

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Kingdom Kids and Club 345 meet tonight from 5-6:30 p.m.: Kingdom Kids drop-off is in Thompson Hall (TH). Club 345 drop-off is in Room 256. See emails from Mrs. Stefanie about Christmas rehearsal dates and times!

All-Youth Christmas Pizza Party is Tonight from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the CLC: Bring a gift for our white elephant gift exchange and join us for fellowship, food, and fun! Look for texts from Emily Higgins and Pastor Rob for more details.

EPW Circles One and Three Meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Thompson Hall: All ladies are invited to join us for fellowship, prayer, and study. Circles meet on the second Monday of the month.

Poinsettia Dedications (\$25.00) may be made through tomorrow: Form at the Welcome Center or fill out the online form with the wording you would like to have printed in the bulletins. Please return hard copies with checks to Julie McDaniel.

Bring an Ornament in Honor of a Loved One to Help Decorate the Memory Tree: This special memorial tree is moving to the Adult Reception Hall this Advent. You may drop off ornaments at the Church Office reception.

EPW’s Holiday Social is this Saturday, December 13th, at the Bullard’s house from 2 to 4 p.m.: All Eastminster ladies are invited. You may RSVP and make your donation to the Columbia Women’s Shelter via the Upcoming Event on our website. It is a lovely time each December for fellowship and giving.

Join us for Lessons and Carols on December 14th during Traditional Worship (9 & 11:15 a.m.): This year’s theme is “Love Has Come.” Favorite Advent hymns and carols will be led by our Chancel Choir and an orchestra. Each year, Lessons and Carols is a joyful way to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

The Living Nativity is on December 14th at 5, 6, and 7 p.m. on the front lawn: Children of all ages enjoy this rendition of the Christmas Story with livestock and wise men.

Transitions Third Thursday is December 18th: Sign up to serve lunch or dinner. You may also provide food donations for the evening meal. Donations of mandarin oranges, pound cakes, and pasta salad are due to the Church Office Staff Kitchen by 3 p.m. Visit Upcoming Events for more information and to sign up.

Carols and Keyboards is on Thursday, December 18th, at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary: Join us for dinner before the concert in Thompson Hall at 5:45. Enjoy festive music accompanied by two pianos, an organ, handbells, and the beautiful voices of the Eastminster Chancel Choir. RSVP for dinner via Upcoming Events.

The Longest Night Worship Service is on Sunday, December 21st, at 4 p.m., in the Sanctuary: As we acknowledge that the holidays can bring with them a myriad of emotions, our prayer is that this service might be a place of comfort and hope as we draw near to God this holiday season.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship at Eastminster: Please join us and note that the times have changed for our Christmas Eve services. The Children’s Service is at 3 p.m. The Family Candlelight Service is at 5 p.m., and the Candlelight Communion Service is at 7 p.m. We will have one carol service on Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Dress casually, and plan to sing Christmas favorites.

Christmas Day Lunch at Transitions: Join us in service on Christmas Day. We will provide meals for up to 450 people from Transitions and The Rapid Center. 30 servers are needed between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Donations of Hawaiian Rolls, Mandarin Oranges, Homemade Christmas Desserts, and “Gorp” are also needed. Visit Upcoming Events to sign up to serve or donate. Thank you to Alison McGowan for leading this outreach and to the many volunteers who serve and prepare donations each month for Transitions.

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 flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

SERMON NOTES

Pledge Status Report as of December 1, 2025
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 2026.

229	Pledges Increased
91	Pledges With No Change
21	Pledges Decreased
44	New Pledges

For a total of 385 pledges totaling \$4,213,513
107 pledges were made for 2025, but not yet for 2026

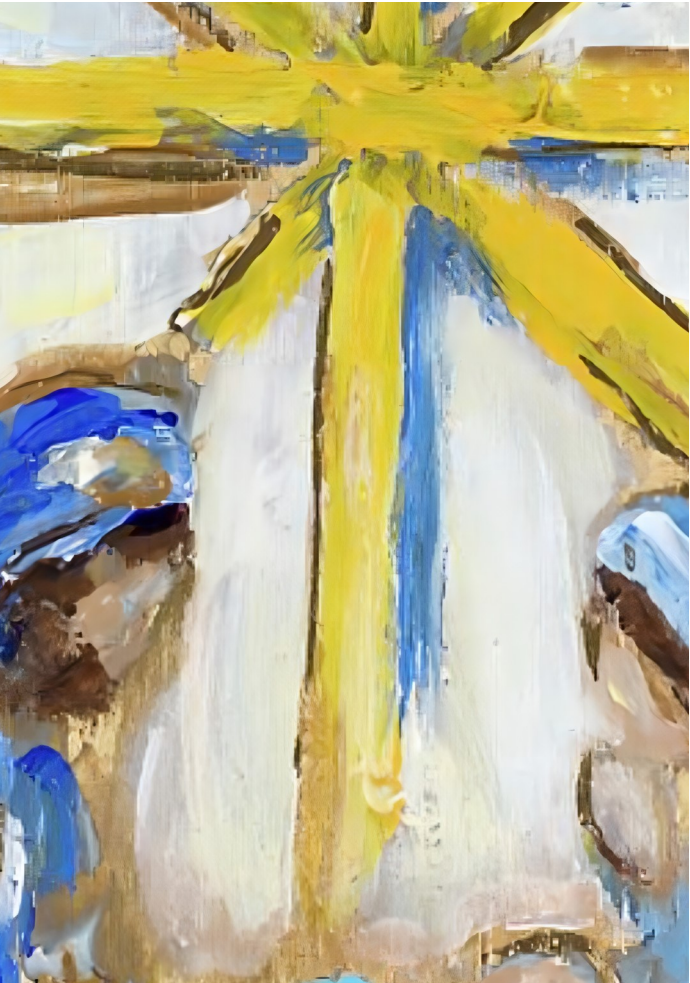
DEACONS: CHESLEY GOOD AND KAREN HUDGENS
HEAD USHER: RYAN BARNES (9:00 AM) SCOT SEIGLER (11:15 AM)
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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF
Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship and Arts
Blythe Lewis, Senior Communications Officer
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025
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
Prepare the Royal Highway Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT
Creator of the Stars of Night CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM
Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we all. When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Stan and Veronica Holland *(9:00 am)*

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.
People: This justice shall be for all of creation.
Leader: Peace shall be established in all the world.
People: Get ready! Prepare for God’s peace to reign!
Leader: Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!
All: We give thanks to God for this time of healing and hope. Amen

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #106
Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. W. Croskeys Royall

***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 may come to the front and bring their offering.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd
Holy God, we confess that we do not walk in your light. We hurt and destroy one another and neglect the poor and hungry. We let evil grow among us and fail to bear good fruit. Forgive us, God of grace. Awaken us to your Word, so that we may be ready to welcome you with joy; even in this time of silent reflection and 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 #83
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTTGART
1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
3. Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
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
Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars Jonathan Dove
Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion and turneth the shadow of death into morning. Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is light about me. Amos 5:8; Psalm 139

***DOXOLOGY**
Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son. Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One. Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!
R. G. Huff

***OFFICER’S PRAYER** Chesley Good

*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: Isaiah 40:1-5 Page 627
Scripture Focus: Matthew 3:1-12 Page 2

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
“Worthwhile Fruit”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #362**
Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers LLANGLOFFAN

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #147**
The First Nowell THE FIRST NOWELL
Then let us all with one accord sing praises 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
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Paul Manz

***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 which begins February 22, 2026, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

December 14, 2025
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
Matthew 11:2-11
"Are You the One or Are We to Wait for Another?"