

## WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**FIRST-TIME GUESTS**, please stop by our welcome center for a jar of honey. We greatly appreciate your contributions to our worship service through your presence and participation.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS OUR "D&D" KICKOFF BREAKFAST IN THE GYM** at 10 am for all adults -- confirmands and up. This vital, church-wide process kicks off with Small Groups meeting for eight weeks to discuss, study, pray and share the ideas God is putting on your heart regarding Eastminster's future ministry. Not signed up yet? **Visit the sign-up tables in our welcome areas, or go to [eastminsterpres.org](http://eastminsterpres.org)** and click on the "Dreaming & Discerning New Groups signup" link to select a group. Contact Caroline Bennett or Julie McDaniel if you need help, 256-1654.

**PLEASE PLEDGE TO SUPPORT CHRIST'S WORK THROUGH EPC.** You may complete a pledge card and place in today's offering, or return to Christy Rippy (Treasurer). You can find an online pledge card to fill out and submit at [eastminsterpres.org](http://eastminsterpres.org).

**ROOM 97 IN THE SANCTUARY BASEMENT** has been set aside for hungry or fussy babies. It is equipped with a changing table, rocking chairs and a TV screen with a live worship feed. A privacy screen is provided for nursing mothers.

**MEETING FOR YOUTH SUNDAY PREACHERS IS TODAY AT 10 AM** in the Clerk's Room (next to Croskey's office on Admin Hall) with Laura Long. Please bring your ideas!

**SOZO (AFRICA) MISSION TRIP (JULY 13-23) INFO MEETING TODAY** immediately following 11:15 am worship in the CLC (third floor Multi-Purpose Room). The trip is for high school and beyond!

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH LOCKOUT TODAY AT 4 PM IN THE CLC (\$75).** Text Laura to join. We will be doing "Random Acts of Kindness" (community service), eating at Sato and bowling. Ends at 8 am tomorrow. Bring friends and join us!

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS TO EASTMINSTER MUST BE RECEIVED** at the church by 5 pm, this TUESDAY, Dec. 31, or post-marked by this TUESDAY, Dec. 31, in order for you to receive a tax deduction in 2019. If you are sending stock, please notify the treasurer's office so that you can provide instructions and receive the proper credit.

**EASTMINSTER FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED ON JAN. 1.** Please see our website for CLC and EDS Holiday hours.

**SUNDAYS@5 CLASS, "DISCERNING IN THE WORD," BEGINS JAN. 5.** Dr. Douglass Key, Senior Associate Pastor of Adult Discipleship and Administration, will do a close reading of the texts that are guiding our Dreaming & Discerning process, showing how they can be applied to our lives as a whole. You do not need to be in a small group to participate in the class. Childcare will be available. Please visit Quick Links to sign up and arrange childcare.

**WE@EPC MEALS BEGIN WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8.** Please visit Quick Links to make your meal and childcare reservations, or call Sarah Beasley (ext. 122) in the church office.

**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jim Burwell, by his family.

## Unison Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

## SERMON NOTES

### [Pledge Status Report as of December 23 2019](#)

*Thank you to those who have pledged. If you have not yet pledged, please join us in pledging to support Christ's work through Eastminster in 2020.*

219 Pledges Increased  
144 Pledges With No Change  
33 Pledges Decreased  
63 New Pledges  
For a total of 459 pledges totaling \$3,339,826  
83 Pledges were made for 2019, but not yet for 2020

**DEACONS:** MARSHA MOSELEY AND CALEB GASTON  
**HEAD USHER:** BERRY MATTOX (9 AM) JEFF MUTHIG (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. Brian J. Marsh, Associate Pastor  
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry  
Croskeys Royall, Director of Children's Ministries  
Laura Long, Senior High Youth Director (PT)  
Susie Glenn, Member Involvement Coordinator  
Bill Collins, Business Manager  
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications

Rev. Lynn A. Grandsire, Associate Pastor  
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate  
Josh Evanovich, Organist  
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups and Librarian  
Hannah Winstead, Middle School Youth Director  
Ree Hart, Director of the Christian Life Center  
Jenny Smith, Eastminster Day School Director  
Christy Rippy, Treasurer

Bob Sturm, Facilities Manager



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN

*First Sunday of Christmas*

*December 29, 2019*



3200 TRENHOLM ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

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

## AS YOU ENTER THE SANCTUARY

In Christ's name we welcome you to the Sanctuary at Eastminster. This is a place set apart for Christian worship. As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship. Please **silence all electronic devices** and **do not take flash photos** during the service.

*“God is in His Holy temple,  
let all the earth keep silence before Him.”*

## PRELUDE

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith (9 am)

Rev. Brian J. Marsh (11:15 am)

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We praise the Lord from the heavens; We praise the Lord in the heights!

**People:** We praise the Lord, creator of the heavens, stars, sun, moon, and waters.

Leader: We praise the Lord, the one who established them forever and ever and fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**People:** We praise the Lord, for the Lord's name alone is exalted.

**All:** Let us now worship the Lord, our God!

## †\*HYMN OF ADORATION #146

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

## \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key (9 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 4K and 5K children come to the front and bring their offering.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, we confess we too often focus our attention away from you. While we are grateful for your mercy, we acknowledge we are often distracted by other items, including possessions, money, and power. Lord, grant us the strength to be different and move beyond ourselves in 2020. Grant us the courage to step out, serve others, and demonstrate the love you have already shown us. God of grace, grant us the ability to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, Amen.

## 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 #147

*The First Nowell (verse 6)*

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought and with his blood our life hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Brian J. Marsh

**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 Work of Christmas*

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the prisoner, To rebuild the nations; To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart.

Howard Thurman

## 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.

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

## OFFICER'S PRAYER

Joey McCue

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

**Unison Reading:** Isaiah 63:7-9

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**Second Reading:** Hebrews 2:10-18

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Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

“The Perfect Presence”

Mr. Ed Black (9 am)

“Children of God”

Mr. Josh Woodsmith (11:15 am)

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION #150

*As With Gladness Men of Old (verses 1-3)*

DIX

## \*CHARGE

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION

*As With Gladness Men of Old (verse 4)*

DIX

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**

## 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 Susie Glenn ([sglenn@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:sglenn@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.

## January 5, 2020

Dr. Bradley D. Smith

“Dreaming & Discerning”