

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Step Class Begins Today at 10 am (Christian Ed Bldg Room 259): Learn more about membership at Eastminster. Classes are led by pastors and staff. You'll learn who we are and ways to get involved. Those interested in membership can meet with the Session and join on April 2 (11:15 am Sanctuary). Contact Christina Siokos with questions: csiokos@eastminsterpres.org.

Grace Sunday School Class will be meeting temporarily in the Christian Ed building, room 256.

Middle School Parent Meeting Today (CLC, 3rd Floor- Arts & Crafts Room): Join us during Sunday School to learn more about the Charleston Mission Trip (June 18-23) and the Eastminster Middle School Conference (July 23-27).

ECAMP (Eastminster's Children's Afternoon Music Program) Tonight: Children (4K & 5K only) should be dropped off at 5 pm and picked up promptly at 6:30 pm from the Sanctuary. If you have questions, contact Fredna Lee (flee@eastminsterpres.org).

SWAG (1st - 5th graders) Tonight in the CLC , 5-6:30pm: We are going to investigate Lent. Wear sneakers, bring a canned good and \$3 for pizza. See emails from Croskeys for more details. Volunteers needed! croyall@eastminsterpres.org.

It's Family Promise Week (Today - March 4): We are collecting \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards and \$25 gas cards for four guest families. Please drop off gift cards to Christina Siokos in the Church Office.

RSVP Today for the Men's Oyster Roast on March 2 (6 pm): Join us at the Causey's house. The cost is \$20. Sign up by the end of the day today under Upcoming Events on the website. Contact Berry Mattox (berrymattox@gmail.com) or Christina Siokos (csiokos@eastminsterpres.org) with questions.

E2 (Eastminster Experience) Internships for College-aged Young Adults: Apply for a summer job at EPC, June 5-July 30, learning about the life of the church. Contact Janice Blair, jblair@eastminsterpres.org to fill out an application.

The CORE Retreat is March 3-4 in the CLC: Opening night will feature live music, dinner, and speaker Tracy Woodard's (Covered in Cotton) inspirational story. An uplifting message by Dr. Jeff Smith, former pastor at EPC, will kick off Saturday morning followed by breakout sessions on healthy cooking, fitness, backyard organic gardening, overcoming anxiety, gut and heart health, and more. Registration is open! Visit www.eastminsterpres.org's "Upcoming Events," or Contact Caroline (cbennett@eastminsterpres.org) with questions.

Two Learning Opportunities for EPC Missions Enthusiasts: March 4- Meet after the CORE Retreat at 12:30 pm in Room 351 (Ed Bldg.), to learn about three upcoming mission trips; and sign up to have dinner on Saturday, March 18 with Taiwanese missionary Dr. John McCall. Watch the ENews for more details on both of these MSB opportunities.

Dr. Jeff Smith to lead Sparrows Sunday School on March 5. Join us in the Christian Education Building (Room 357) to hear former pastor, Jeff Smith's take on evangelism today.

Holy Land trip informational meeting: Sunday, March 5 at 3:30 pm in the Adult Reception Hall.

75th Anniversary's Mission Blitz Week (March 19 - 26): Dr. John McCall, Taiwan mission partner, will preach on March 19, followed by Mission Saturday (community service) on March 25, and returning on Sunday March 26, are Dr. Ellen Skidmore (preaching), Dr. Eric Skidmore, and Dr. John Frye assisting with worship. Mark your calendars!

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Meredith McKee.

Unison Reading: Matthew 7:12-14

¹²"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. ¹³"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

SERMON NOTES



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



DEACONS: CHESLEY GOOD AND KATHY WINTERHALTER
HEAD USHER: BERRY MATTOX (9:00 AM) WILSON McDONALD (11:15 AM)
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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Interim Parish Associate
Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Bill Collins, Business Manager
Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications
Bethany Parker, Director of Middle School Youth
Emmet Hough, Dir. of Christian Life Center

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Josh Evanovich, Organist
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
James Cassidy, A/V Director

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 26, 2023
9:00 AM & 11:15 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

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.

All Eastminster worship services and activities are mask optional, with masks available at the Welcome Center if you'd like one.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: People of God, on this wilderness journey, what will you eat?

People: **The word of the Lord is our daily bread.**

Leader: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will you live?

People: **Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.**

Leader: People of God, whom will you serve?

All: **We worship the Lord our God alone.**

†*HYMN OF PRAISE #167

Forty Days and Forty Nights

AUS DER TIEFE RUF E ICH

*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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our nakedness, and you know our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed your word, denying your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness. Forgive us, O God, and hear our confessions in this silence...

SILENT CONFESSION

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 #704

To My Precious Lord

TO MY PRECIOUS LORD

To my precious Lord I bring my flask of fragrant oil; kneeling down, I kiss his feet, anoint them with the oil. Jesus, who for my sake walked the road to Calvary, with each step has marked the imprint of his love for me.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Did You Think to Pray

Neil Harman

Ere you left your room this morning, did you think to pray? Did you sue for loving favor as a shield today? Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day. So, when life get dark and dreary, don't forget to pray. When your heart is filled with anger, did you think to pray? Did you plead for grace, my brother, and forgive along the way? Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day. So, when life gets dark and dreary, don't forget to pray. When sore trials came upon you, did you think to pray? Balm of Gilead did you borrow at the gates of day? Oh, how praying rests the weary! Prayer will change the night to day. So, when life gets dark and dreary, don't forget to pray.

*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

Chesley Good

*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: Matthew 7:12-14

Scripture Focus: Matthew 18:23-25

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Mercy Is As Mercy Does”

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #432

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION

May the Road Rise to Meet You

Lee Turner

May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be at your back; may the sun shine warmly on your face; may the rain fall softly on your field and until we meet again, until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*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 leave your contact information in the Friendship Pad when it is passed.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Contact Christina Siokos (csiokos@eastminsterpres.org or 256-1654 x123) 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.

March 5, 2023

Dr. Bradley D. Smith

Matthew 23:1-12; 23-28