

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Notes on today's worship leaders: Rev. Dr. Ellen Fowler Skidmore served at Eastminster from 1990 to 1995 as associate pastor for youth and parish associate for youth ministry from 1995 to 1999. Rev. Dr. Eric Skidmore served as associate pastor with responsibilities in stewardship, visitation and evangelism from 1990 to 1997. Rev. Dr. John Frye served at Eastminster from 1993 to 2002 as associate for discipleship and mission. Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key came to Eastminster in December of 2019 as senior associate pastor. Rev. Dr. Brad Smith was a member of EPC from 1985-1989, served as parish associate 2002-2007, and was installed as senior pastor in 2009.

Today's Congregational Luncheon is in the CLC (Gym) after 11:15 am worship. Come for a nostalgic potluck meal.

Today is Peanut Butter Sunday. Thank you to all who bring peanut butter each fourth Sunday for Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Share Your Eastminster Story: As we celebrate 75 years, we want to share pictures illustrating your Eastminster Stories. Send in pictures of you and/or your family participating in ministries at Eastminster. Please email photos to communications@eastminsterpres.org.

Class of 2026 Officer Nominating Forms are Available at Welcome Centers or Online: If you are a member of Eastminster and want to nominate someone for Elder or Deacon, please submit a form by April 3, 2023 (Attn: Julie McDaniel). Visit www.eastminsterpres.org, select "Meet Our Team" "Elders" or "Deacons."

ECAMP (Eastminster's Children's Afternoon Music Program) Tonight: Children (4K & 5K only tonight) 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). Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

SWAG (Saved With Amazing Grace) is Tonight: Drop off first through fifth graders in Thompson Hall (TH) at 5 pm. There will be a devotional and dinner and followed by crafts and games in the CLC (gym). Email Croskeys to help (croyall@eastminsterpres.org) Please pick up promptly at 6:30 pm (CLC).

March 29 is the last WE@EPC Meal and Classes: MENU: Ham, Company Potato Casserole & Steamed Asparagus. **Sundays@5 will continue** (with a few breaks) on 4/2, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7 with the last class on 5/21.

The Flower Guild invites You to Dedicate Easter Lilies for Easter Morning: Pick up a form at the Welcome Centers or online at www.eastminsterpres.org Upcoming Events. Dedication forms (\$25) are due to Julie McDaniel by April 3.

Join Us for Worship during Holy Week: Palm Sunday is April 2 (regular worship schedule). **Godspell Movie Night** is April 5 at 7 pm in Thompson Hall (TH). **Maundy Thursday** is April 6 at 7 pm in TH. **Good Friday's** Tenebrae Service is on April 7 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. **Easter Sunday** is on April 9: Sunrise Service is at 6:30 am (Courtyard), Traditional Services are at 8:45 am and 10:30 am (Sanctuary), and Contemporary Jubilee Service is at 10:30 am (TH). In lieu of Sunday School, there will be a Courtyard Celebration at 9:45 am.

The Peace Service is next Sunday at 4 pm Adult Reception Hall (ARH): We will pray for families who lost loved ones to COVID-19, celebrate survivors, and give thanks for much healthier times since COVID.

April 16th is Confirmation Sunday: Our High School Confirmands will be honored during the 11:15 am Traditional Worship service where they will be presented with stoles that represent their spiritual gifts, as well as Bibles. Their Officer's Exam will be on April 2 during the Sunday School hour (10 am CLC).

Adult Mission Trip to Ft. Myers, FL, is April 24-29, 2023: Join Dr. Ben Sloan and team this Spring and reenter the mission field. Travel to Florida with ministry partner, St. James Presbytery, and join in on hurricane relief efforts. Visit Upcoming Events on the website to learn more and sign up. The deadline to register is April 1.

Flowers in the sanctuary are from the wedding of Mary Anne Kleitches and James Randall Mason, III and are given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green Lucas Jr, Mr. and Mr. Peter John Kleitches and Ruthie Mae Whaley.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:8-22

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

SERMON NOTES

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.

DEACONS: SUSAN RATTEREE AND GEORGE HUTTON
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, Director 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



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 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 Dr. Bradley D. Smith

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us sing to the Lord

People: and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

Leader: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving,

People: singing joyful songs of praise.

All: Let us worship God!

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #388

Come All You People UYAI MOSE

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. Dr. Eric J. Skidmore

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Confession of 1967 (unison)

To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as God's reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which separate people from God and from each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of people in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

**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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
Elizabeth Rhae Strasburger (11:15 am)

BAPTISMAL HYMN #188

Jesus Loves Me! JESUS LOVES ME

****TIME WITH THE CHILDREN (9:00 am)** Dr. Smith
The 3K—5K children come to the front and bring their offering.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. John L. Frye
O Christ of peace, reconciliation, and unity, we lift into your healing hands the fractures and sharp pieces of our lives. We pray for healing and grace. We have refused your gifts of unity and peace, by choosing to engage in division, hate, and partisan politics. We claim you as Lord and Savior but reject and exclude others who also claim you as Lord. We are silent in the face of bullying, lies, and meanness. We are afraid that if we stand for peace we will be singled out and ridiculed. Forgive our cowardice. Forgive our readiness to be comfortably certain but wrong and our unwillingness to be uncomfortable before your truth. Forgive our Sin and grant us the courage to stand for peace, unity, and reconciliation no matter the cost. Live in and through us, O Christ. Amen. based on Ephesians 2: 14-22

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

(9:00 am) #469 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

(11:15 am) *Servant's Prayer* Treblemakers (grades 2-5) Henderson/Milton
Lord Jesus hear my prayer, Look deep into my heart, where you will find a willing servant from the very start. Lord Jesus hear my prayer, and guide me in Your ways, and teach my heart to give you honor as I sing your praise.

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

The Stranger's Guise Karen Marrolli
We saw a stranger yesterday. We put food in the eating place, Drink in the drinking place, Music in the listening place. And with the name of the Triune God, He blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones. As the lark says in her song, “Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.
From an ancient Celtic rune of hospitality based on Matthew 25:34-46
Eliza Johnson, violin

*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.

*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

***OFFICER'S PRAYER** Susan Ratteree

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ephesians 2:8-22 Page 181

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Dr. Ellen F. Skidmore
“The Main Thing”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #223** HAMBURG
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

***CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION**
A Blessing Martin Shaw
Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak, help the afflicted; honour all people; Love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the pow'r of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of the God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be upon you, and remain with you forever. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*A TIME FOR GREETING AND FELLOWSHIP

At the conclusion of 11:15 am worship, everyone is invited to the Christian Life Center for lunch, fellowship, and special memories from our guest pastors.



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.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Elizabeth Rhae Strasburger, daughter of Claire and Kyle Strasburger, will receive the sacrament of baptism during the 11:15 am worship service. Leigh Pound will offer the baptismal prayer.

April 2, 2023

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

Matthew 26:1-16

“The Good, the Bad, the Beautiful, and the Ugly”