

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Today is “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday”: If you are a guest today, we hope you sense God’s presence here. To learn more about Eastminster, stop by one of our Welcome Centers for information about our ministries and to receive a special gift!

We Welcome the Dick Goodwin Brass Quintet: to worship this morning and thank them for their service. Members of the quintet are David Allison and Dick Goodwin, trumpets, Emily Schweickert, horn, John Duhan, trombone, and Mathew Tuk, tuba.

Sundays@5 Adult Evening Class Led by Dr. Douglass Key is tonight: a church-wide Fall study on Rick Lawrence’s book, *Editing Jesus*. Join us in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH). A repeat class will be on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am in Room E-357.

ECAMP (Eastminster Children’s Afternoon Music Program) is tonight, 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.

EPW’s Fall Gathering is this Tuesday, September 17: Join the Eastminster Presbyterian Women for their Fall Gathering from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, in Thompson Hall. Please RSVP via our website’s Upcoming Events.

Bible Doers will “Do” on Wednesday, September 18, at the Oliver’s: Walk and fellowship, 6 - 7 am; prepare and pray over pasta salad for Transitions, 7 - 8 am. Friendly faces and coffee will be waiting for you! Text Beth at 803-622-5384 with any questions.

WE@EPC Meals Kick off Wednesday, September 18, in Thompson Hall: Join us at 5:15 pm for dinner before class. MENU: Cheese Stuffed Manicotti w/Meat Sauce, Roasted Zucchini, Squash & Onions, Garlic Bread- Kids Meal: Pizza. Please RSVP by noon on Wednesdays. Visit Ministries/Fellowship/RSVP at www.eastminsterpres.org.

WE@EPC Bible 101 Class, Led by Dr. Brad Smith and Dr. Ben Sloan, Begins September 18: at 6 pm in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH) 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. We’ll meet in Rooms 271-273 (CLC).

Serve at Transitions on Thursday, September 19: Drop off donations of bananas, pasta salad, and pound cakes to the Church Office (staff kitchen) **by 3 pm** or meet at Transitions at 3:45 pm to package food, or to serve the meal (5 pm). To help, contact Alison McGowan at alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com.

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, offers strategies for couples and singles at all planning stages, who want to leave a legacy here at Eastminster. RSVP via the website.

September 22 is Emergency Procedures Awareness Sunday. The EPC Safety Committee realizes the importance of being prepared for an emergency. Next Sunday, our infants through eighth graders will be practicing an evacuation drill during Sunday School. Ninth graders through adults will remain in their Sunday School Classrooms and not evacuate.

First Step Class Kicks off on September 22: Interested in membership at Eastminster? Join us to hear from pastors and learn more about the ministries at EPC. Contact Lib Foster with any questions (lfoster@eastminsterpres.org).

Flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the baptism of Merrill Louise Beard by her parents, Rory and Thomas Beard.

UNISON READING: Mark 12:28-34

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” ²⁹Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ ³¹The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” ³²Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; ³³and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’ —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: PARKS BUNCH AND GEOFF REABOLD
HEAD USHER: DON HELMS (9:00 AM) AND BILL COGGINS (11:15 AM)

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
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
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



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

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

Sound the Trumpet

H. Purcell/arr. Goodwin
Dick Goodwin Quintet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has come to us in Jesus, the Christ.

People: **"God sent his Son into the world so that we might live through him."**

Leader: Jesus says, "deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me."

People: **Let us open our hearts, minds and souls; let us draw near to our Lord.**

All: **Lord, we come, seeking your presence, your wisdom and your guidance.**

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall

*STATEMENT OF FATIH *(Unison)*

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

(From Confession of 1967, 9.07)

**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

Merrill Louise Beard *(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #475

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETFLETON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key

Gracious God, forgive us our enthusiasm in following others, and our reticence in following you. We follow fashions, friends and celebrities. We follow sports teams and the markets. We follow our children and grandchildren. But you, O Lord, we follow only loosely, or at a distance, or very selectively. You alone give true life, yet we stuff ourselves in ways that leave us yearning. Forgive us, and hear the confessions of our hearts in this silence....

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

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan

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 Beauty of This Sacred Place

James Biery

See insert

*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

Julie Hudson

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Mark 12:28-34

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Scripture Focus: Mark 8:27-37

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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.

FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS PROHIBITED IN ALL WORSHIP SERVICES
AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERMON

"Freeing Jesus"

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #175

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

*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

Simple Gifts

J. Brackets/arr. Goodwin

*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.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Merrill Louise Beard, daughter of Thomas and Rory Beard, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 am service. Lib Foster will offer the baptismal prayer.

September 22, 2024

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

“Does Jesus Have a Double Standard?”