





# Merry Christmas and Welcome!

**We Welcome You** to the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are blessed to have you here with us and pray that in a deep and abiding way the power of the living God will touch your heart tonight.

**Christmas morning, Thursday, December 25**, we will have a single worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am, laden with Christmas hymns and fellowship. Casual dress.

**We Are Grateful** for your presence, invite you to join us again on Sundays, and ask you to register your name by writing in the Friendship Pad or scanning the QR Code found there. If you are looking for a church home or would like to learn more about Eastminster Presbyterian Church, let a minister or greeter know. We also invite you to attend our First Step Class, which begins on February 22, 2026; this class is led by our ministers and staff, where they discuss who we are, our ministries, ways to get involved, and all Eastminster has to offer.

**A variety of class offerings begin in January!** Beginning January 4, Sundays@5: Pastoral Epistles - Correspondence with Servants of God's Sovereign Word, led by Dr. Douglass Key. This study will explore the books of I & II Timothy, Titus, and Philemon. Starting January 7th, WE@EPC: Dr. Douglass Key will lead a study of Christian prayer using Martha Moore-Keish's book, "Christian Prayer for Today." Care Ministries will offer Winter Wellness: Connecting with God, exploring practices that draw us closer to God. Visit the Winter Wellness Upcoming Event for a list of topics and guests.

**Thank you for your support of Eastminster in 2025:** Year-end contributions can be made via the offering plate by December 28th or postmarked by December 31st. You may also drop off at the Church Office, “Attn. Treasurer,” by 5 p.m. Consult your financial advisor to give a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA. To donate stock, contact Christy Rippy, Treasurer, via email at [crippy@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:crippy@eastminsterpres.org) for instructions.

**Christmas Eve Offerings:** Any loose cash, as well as any checks noting “Mall to Manger” will be given to Harvest Hope Food Bank. Checks made out to Eastminster without a specific designation will go to the church Operating Fund.

**2026 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 glorify God through Eastminster's ministries

**Office Hours** - The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1, 2026. Church offices will be open Friday, December 26, through Wednesday, December 31, from 9 am to 5 pm. The Christian Life Center (CLC) will be closed on Thursday, December 25, and Thursday, January 1, 2026. The CLC will be open Friday, December 26, through Wednesday, December 31, from 8 am to 4 pm.

**Special Thanks** - Thank you to the many people whose love and hard work have helped set the stage for, and enriched, our worship. Thank you to: the Flower Guild and Decoration Team; the musicians for the lovely music; the Ushers and Elders for serving tonight; the Greeters for welcoming ; and all whose efforts have added to this sacred season and holy night.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Second Reading:** Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Third Reading:** Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

<sup>1</sup> © PUBLIC DOMAIN CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950

## 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. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate  
Alisha Hudson, Business Administrator  
Blythe Lewis, Sr. Communications Officer  
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth  
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center  
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Robert Schoonover, Associate Pastor  
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry  
Louis Shirer, Organist  
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship and Arts  
Katie Herndon, Day School Director  
Christy Rippy, Treasurer  
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian  
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all who worship with us*



7:00 pm  
Christmas  
Eve



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SC 29204  
803-256-1654  
[www.eastminsterpres.org](http://www.eastminsterpres.org)