EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN **CHURCH**

7 pm Christmas Eve **Candlelight Communion Service** December 24, 2025 A Service of Worship

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 worshiping our Living God.

"So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory." Romans 15:7.

PRELUDES

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Frank and Jane Shuler

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "Good news of great joy," the angel said, "for to you a savior is

"Peace on earth," the choir sang, "for God reigns in the People:

"Follow me," the star beckoned, "For Hope was born in Leader:

Bethlehem."

As we light the Christ candle, we watch for the Christmas People:

story around us.

Emmanuel has come and is coming. Leader:

All: Come, all ye faithful, and worship God.

†*CAROL OF ADORATION #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Rob Schoonover

*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.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7 **Hymn # 134** *Joy to the World* Rev. Schoonover ANTIOCH

Second Reading: Luke 2:1-7 Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd Once In Royal David's City Arr. Howard Helvey

Third Reading: Luke 2:8-14 Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key Hymn # 112 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing SUSSEX CAROL

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

"Light in the Darkness"

SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER AND **OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There Is Faint Music Dan Forrest

There is faint music in the night, And pale wings fanned by silver flight; A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow. A shelter from the winter storm, A straw-lined manger, safe and warm, And Mary singing lullabies, To hush her Baby's sleepy sighs. Her eyes are fixed upon His face, Unheeded here is time and space; Her heart is filled with blinding joy, for God's own Son-her baby Boy! There is faint music in the night, And pale wings fanned by silver flight; A frosty hill with tender glow of countless stars that shine on snow. For God's own Son - a baby Boy.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Dr. Key

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

The Christmas Prayer and the Lord's Prayer The Words of Institution and the Lord's Supper Prayer Following Communion

Musical Meditation

A Cradle Carol

Dan Forrest Lord Jesus, Savior, infant weak, Why come to earth as one meek? A new-born babe, helpless and small; And yet creator of us all. Thou hast no beauty, form, or grace; No fortune, rank, no fame, no place That men should see Thee and adore A babe so humble and so poor. But to the soul whose eyes are healed, To whom the Truth has been revealed, Thy glory challenges the sun; Thou art a thousand joys in One. Though strangers see a babe in straw, Thy children see the Lord of all Who laid aside His rightful reign to take away our sin and shame. This sacrifice of love divine, This condescension to mankind With beauty robes Thy lowly frame, and sanctifies Thy simple name, O aid my worship, Mighty King, That I might with the angels sing, "Glory to God on High!" Now crowned again beyond the sky! Oh, help me see Thee and adore This little child, my God and Lord.

Houston Hackett, bass

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

* THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

As "Silent Night" is being sung, the lights will be dimmed, and the pastors will light candles from the Christ Candle. The pastors will then light the ushers' candles, and the ushers will light the candles of the first worshipper in each pew. The light will then be passed from worshipper to worshipper. Please remember that the lighted candle remains upright, and the unlighted candle is tipped to be lighted. Please keep a close eye on your children and be very careful with the hot wax. Please deposit your candles and candle holders in the baskets at the doors as you leave during the playing of the Postlude.

*CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

Silent Night! Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright. Round you Virgin Mother and Child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night! Holy Night! Shepherds quake, at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia." Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent Night! Holy Night! Son of God, love's pure Light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent Night! Holy Night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL **CAROL #136**

Go Tell It On the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

POSTLUDE

[†] THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED ARE ASKED TO TAKE THEIR SEATS AT THIS TIME

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 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

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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

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

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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







EASTMINSTER

PRESBYTERIAN

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