

## WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**Small Groups Kickoff Dinner is this Thursday, September 5:** for current Small Groups, New Small Groups and anyone who is interested in joining a Small Group. Join us from 5:15 to 7 pm with featured speaker, Dr. Steve Eason. RSVP today via our website.

**Rev. Dr. John McCall and Taiwanese Pastors Visit on September 7-8:** We'll enjoy a potluck dinner on Saturday, September 7 at 6:30 pm. RSVP under Upcoming Events and sign up to bring a dish. Dr. McCall will preach on Sunday, followed by a congregational meal in the CLC Gym following worship.

**Invitation to Change (ITC) will take a Break During the Month of September:** ITC is a community that welcomes family and friends of those struggling with substance abuse issues. After August, we will begin meeting on the second and fourth Thursdays beginning October 10th.

**Sundays@5 Adult Evening Class, Led by Dr. Douglass Key, Begins September 8:** as part of our church-wide Fall study on Rick Lawrence's book, *Editing Jesus: Confronting the Distorted Faith of the American Church*. Join us in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH). A repeat class will be on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am in Room E-357 beginning September 10.

**ECAMP (Eastminster Children's Afternoon Music Program) Starts Sunday, September 8:** (5 - 6:30 pm) for children ages K4—fifth grade. Drop-off in the Sanctuary at 5 pm for Bible Study, songs, musical activities and dinner. Don't forget to register your singer(s) and volunteer to help out.

**Servant Leadership Recognition Dinner is September 11:** at 5:15 pm in Thompson Hall. Join us as we honor and celebrate first responders in the Midlands. RSVP via Upcoming Events on our website.

**Recruiting for Bradley Lunch Buddies and Bradley Backpack Volunteers!** Help a student with reading during your lunch hour, or deliver weekend meals on Friday mornings. To learn more about Bradley service opportunities, contact Stan Holland ([sholland@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:sholland@eastminsterpres.org)).

**Bring a Friend to Church Sunday is September 15:** Looking for a way to spread the love and strength of your faith? Know someone who is looking for a church home and would benefit from all that Eastminster has to offer? Bring them to worship on September 15.

**EPW's Fall Gathering is September 17:** Don't miss the chance to celebrate the fall season and connect with amazing women! Join the Eastminster Presbyterian Women for their Fall Gathering on September 17, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, in Thompson Hall. Please RSVP via our website's Upcoming Events.

**WE@EPC Bible 101 Class, Led by Dr. Brad Smith and Dr. Ben Sloan, Begins September 18:** for anyone who wants to learn the basics of scripture. We will be using *The Bible from Scratch* by Donald L. Griggs, and various Bible Project videos to survey and get an overview of the Old and New Testaments.

**WE@EPC Parenting Class, Led by Dr. Douglass Key, Begins September 18:** "Practical Tools for Raising Faithful Kids" is a six-week conversation for parents. Join us for dinner in Thompson Hall before class. We'll meet in Room 357 (Education Building).

**Seeking God First, Even When Planning: Estate Planning for Christian Families:** takes place on Thursday, September 19. This free event, hosted by Eastminster's Endowment Team, offers strategies for couples and singles at all planning stages, who want to leave a legacy here at Eastminster. RSVP via the website.

**First Step Class Kicks off on September 22:** If you are a guest who is interested in taking the first step to membership at Eastminster, please join us to learn more about Eastminster and its ministries. Contact Lib Foster with any questions ([lfoster@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:lfoster@eastminsterpres.org)).

**2024 Advent Retreat in Montreat December 6-8:** with guest speaker Rev. Rachel Smith Fitch is a retreat for all ages! Early Bird Registration ends September 3, and November 3 is the final day to register.

**Flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God and in honor of the EPC staff.

## UNISON READING: 1 John 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

## SERMON NOTES



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN



**DEACONS:** MARY MCCANTS AND KATHLEEN MUTHIG  
HEAD USHER: JOSH ARD (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  
Rev. 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  
Rev. 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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

9:00 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

[www.eastminsterpres.org](http://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

*Prelude and Fugue in B-Flat Major*

Att. J.S. Bach

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You, O God, are my God, earnestly I seek you;

People: **I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you,**

Leader: In a dry and parched land where there is no water.

People: **I have seen you in the sanctuary,**

Leader: And beheld your power and your glory.

All: **I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.**

## †\*HYMN OF ADORATION #1

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

NICEA

## \*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.**

## \*\*TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

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

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

**Most holy and loving God, how we long to will your will, and have the mind of Christ in all that we do. But reality sets in and we find ourselves doing what we know we should not do, and not doing what we know you would have us do. Lord, forgive our selfishness, our bitterness, our harsh words, especially to the ones we love the most. Open our hearts to help others where we are able. By your power and in your grace, help us to become more than we are. Hear us now as we pray our silent, personal 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 #437

*You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy*

WAYFARING STRANGER

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy!**

**You are the Lord, giver of mercy!**

## 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

*God's Gonna Set This World on Fire*

Moses Hogan

## \*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

Mary McCants

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Unison Reading: 1 John 4:7-12**

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:38-48

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

"Going the Extra Mile"

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION (insert)

*O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*

EBENZER

## \*CHARGE AND 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

*Prelude and Fugue in F Major*

Att. J.S. Bach

## \*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. Our next class will begin September 22, 2024 in the Adult Reception Hall.*

## September 8, 2024

Rev. Dr. John McCall

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

†THOSE WAITING IN THE NARTHEX MAY NOW BE SEATED.

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