

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For detailed information and to register for the below programs and events, visit our website: <https://eastminsterpres.org/>.

The “Next Steps” Class Begins Today, at 10 am in the Education Building (E-356): Are you looking to deepen your spiritual walk and connect with other members? Join us for Next Steps, Eastminster’s new four-week class designed to help you grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and discover your purpose within our church family.

WE@EPC Meals Begin on January 8 at 5:15 pm: MENU- Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole, Grilled Asparagus, and Tomato Pie, *Kids- Chicken Nuggets French Fries & Cucumbers with Ranch*. Visit our website and select the “Ministries” button at the top. You will see “Fellowship” in the drop-down menu. Select “Fellowship” and look to the right for the “WE@EPC RSVP” tab. Once there, you will see the menu graphic as well and pricing information. You may now pay online when you make your reservation (by Wednesday at noon), or you can bring cash or check and pay when you get to Thompson Hall.

WE@EPC Bible 201 Starts January 8, at 6 pm, in the Adult Reception Hall: This is a pastor-led study of the Gospel of Luke. We’ll explore the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and how his message continues to inspire us today. Join us for WE@EPC meals at 5:15 pm in Thompson Hall prior to the study.

WE@EPC Divorce Care Starts January 8, at 6 pm in the CLC Room 263: For those who are facing the challenges a divorce can bring, our Care ministry offers a safe and supportive space to heal and grow. Led by compassionate pastors, this group provides biblical guidance, practical advice, and the opportunity to connect with others who understand the pain of divorce.

Sundays@5 “Vanishing Grace” Class Starts January 12: Led by Dr. Douglass Key, we’ll delve into a study of Philip Yancey’s book, “Vanishing Grace.” Learn about the power of grace and its impact on our lives and the world around us.

ECAMP (Eastminster’s Children’s Afternoon Music Program) Kicks off on January 12, at 5 pm. Singers in grades first through fifth are welcome! We will have a devotional, a rehearsal, and then dinner near the choir room in the Sanctuary basement. Drop off and pick up in the Sanctuary. Parents, we would love your help. You will be able to sign up to volunteer for ECAMP soon. Look for emails with more information from Stefanie Hammond (shammond@eastminsterpres.org) who leads ECAMP programming.

Bible Doers Will “Do” on Wednesday, January 15, at the Olivers’: 6 - 7 am, walk and fellowship, 7 - 8 am, prepare and pray over pasta salad for Transitions. Stop by any time. Friendly faces and coffee will be waiting for you! Text Beth at 803-622-5384 with any questions.

Save the Date for EPW’s Generations of Grace, a Tea Party: Ladies of all ages are invited on Sunday, January 26, to gather for a delightful afternoon of tea, treats, and fellowship. This special event is open to all ladies of the church, young and old. Join us in the Adult Reception Hall from 2:30 until 4 pm.

Pledge Status Report as of December 30, 2024

Thank you to those who have pledged. If you have not yet done so, please give us an estimate of your giving to support Christ’s work through Eastminster in 2025.

247 Pledges Increased
99 Pledges With No Change
27 Pledges Decreased
63 New Pledges

For a total of 436 pledges totaling 4,097,
66 pledges were made for 2024, but not yet for 2025

UNISON READING: Luke 1:1-4

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

SERMON NOTES

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION CLASS OF 2027

The Eastminster congregation elected candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon on Sunday, June 30, 2024. Following their election these officers-elect began an 11-week training program. This training culminated in examinations by the Session who then set aside today as the Sunday for Ordination and Installation. The following officers are presented this morning to be ordained and/or installed:

ELDERS:

John Arnold, Elizabeth Barber, Amy Cain, Ryan Causey, Sark Derderian, Katie Evatt, Susanne Hicklin, Harriet Kneece, Marion Moses, Laura Twitty

DEACONS:

Chad Abramson, David Ellison, Nate Henderson, Mary Frances Jowers, Austin Rhodes, Matt Riddle, Lucy Scoville, Clay Sharpe, Kris Whiteside, Sharon Williams

Robert Simmons is filling an unexpired term in the class of 2026.

DEACONS: PARKS BUNCH AND CHESLEY GOOD
HEAD USHER: RYAN BARNES (9:00 AM) AND SCOT SEIGLER (11:15 AM)

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
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
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 5, 2025

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

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: When we pass through the waters, God is there with us.

People: When we suffer and feel hopeless, God is there with us.

Leader: When we are joyful and celebratory, God is there with us.

People: Whether we feel triumphant or defeated, God is there with us, always.

All: Come, let us worship Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us!

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #151

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall

*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.

The 3K—5K children may be excused for children's church

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

We are stubborn people, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, You have become flesh and dwelt among us, and yet we think mostly about our own problems, our own desires. Help us to yearn for your presence, Lord. Pour your baptismal waters over us again. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and negativity that keep us from being the people you have called us to be, and let it begin in this silent prayer....

SILENT PRAYER

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 #152

What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light? 'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring. O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

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 Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the pris'ner, To rebuild the nations; To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart.

Howard Thurman

*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

Parks Bunch

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND. **CHILDREN MAY BRING THEIR OFFERING AT THIS TIME.

†THOSE WAITING IN THE NARTHEX MAY NOW BE SEATED.

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED IN ALL WORSHIP SERVICES
AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Luke 1:1-4

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Scripture Focus: Luke 3:15-22

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

“Orderly Account, Extraordinary Life”

THE ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS *(11:15 am)*

Constitutional Questions

Laying on of Hands

Prayer of Installation

Charge and Welcome

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #673 (verses 1 and 2)

Jesus, Light of Joy

LAUDA ANIMA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION#673 (verse 3)

Jesus, Light of Joy

LAUDA ANIMA

With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might. All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night: alleluia, alleluia, holy, holy, holy light.

POSTLUDE

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Jason W. Krug

*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 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.

January 12, 2025

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith