6 pm in Room 357 of the Education building. On December 11 at 4 pm in the Adult Reception Hall, come quietly before God in prayer, remember those we have lost, and partake in Holy Communion at The Longest Night Peace Service- a service of hope and light.

Dinner and a Concert this Tuesday: Enjoy a spaghetti dinner in Thompson Hall beginning at 5:30 pm followed by Carols & Keyboards in the Sanctuary at 7 pm with multiple pianos, musicians, and singers. If you plan to eat, register in advance on our website.

Learning Differences Young Adult Christmas Party is this Tuesday (5:30 pm - 7 pm): Gather for food, fellowship, fun, and crafting. For more information, contact Andrea Ferree, aferree@eastminsterpres.org.

Serve with Salvation Army: Volunteers are needed to help sort, assemble, organize, and arrange Christmas gifts in the Salvation Army Christmas Warehouse. Contact Christina Siokos (csiokos@eastminsterpres.org) to volunteer.

Young Adult Sunday School and Social: On December 11 and 18, Young Adults will gather in the Adult Reception Hall at 10 am for fellowship and discussion. There will be a Young Adult Social at Casa Linda on December 18 at 7:30 pm. See you there!

Lessons and Carols Worship Services are December 11 and December 18: Enjoy Contemporary Christmas music at 11:15 am on December 11 in Thompson Hall and Traditional Christmas music at 9 am and 11:15 am on December 18 in the Sanctuary.

A Special Reception Honoring the Marsh Family will be on December 11: 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 Brian Marsh, visit the "Give" page of the website; contributions can be made through December 30.

EPW's Joy Gift Social is 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 December 14 from 5 pm - 7 pm (Gym): We'll enjoy pizza and fellowship as we build our houses (\$20/one per family). Bring a canned good for Harvest Hope.

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 (crovall@eastminterpres.org) if you'd like to help. Young Adults are encouraged to attend the 6 pm performance followed by dinner with Pastor Nick.

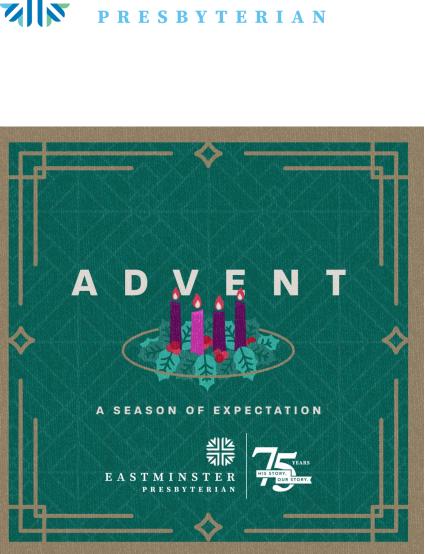
Current Pledge Totals: (Week 4)	345
Prior Year Pledge Totals: (Week 4)	357

Unison Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

SERMON NOTES



DEACONS: WILL BROWNLEE AND SHANNON MCCUTCHEN HEAD USHER: JOSH ARD (9:00 AM) RANDY LIGGITT (11:15 AM) ¹ © 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

803-256-1654



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **DECEMBER 4, 2022** 9:00 AM & 11:15 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD COLUMBIA, SC 29204

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

Come Unto Him Medley

(arr. Jeff Bennett)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Molly, Scott, Tripp, Sally, Lyn and Doug Schultz (9:00) Terry and Randy Cottrell (11:15)

CALL TO WORSHIP

- A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord." Leader:
- A choir sings in the silence "Come, Emmanuel." People:
- Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole, Leader:
- for peace is stronger than turmoil, and love is louder than People: hate.
- As we light our second Advent candle we pray for the holy peace Leader: of God.
- Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Peace. All:

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

***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.

****TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy and grace, breathe new life into our hearts and souls. Forgive our wandering ways, and guide us on Your paths of justice and peace. When in our busyness we forget You, draw us back as a shepherd does a sheep. Help us seize the gift of this holy quiet to repent of our wandering, refocus on you, O Master, and re-center our lives as followers of Jesus, your Lamb and our Lord...(silent prayer).

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING (CARSON)

POSTLUDE

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.

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Angels From the Realms of Glory

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 Jeff Casto SCRIPTURE LESSONS Unison Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5 Page 627 Scripture Focus: Isaiah 40:6-11 Page 627 Pastor: The Word of the Lord! Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Light After Darkness"

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

Dan Forrest

 * 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

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #364** Lift Up the Gates Eternal GILU HAGALILIM Congregation, please join the choir in the refrain

***CHARGE**

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #364 (refrain only) Lift Up the Gates Eternal GILU HAGALILIM Lift up the gates eternal; lift up your voices; the King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.

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.

Pianists joining us for this service are Lucinda Shields, Tammy Lorick, Olivia Colomaio, and Augie Gil

December 11, 2022 Rev. Brian J. Marsh With Reception after the 11:15 am service

***BENEDICTION**

Postlude on an Ancient Carol

Henry Kihlken

***A TIME FOR GREETING AND FELLOWSHIP**



WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER