

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2024 Pledging - If you have already made your pledge, thank you! If you have not yet submitted your pledge, please do! Your pledge represents your commitment to give for the spread of the kingdom of God through Eastminster.

Donate Adult Socks and Underwear this Winter: Make a difference in the lives of those in our community who may be transitioning or without shelter and in need. Contact Kelly McGrady (ext. 123) with questions.

Cradle Roll Sunday is January 7 at 9 am in the Sanctuary: Celebrate new life in the Eastminster family. Our parents and newborns will proceed into worship and be recognized and welcomed.

Officer Installation is January 7 at 11:15 am, in the Sanctuary: This is a time we'll welcome new officers (Class of 2026). Also, be sure to thank the Elders and Deacons from the Class of 2023, who have served faithfully over the last three years.

Mark Your Calendars for Adult Evening Class Kick-offs: Sundays@5 classes begin on January 7, and WE@EPC classes and meals start January 10, 2024. For more details and to sign up for a variety of classes, visit our website at: eastminsterpres.org/ministries/adults/#adult-classes.

Sundays@5 Cultivating the Fruits of the Spirit Class Starts January 7 (ARH):

This class is led by Dr. Douglass Key from 5 pm to 6:15 pm. Participants will study Christopher Wright's book with videos, *Cultivating the Fruits of the Spirit: Growing in Christlikeness*, to explore how to practice faith through the nine spirits listed by the Apostle Paul in Galatians. To order a book, go to [eastminster-pres.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/ccf3e4e4-3b85-46b1-9836-8062b0fee7a9](https://pres.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/ccf3e4e4-3b85-46b1-9836-8062b0fee7a9).

WE@EPC Marriage Enrichment Class begins on January 10 (E-357):

This class is led by Dr. Douglass Key and is for young couples. Using the Prepare/Enrich marriage inventory, you will focus on the strengths of the covenant of marriage. Classes are from 6 pm until 7:15 pm.

WE@EPC A Taste of the Holy Land is on January 10 & January 17 (TH):

Join Dr. Brad Smith and member Sharmin Hill for a two-week look into mealtime staples of the Holy Land. Join for WE@EPC dinner before the sessions for meals featuring Holy Land cuisine.

Discover Eastminster Gathering is January 14, at 10 am (CLC Room 269): for all who are interested in learning more about membership at EPC. Enjoy refreshments and conversations about Eastminster, and how you'll fit in. The next First Step Class begins February 25, 2024.

Worship Discovery for Second Graders Begins on January 14 (ARH): Second Graders will meet during the Sunday School hour (10 am) to learn about key elements in the Order of Worship.

CORE: Mind, Body, Soul for the Whole Family is January 21: from 4:15 pm - 7:15 pm. Select from Family Fitness, Tai Chi/Pilates/Meditation, High Impact for Youth, "Cultivating Peace, a Fruit of the Spirit" with Dr. Key, or "(W)holy Healthy Living in a Stressful World," led by a panel of physicians. Enjoy a healthy dinner and presentation - "Whole & Healthy Living as God's People" -with speaker Rev. Dr. Scott Weimer. The price is \$8/adult and free for children and youth. To register, visit <https://eastminsterpres.org/events/core-mind-body-soul-event/>

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by an Eastminster family.

Pledge Status Report as of December 26, 2023

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 2024.

227 Pledges Increased
98 Pledges With No Change
29 Pledges Decreased
64 New Pledges

For a total of 418 pledges totaling \$3,741,953
65 pledges were made for 2023, but not yet for 2024

Unison Reading: James 5:13-16, 19-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective....

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

SERMON NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Nour Al Baldwani and Kathryn Derrick join Eastminster today. They live on Sylvan Drive. Kathryn returns to Eastminster, having joined by confirmation previously.

DEACONS: KAREN HUDGENS AND CHESLEY GOOD
HEAD USHER: RUSS PURDY (9 AM) BILL STALLINGS (11:15 AM)
CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950 ONELICENSE.NET # 735640-A

MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor	Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, Associate Pastor
Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor	Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate	Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate	Lucinda Shields, Interim Organist
Bill Collins, Business Manager	Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer	Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications	Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center	Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
James Cassidy, A/V Director	



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

9:00 AM 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

*Awake, My Heart, With Gladness
O Sing a Song of Bethlehem*

Rudolf Moser
KINGSFOLD, arr. Alfred Fedak

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 100:1-5

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

People: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Leader: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

People: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #157

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:15 am)

*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

Dr. Smith

Thank you for putting up with us today and all of our days. Your mercy is truly from everlasting to everlasting. We are grateful that we can come to you in honesty, throwing all of our failings at your feet, and ask for forgiveness. We are sorry for much, and appreciate your loving kindness more than words can express. Forgive us for the many ways that we have strayed from you like the wandering sheep we can so easily be. We become distracted and dazzled by what the world holds in our face and chase desires that are not Kingdom building, Good Things. As wandering sheep, we have failed to seek your direction, your guidance, your rod and your staff. Even on our best days, we have not loved neighbor as much as we love ourselves. We are selfish and self centered and for a million other reasons, too often unwilling to be your hands and feet in the world- that is, if we even notice the needs around us. We are sorry. Forgive us of our sins. Though we are not worthy- you are full of mercy, and your grace washes us clean, gives us new hope, and a fresh start to try and try again.

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 #150

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

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

On this Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Gustav Holst

*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

Karen Hudgens

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: James 5:13-16, 19-20

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:10-14

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Not All Those Who Wander Are Lost”

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

*HYMN OF DEDICATION

Shepherd Me, O God

arr. Marty Haugen

Congregation: Please join in singing the refrain

REFRAIN: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION

Shepherd Me, O God

arr. Marty Haugen

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

POSTLUDE

All' Offertorio

Domenico Zipoli

*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 scan the QR code or 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 7, 2024

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

9 am: Cradle Roll

11:15 am: Officer Installation