

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER

Regular Sunday night Programming will Resume on December 4 for ECAMP and Youth Groups.

Care Ministry’s New Divorce Care Group Meets Tonight: Led by Dr. Ben Sloan, the Divorce Care Group will meet tonight and next Sunday, December 4, at 6 pm in Room 357 of the Education building. This session is for anyone who is in need of support during the holidays.

Mall to Manger cards are available this Sunday: Donations will go to "Meals on Wheels." Cards are in the Welcome Centers located in the Narthex and Sunshine Room. Make checks out to EPC with "M2M" in the memo line. They may be returned in the offering plate, or to Christy Rippy in the Church Office.

Join Eastminster’s Footcare Ministry on Tuesdays in November and December (12 pm - 2 pm): Volunteers meet at Christ Central on 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, 12/20 & 12/27. Contact Lib Foster to sign-up to serve (libfoster@aol.com).

High School Lock-In is This Friday, December 2 (7 pm - Saturday 7 am): Drop-off/ sign-in at the CLC by 7 pm. We will enjoy offsite activities including Adrenalin Trampoline Park and Waffle House. Please contact Janice Blair (jblair@eastminsterpres.org) if you can chaperone.

Eastminster’s Memory Tree Returns to Thompson Hall: Drop off a special ornament in memory of a loved one to the Church Office by December 4.

St. Lawrence Place and Circle of Giving is Now The Season of Giving Project: We will once again collect gifts for families experiencing homelessness. Visit “Upcoming Events” (www.eastminsterpres.org) for the gift lists and the sign up form. Bring your donations to the church office by December 5. Thank you to Liz Agee and Julie McCue for leading again this year.

Register Online for a Christmas Dinner and a Concert (December 6th): Enjoy food and fellowship at a spaghetti dinner in Thompson Hall beginning at 5:30 pm followed by Carols & Keyboards in the Sanctuary at 7 pm with multiple pianos, musicians, and singers. See you there!

Dedicate a Poinsettia in Honor or Memory of a Loved One this Advent: You may fill out a form online, or pick one up in the Welcome Center. Please return your dedications to Julie McDaniel by Wednesday, December 7.

Care Ministry’s Grief Share Group: Led by Dr. Ben Sloan, the Grief Share Group will meet on December 11 and December 18 at 6 pm in Room 357 of the Education building. This group will offer support and comfort during the holidays for those who are grieving.

Lessons and Carols Worship Services are December 11 and December 18: Enjoy Contemporary Christmas music at 11:15 am on December 11th in Thompson Hall and/or Traditional Christmas music at 9 am and 11:15 am on December 18th in the Sanctuary.

EPW’s Joy Gift Social is December 13 in Thompson Hall from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm: Join us for this annual event where we gather in fellowship and benevolence as we collect monetary donations for the Women’s Shelter.

We will have one worship service on Christmas Day at 10 am in the Sanctuary: The Nursery and Children's Church will not be available. We will have one worship service on New Year’s Day at 10 am in the Sanctuary, with Nursery for babies-2K and Children's Church for 3K-5K.

Eastminster has a hearing loop on the floor level of the Sanctuary for hearing aid users: If you do not have hearing aids but would like an assistive listening device, pick-up an FM Hearing Assisted System at our Welcome Center.

Flowers in the Sanctuary are given with thanksgiving to our Lord and Savior for our many blessings by Jane, Joe, Foster and Clarke Anderson.

Current Pledge Totals: (Week 3)	340
Prior Year Pledge Totals: (Week 2)	342

Unison Reading: Luke 21:34-36
34 ‘Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: ANN CAMERON AND DREW WALKER
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. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate

Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry

Bethany Parker, Director of Middle School Youth

Bill Collins, Business Manager

Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Emmet Hough, Dir. of Christian Life Center
- Rev. Brian J. Marsh, Associate Pastor

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Interim Parish Associate

Josh Evanovich, Organist

Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer

Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications

Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian

Alex Rogers, Director of Plant Operations



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 27, 2022
9:00 AM & 11:15 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Bill and Sally McWilliams; Reece, Lauren, Mac, Walker, and James McWilliams (9:00)
Taylor and Caroline Wray (11:15)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: The world says, "All is lost." God says, "All is loved."
People: The darkness says, "The light is dying." The light says, "The fire is catching."
Leader: Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears." Hope says, "Wait, watch, and listen."
People: As we light our first Advent candle, we pray for holy hope of God.
All: Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Hope.

†***HYMN OF ADORATION #93**
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. Brian J. Marsh

***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
O Lord our righteousness, we confess that our hearts have grown heavy with dissipation and worry. We have allowed our hope to wither, our faith to wander, and our love to grow cold. Forgive us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, the righteous branch of David, and restore us to your paths of steadfast love and faithfulness. Receive our penitent hearts, O God of our salvation, as we approach your throne of grace in silent confession.

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
Lord, Before This Fleeting Season
Lord, before this fleeting season is upon us, let me remember to walk slowly. Lord, bless my heart with Love and with quiet. Give my heart a leaning to her carols. Grace our family with contentment and the peace that comes only from you. Lord, help us to do less this busy season; go less; stay closer to home; kneel more. May our hearts be your heart. May we simply, peacefully celebrate You, Lord.
Libby Larsen

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
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
Comfort Ye/Every Valley George F. Handel
From *The Messiah*
Nico Caruso, Tenor

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 Ann Cameron

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Luke 21:34-36 Page 81
Scripture Focus: Jeremiah 33:14-18 Page 694

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

*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

SERMON
“Worth Waiting For” Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #357** (verses 1&2)
The Days Are Surely Coming LLANGLOFFAN

***CHARGE**

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #357** (verse 3)
The Days Are Surely Coming LLANGLOFFAN
The days are surely coming when we will know at last the fullness of God’s presence, God’s promise, come to pass. Then righteousness and justice will spread throughout the land and we will be delivered by God’s almighty hand.

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 on-going ministries.

December 4, 2022
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith