

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

7:00 pm Christmas Eve
Family Candlelight Service
December 24, 2024
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

The Shepherds from The Nativity of Our Lord
Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Olivier Messiaen
arr. Charles Wood

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jason, Ashley, John Colin, Graham and Thomas Burbage

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A child has been born for us.

People: A great light shines in the middle of our darkness.

Leader: A child has been born for us,

People: establishing God's justice and breaking every yoke.

Leader: A child has been born for us, and we worship him together:

All: Wonderful Counselor Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Hallelujah!

†*CAROL OF ADORATION #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

*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

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.

LESSON #1: Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol #140

Once In Royal David's City

Dr. Byrd

IRBY

LESSON #2 Luke 2:1-7

Carol

All My Heart This Night Rejoices

All my heart this night rejoices As I hear, Far and near, Sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born," their choirs are singing, Till the air Ev'rywhere Now with joy is ringing. Hark! A voice from yonder manger, Soft and sweet, Doth entreat, "Flee from woe and danger! Brethren come! From all doth grieve you, You are freed; All you need I will surely give you." Come, then let us hasten yonder! Here let all, great and small, Kneel in awe and wonder! Love him who with love is yearning! Hail the star That from far Bright with hope is burning! Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish, Love to thee, And with thee, dying, shall not perish; But shall dwell with thee forever, Far on high, In that joy That can alter never.

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

Johann Ebeling

Paulus Gerhardt (1606-76)

LESSON #3: Luke 2:8-14

Carol # 134

Joy to the World

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

ANTIOCH

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

“The Unexpected Gift”

Rev. Dr. Bradley D Smith

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Key

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 & GIFTS (ALSO “MALL TO MANGER”)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Nativity Carol

Born in a stable so bare, Born so long ago; Born 'neath light of star He who loved us so. Far away silent lay, Silent he lay your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Cradled by mother so fair, Tender her lullaby; Over her son so dear Angel hosts fill the sky. Far away silent lay, Silent he lay your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Wise men from distant far land, Shepherds from starry hills Worship this babe so rare, Hearts with his warmth he fills. Far away silent lay, Silent he lay your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day. Love in that stable was born Into our hearts to flow; Innocent dreaming babe, make me thy love to know. Far away silent lay, Silent he lay your homage pay, For Christ is born for aye, Born on Christmas Day.

John Rutter

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Mooneyhan

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

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 yon 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 (refrain)

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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Anton Wilhelm Leupold

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

†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, Wednesday, 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 March 2, 2025; 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.

We have exciting Bible studies starting in January! Ready to dig deeper into Scripture? Join us for Wednesdays at 5 pm for Bible 201, which is a pastor-led study of the Gospel of Luke. This study begins January 8th and will explore the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and how His message continues to inspire us today. Starting January 12th for Sundays@5, we'll delve into a study of Philip Yancey's book, "Vanishing Grace." We'll explore the power of grace and its impact on our lives and the world around us.

Thank you for your support of Eastminster in 2024. Year-end contributions can be made via the offering plate by Sunday, December 29, or by mail if postmarked by Tuesday, December 31. If you are bringing your balance by the Church Office, please mark "Attn: Treasurer," and deliver it to the receptionist on Tuesday, December 31, by 5 p.m. To donate stock, contact Christy Rippy, Treasurer, at crippy@eastminsterpres.org for stock transfer instructions.

Christmas Eve Offerings: Checks designated for Eastminster's "Mall to Manger Fund" will be used to buy Bibles to place in Salvation Army Christmas packs given to local Midlands families in need; please include "M2M" in the memo line of your check. Contributions for regular offering or any special initiative should be made payable to EPC with the designation marked on the memo line to assure clarity. Undesignated checks and loose cash will go to the regular offering.

2025 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 Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1, 2025. Church offices will be open Thursday, December 26, through Tuesday, December 31, from 9 am to 5 pm. The Christian Life Center (CLC) will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, and Wednesday, January 1, 2025. The CLC will be open Thursday, December 26, through Tuesday, December 31, from 9 am to 5 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 Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate

Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth

Alisha Hudson, Business Administrator

Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Emmet Hough, Dir. of Christian Life Center

Alex Rogers, Director of Plant Operations

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate

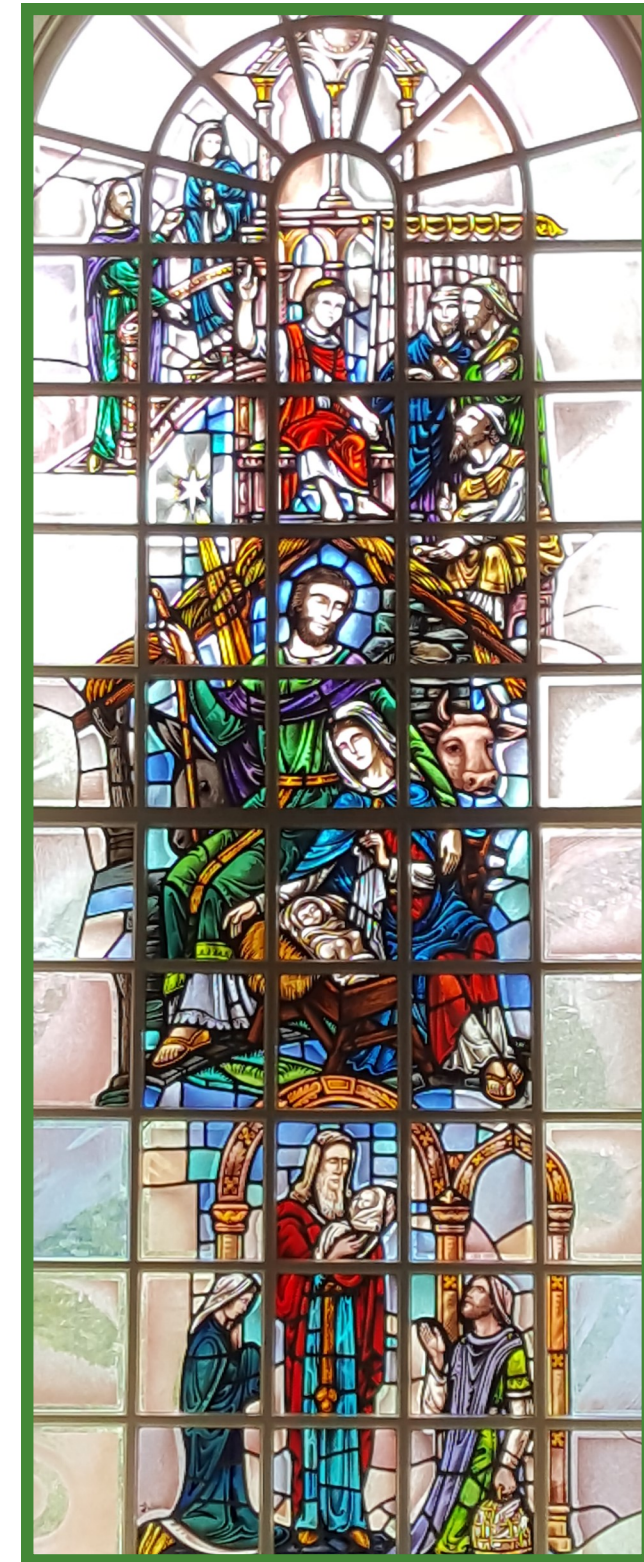
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry

Louis Shirer, Organist

Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer

Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications

Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian



7 pm
Christmas
Eve



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PRESBYTERIAN

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*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all who worship with us
this blessed night from Eastminster's staff.*