

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Thank You to All Who have Submitted 2025 Pledge Commitments: Pledge cards are available at our Welcome Centers. Fill out a pledge card and drop it: in the offering plate or by the Church Office to Christy Rippy’s (EPC’s Treasurer) attention. You may also pledge online via our website.

Last Regular ECAMP for the Year is Tonight (5 - 6:30 pm): Drop-off in Sanctuary for regular programming and the meal. December 15th and 22nd will be rehearsals only for Christmas Eve worship.

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). All donations should be received by December 24th.

Join us for Lectio Divina on December 11 & December 18 (6 - 7 pm) in the Sanctuary: This “divine reading” class is led by Rev. Emily Mooneyhan. Learn how to slow down and listen to the Word of God.

Advent Lunchtime Bible Study with Pastor Ben: Join this Thursday from 12:30 to 1:45 pm in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH). You may RSVP and sign up for lunch from Regina’s Kitchen via our website. or you can bring your own lunch.

Poinsettia Dedications (\$25) for Advent are Due Tomorrow: Please include the wording you would like to have printed in the bulletin on the dedication form. Checks should be made out to Eastminster with “Poinsettia Memorials and Honoraria” in the memo line.

Salvation Army Service Day for Eastminster is Friday, December 13: Volunteer at the warehouse, sorting and assembling gifts. Visit Upcoming Events for shift times and to register

“Lessons and Carols” is on December 15: Join us at 9 or 11:15 am in the Sanctuary. The 2024 theme is “For Unto Us a Child Is Born” with music from Handel’s *Messiah*. Join us for a well-loved Eastminster tradition.

EPW Holiday Social is December 15 from 2:30 - 4:30 pm at the Oliver’s: All Eastminster ladies are invited! A shuttle from Eastminster’s upper Medway lot will be available beginning at 2:15 pm. Please RSVP by tomorrow via our website, where you may also make a donation to the Women’s Shelter.

The Living Nativity is December 15 in the Courtyard (5 , 6 and 7 pm): Children’s Choirs of Angels, Wise Men, and Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus will be played by Eastminster members and youth.

Join us for our Children’s Ministry Gingerbread Fellowship on December 18: We’ll be building gingerbread houses, enjoying pizza, and making new friends from 5 - 7 pm in the CLC (Gym).

Seniors Ministry Christmas Drop-in is December 19 (12:30 - 1:45 pm) in the ARH: Join us for Christmas goodies and fellowship. Catch up with friends and sing your favorite carols.

Transitions Third Thursday is December 19: Donations (pasta salad, pound cakes and mandarin oranges) are due to the Church Office (Staff Kitchen) by 3 pm. Also, you may pack meals (3:45 pm) or serve the meal at Transitions (5 pm). Contact Alison McGowan to help (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com).

“Carols and Keyboards,” Dinner and a Concert is on December 19: Join us for dinner in Thompson Hall at 5:45 pm followed by the concert at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Eastminster’s talented musicians along with nine pianists playing four pianos will perform carols including pieces arranged by Skip Stradtman and Bryon Black. Please RSVP for dinner via our website.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship: There are three worship services on Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary- Children’s Service (5 pm), Family Service (7 pm) or Candlelight Communion (9 pm). We will have one service on Christmas Day at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary filled with Christmas hymns.

Current Pledge Totals: (Week 5)	398
Prior Year Pledge Totals: (Week 5)	383

UNISON READING: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: KIM ANDREWS AND SUSAN RATTEREE
HEAD USHER: JEFF MUTHIG (9:00 AM) AND MIKE GORMAN (11:15 AM)

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

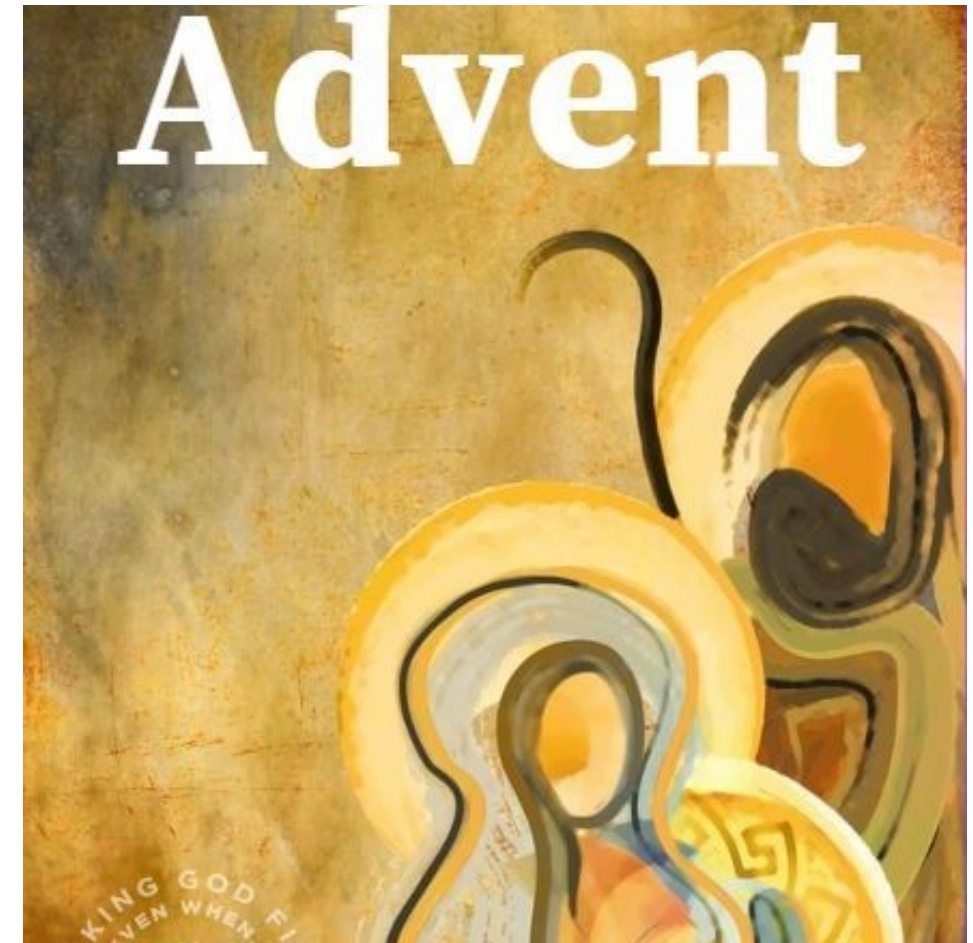
Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

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**



**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 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

Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying, BWV 645

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

“And the Glory” from *Messiah*

George F. Handel
Isaiah 40:5

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Patrick, Kirstin, Weston, Sutton, Coco, and Wade DiMarco (9 am)

Zack, Mollye, Whitley and Henry Hudson (11:15)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A voice cries out; a prophet speaks:

People: In the wilderness, prepare the way.

Leader: The valleys are filled; the mountains are made low.

People: In the wilderness, prepare the way.

Leader: The winding roads are made level, the rough ways made smooth.

People: In the wilderness, prepare the way.

Leader: God's salvation has come and even now it is on its way.

All: Blessed is the Lord God, who has come to save us! Hallelujah!

†*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 come to the front and bring their offering.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Jack Leonard Springs IV *(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #115 *(verses 1 and 3)*

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

from Isaiah 9

Lord, we are a people who are walking in darkness. We live in the land of the shadow of death. We live with wars and rumors of wars. We confess our lack of peace. We live recovering from pestilence and facing new diseases. We confess our lack of peace. We live in a time of political strife and uncertainty. We confess our lack of peace. We confess we need more faith in the power of the child who is born who is called, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." We believe- but help, Lord, our unbelief.

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. Douglass D. Key *(9:00 am)*, Rev. W. Croskeys Royall *(11:15 am)*

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

“Ev’ry Valley” from *Messiah*

George F. Handel
Isaiah 40:1-4

Augie Gil, tenor

*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.

*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

*OFFICER'S PRAYER

Lib Foster

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Luke 3:1-6

Page 56

Scripture Focus: Luke 1:68-79

Page 54

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Where He Guides Our Feet”

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #357

The Days Are Surely Coming

LLANGLOFFAN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

"Remember you go nowhere by accident. Where you are going, Christ is sending you. Where you are, he has placed you. Christ Jesus who indwells you, has something he wants to do in and through your life. Believe this and go in his love, and in his grace, and in his power. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

*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

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, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Jack Leonard Springs IV, son of Kaitlin and Jack Springs, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 am service. Paternal grandfather Jack L. Springs II will offer the baptismal prayer.

December 15, 2024

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith