

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We will have a **Congregational Meeting March 12 after the 9 am service** for the purpose of electing the Officer Nominating Committee: Bruce Moseley-Chair; Lucie Eggleston- Vice Chair; Carolyn Stoddard (Deacon); Stephen Sansbury (Deacon); Melissa Mimms (Presbyterian Women representative); at-large members Ernest McCutcheon; Mallie DiBiase; Sharon Shuler; Bill Ratteree; Sharmin Hill

Prayer Cards Are Available in our Welcome Centers: You may also download a prayer card from our website so you can pray for members in your quiet time. Call the Church Office to add a member to our list (803) 256-1654.

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's connection to Eastminster OR pictures of you and/or your family participating in ministries at Eastminster. Please email photos to communications@eastminsterpres.org.

Today, Dr. Jeff Smith is Leading Sunday School on "Evangelism." Join us in the Christian Life Center (CLC) Rooms 269, 271, 273 & 275 at 10:00 am, to hear former EPC associate pastor, Jeff Smith's take on evangelism.

Holy Land trip informational meeting: Today at 3:30 pm in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH). Even if you haven't signed up but want to learn more, please join us.

ECAMP (Eastminster's Children's Afternoon Music Program) Tonight: Children (4K - Fifth Graders) 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).

Be a "Bible Doer" on March 15 anytime between 6 am and 8 am: Meet at Beth and Hampton Oliver's home the third Wednesday of the month for coffee, fellowship, and service.

Transitions Third Thursday is March 16: Donations are due to the Church Office (Staff Kitchen) by 4 pm. Servers meet at Transitions by 5 pm. Contact Alison McGowan to help out (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com).

Learning Opportunity for EPC Missions Enthusiasts: Share a meal on Saturday, March 18, with Taiwanese missionary Dr. John McCall. Contact Julie McDaniel to RSVP at (803) 256-1654 (ext. 143).

75th Anniversary's Mission Blitz Week (March 19 - 26): Dr. John McCall, Taiwan mission partner, will preach on March 19; we will be Marching Out into our community on March 25 for Mission Saturday. Returning on Sunday, March 26 are Dr. Ellen Skidmore (preaching) as well as Dr. Eric Skidmore and Dr. John Frye, who will be assisting with worship. Mark your calendars, and celebrate 75 years of missions!

Red Cross Blood Drive is Wednesday, March 23 (CLC-Gym 1 pm - 6 pm): Give the gift of life during Missions Blitz Week! Visit our website's Upcoming Events to sign up (www.eastminsterpres.org).

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 Nick Demuyneck, ndemuyneck@eastminsterpres.org, to fill out an application.

"His Story. Our Story: Celebrating 75 Years of Ministry" Commemorative Books: Books are still available for purchase (\$25). You may purchase and pick up your copy of this special book at the Medway reception area.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by an Eastminster family

Unison Reading: Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

SERMON NOTES



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



DEACONS: JOHN SHUFORD AND CARMEN ATKINS
HEAD USHER: JOSH ARD (9:00 AM) RANDY LIGGITT (11:15 AM)
¹ © PUBLIC DOMAIN CCLI LICENSE No. 1892950

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 5, 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: God is able to make us more than we have been and blesses us along the way.

People: **As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again Christ invites us to become a new creation.**

Leader: Christ calls us out of the darkness into his marvelous light, and we are saved through him.

All **Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

†*HYMN OF PRAISE #36

For the Fruit of All Creation

AR HUD Y NOS

*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 *(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

Claire Margaret Cobb *(9 am)*
Clifford Ramsey Carter *(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #482

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

**TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

The 3K—5K children come to the front and bring their offering.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray...

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 #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.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. 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 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.

ANTHEM

Nearer, Still Nearer

Joshua Evanovich (2010)

Nearer, still nearer, close to thy heart, draw me, my Savior, so precious thou art; fold me, O fold me close to thy breast, shelter me safe in that "Haven of Rest". Nearer still nearer, nothing I bring. Naught as an offering to Jesus my King; only my sinful, contrite heart, grant me the cleansing your blood does impart. Nearer still nearer, while life shall last, till safe in glory my anchor is cast; through endless ages, ever to be; nearer my Savior, close to thee.

Text by Lelia N. Morris (1898); first sung by chancel choir 2015

*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

Carmen Atkins

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: **Matthew 22:34-40**

Page 24

Scripture Focus: Matthew 23:1-12; 23-28

Page 24

Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

“Are We Practicing What We Preach?”

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*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.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Claire Margaret Cobb, daughter of Lindsay and Charles Cobb., will receive the sacrament of baptism during the 9:00 am worship service. George Jameson, Jr. will offer the baptismal prayer.

Clifford Ramsey Carter, son of Kelsey and Ben Carter, will receive the sacrament of baptism during the 11:15 am worship service. Paul Trippe will offer the baptismal prayer.

March 12, 2023

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith