

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Today is Servant Leadership Sunday: We will enjoy lunch in the Gym after 11:15 am worship honoring ten Servant Leaders from The Midlands. If you are delivering Cookies for First Responders, please see Jennifer Seigler after lunch in the CLC Lobby.

Emergency Procedures Awareness Sunday is next Sunday, September 17. The EPC Safety Committee realizes the importance of our church being prepared for an emergency. So next Sunday, our infants through eighth-graders will be practicing an evacuation drill during Sunday School.

“Knowing Our Faith” Adult Studies Begin Tonight at 5 pm: Join Dr. Douglass Key in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH). Each week we will concentrate on a classic Christian belief. You may buy a copy online at: <https://forms.ministryforms.net/embed.aspx?formId=fbcdd37c-08d9-4041-9acf-dfa51b48f31e>.

ECAMP (Eastminster Children’s Afternoon Music Program) Resumes Tonight: K4-5th graders should meet in the Sanctuary (5 pm - 6:30 pm) for rehearsal and a meal. To sign up to volunteer, visit <https://eastminsterpres.org/events/ecamp-kickoff-is-august-20/>

WE@EPC Meals Kick off this Wednesday, September 13, at 5:15pm (Dine -in Only): MENU: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Squash Casserole, and Rolls. Prices: Adults \$8, Children (0-8) \$4, and no Household Cap. RSVP at: <https://eastminsterpres.org/ministries/fellowship/rsvp/>. Please pay in Thompson Hall (TH) with cash or check.

The Alpha Class starts this Wednesday, September 13: Learn the basics of the Christian faith through discussion. Register at: <https://eastminsterpres.org/events/alpha-course/>.

Dave Ramsay’s Financial Peace Class Begins on September 13 at 6 pm: Designed to help people “dump their debt, get control of their money, and learn new behaviors that are founded on commitment and accountability.” Join George McCutchen in Room 357 of the Education Building.

EPW Fall Gathering is September 14, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm (TH): All ladies are invited! Join for fellowship, a meal, to learn about the 2023-24 calendar year, and a message from Eastminster’s new pastor for Congregational Care, Rev. Emily Mooneyhan.

Greeter Training is September 17: Meet from 10 am - 11 am in the parlor. To sign up, contact Lib Foster- lfoster@eastminsterpres.org.

Register for the Advent Retreat at Montreat: This intergenerational conference will take place December 1-3. The guest pastor is Rev. Ed Black. Register at:

Don’t Miss Guest Artist, Mary Burkett, on September 19: "Beloved Children of the Holocaust Portraits" at 10 am (TH)- hosted by Seniors’ Ministry. RSVP at: <https://eastminsterpres.org/events/mary-burkett-event-beloved-children-of-the-holocaust/>

Interested in Learning More Joining Eastminster? Take the First Step Class: Meet in the ARH at 10 am beginning on Sunday, September 24. Learn about the Presbyterian faith, EPC Pastors, and EPC ministries.

Men’s Fall Retreat is Oct 6-8 at New Ebenezer Retreat Center: RSVP at: <https://eastminsterpres.org/events/mens-fall-retreat-new-ebenezer/>.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Elizabeth Lewis Helms by her family.

Unison Reading: Proverbs 2:1-11

**My child, if you accept my words
and treasure up my commandments within you,**

**²making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;**

**³if you indeed cry out for insight,
and raise your voice for understanding;**

**⁴if you seek it like silver,
and search for it as for hidden treasures—**

**⁵then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.**

**⁶For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;**

**⁷he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly,**

**⁸guarding the paths of justice
and preserving the way of his faithful ones.**

**⁹Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;**

**¹⁰for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;**

**¹¹prudence will watch over you;
and understanding will guard you.**

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: SUSAN RATTEREE AND LEIGH POUND
HEAD USHER: JEFF MUTHIG (9 AM) MIKE GORMAN (11:15 AM)
CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950 ONELICENSE.NET # 735640-A

MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor

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

Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry

Bill Collins, Business Manager

Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer

Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications

Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center

James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, Associate Pastor

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate

Lucinda Shields, Interim Organist

Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth

Katie Herndon, Day School Director

Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
9:00 AND 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

Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Through wonder and through yearning, God draws us close.

People: In our gratitude and in our grief, we find welcome and belonging in Jesus.

Leader: In ways we can name and ways we cannot name, the Spirit awakens faith within us.

All: Let us give praise and honor to the Lord our God, the Author of grace and hope, of faith and love.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #353

My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Emily Mooneyhan (9 am)
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall (11:15 am)

*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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lydia Hayes Mims *(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #482 (verses 1 & 2)

Baptized in Water

BUNESSAN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Mooneyhan (9 am)
Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key (11:15 am)

Dear gracious God, we are prone to put our trust in the wisdom of men. Forgive us and help us put our trust in You alone. We are prone to follow the ways of this world. Forgive us and help us follow Christ alone. We are quick to use Scripture to judge others, but slow to see the log in our own eyes. Forgive us, O Savior, and hear our silent confessions....

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Lift Thine Eyes

Felix Mendelssohn

Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh thy help. Thy help cometh from the Lord the maker of heaven and earth. He hath said, thy foot shall not be moved. Thy Keeper will never slumber. Lift thine eyes to the mountains, whence cometh thy help.

From Elijah

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. 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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Lovely Are the Messengers

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words. How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.

From St. Paul

*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

Susan Ratteree

*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

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Proverbs 2:1-11

Scripture Focus: 1 Corinthians 2:1-9

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Faith Seeking Understanding"

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY

*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

Allegro moderato maestoso

Felix Mendelssohn

*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 scan the QR code or 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.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Lydia Hayes Mims, daughter of Ryan and Hannah Mims, will receive the sacrament of baptism this morning at the 11:15 am service. Simmons Purdy will offer the baptismal prayer.

Sept. 17, 2023

Rev. Bradley D. Smith

Hebrews 1:1-4

“Thank You: Our Self-Revealing God”