

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mall to Manger Challenge through Christmas Eve: Make a donation in honor of a loved one. Mall to Manger Cards are available in the Welcome Centers. All proceeds help provide Bibles for children in need through the Salvation Army.

EPW's Holiday Social is this afternoon (3 pm - 5 pm): Enjoy fellowship at the Oliver's home. Shuttles will run between 3 and 5 pm from the upper Medway lot.

Grief Share Meets Today at 4 pm in Room E-351: If you are grieving, lonely, hurting, or in need of prayer for yourself, others, or the world, please come to Grief Share.

ECAMP for Children Meets from 5 to 6:30 pm: Tonight's rehearsal focuses on Christmas Eve worship, so all singers should plan to attend. Drop-off and pick-up in the Sanctuary, and dinner is included.

Dedicate a Poinsettia in Honor or Memory of a Loved One this Advent: Please return your dedications to Julie McDaniel by Monday, December 11.

Volunteers Still Needed for Tomorrow's Homeless No More Holiday Shop: Make a difference this Christmas in the lives of families experiencing homelessness by volunteering at the Holiday Shop. Sign Up here: eastminsterpres.org/events/homeless-no-more-outreach/

Children's Gingerbread House Decorating Party is December 13: Families with babies through 5th grade are invited to the Gym between 5 and 7 pm for pizza, decorating, and fellowship (\$25).

Carols and Keyboards Dinner and Concert is December 14: Enjoy the sounds of the season featuring 18 hands on pianos and the EPC Chancel Choir. A delicious meal will be served prior to the concert in Thompson Hall at 5:45 pm. To RSVP for the meal, visit eastminsterpres.org/ministries/fellowship/rsvp/.

Joy Gift Special Offering is December 17: This offering benefits retired church leaders.

Lessons and Carols is December 17 in the Sanctuary: Get in the Christmas spirit by joining us for worship at 9 am or 11:15 am for a service of holiday hymns.

College Family Potluck is December 17 after 11:15 am Worship: College youth and families are invited for lunch and fellowship. Bring a side dish and come enjoy time together.

Blue Christmas Service is December 17 (Adult Reception Hall - ARH): If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you are invited for a time of prayer and communion at 4 pm. Bring a friend or neighbor who may benefit.

EPC's Living Nativity is December 17: Join us in the Courtyard at 5 pm, 6 pm, or 7 pm. A host of little angels, wise men, livestock, and Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus will grace our new stable. Don't miss it!

Seniors Christmas Drop-in is December 19 (ARH): Stop by between 10 am and 12 pm for Christmas Cheer, music, and fellowship with Eastminster friends.

Be a Bible Doer on December 20, at the Oliver's: Help out with donations for Transitions and enjoy fellowship (and coffee) anytime between 6 am and 8 am.

Transitions Third Thursday and Christmas Day Lunch: Drop off donations of pound cake, pasta salad, and bananas by 4 pm on December 21, or serve at 5 pm. Also, you can serve Christmas Day lunch at Transitions; if you are interested, contact Alison McGowan: alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary: Join us on Christmas eve morning for one blended worship service at 10 am in the Sanctuary (no Sunday School) and in the evening for worship at 5 pm (Children's Service), 7 pm (Family Candlelight), or 9 pm (Candlelight Communion).

Flowers in the sanctuary are given in celebration of the baptisms of Margaret Richardson Seabrook, Lydia March McCutchen, Shaffer Anne Grantz, and John Calvin Thorne V by their grandparents and great-grandparents.

Unison Reading: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

SERMON NOTES

Current Pledge Totals: (Week 5)	383
Prior Year Pledge Totals: (Week 5)	355

DEACONS: CHARLIE MIMMS AND TERESA SHELTON
HEAD USHER: JEFF MUTHIG (9 AM) MIKE GORMAN (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. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate

Bill Collins, Business Manager

Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer

Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications

Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center

James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, Associate Pastor

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor

Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry

Lucinda Shields, Interim Organist

Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth

Katie Herndon, Day School Director

Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023

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

Noels N. Lebegue and L. D'Aquin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Oliver and Rebecca Hartner, Virginia (9 am)
Buddy and Paulette Freeman and family (11:15)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

People: **A choir sings in the silence "Come, Emmanuel."**

Leader: Every valley shall be filled. Every heart shall be made whole;

People: **We long for peace. Let fighting end and shalom abound.**

Leader: As we light our second Advent candle we pray for the holy peace of God.

All: **Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Peace.**

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #104

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

***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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Shaffer Anne Grantz,
Lydia March McCutchen, Margaret Richardson Seabrook (9:00 am)
John Calvin Thorne V *(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #115

Away In a Manger MUELLER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we come to You this day seeking your tender mercy and grace. We admit that we have sinned, too often seeking comfort in the darkness instead of resting in Your light. Help us this day to lay before You those actions and thoughts that cause us to drift away from Your will and Your ways, and remind us again of Your holiness and righteousness. Hear us now as we silently confess our sins to You...

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 (Cason)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come. Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

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

The Best of Rooms Randall Thompson (1899-1984)
Christ, He requires still, whereso'er He comes, To feed or lodge, to have the best of rooms: give Him the choice; grant Him the nobler part Of all the house: the best of all's the heart.
Robert Herrick, "Christ's Part" (1647)

*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** Alex Dillard

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Mark 1:1-8

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 40:1-11

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“What Shall I Cry?”

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #100

My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #121 (verse 4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

POSTLUDE

Angelus ad Virginem, Irish Carol

14th c., arr. Robert Powell

*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.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Shaffer Anne Grantz, daughter of Margaret Deans and Derrick Grantz, Lydia March McCutchen, daughter of Elizabeth and David McCutchen, and Margaret Richardson Seabrook, daughter of Ansley and Richard Seabrook, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 9 am service. Anne Seabrook will offer the baptismal prayer.

John Calvin Thorne V, son of John and Eliza Thorne, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 service. Mary Bett Thorne, paternal grandmother, will offer the baptismal prayer.

December 17, 2023

Lessons and Carols

*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