

## MAY YOUR HOME AND HEART BE A SANCTUARY

In Christ's name we gather in homes in Columbia and beyond to worship God. This day we set our homes apart for Christian worship. As the Prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.

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

## PRELUDE

*O Come Emmanuel*

## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ann and Andy Cameron

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Lift up your eyes, lift them beyond anxieties and ills.

**People: Behold our God, whose glory exceeds the deep blue skies.**

Leader: Exhale spite and squabbling and smallness in all its forms,

**People: Help us breathe in the life-filling, love-giving breath of God.**

**All: Touch us and transform us, O Master, through wonder and worship.**

## \*HYMN OF ADORATION #82

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

## PRAYER OF ADORATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Lynn A. Grandsire

## RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #137

*He Came Down*

HE CAME DOWN

1. He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forever more.
2. He came down that we many have light; hallelujah forever more.
3. He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forever more.
4. He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forever more.

## \*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.

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE AND TIME OF OFFERING**

During this time you are encouraged to extend the hand of Christ by texting “The peace of Christ be with you,” “The Lord be with you,” or another brief greeting to 3-4 people, Eastminster members or beyond.

To respond to God’s grace by participating in God’s work through Eastminster, use one of the following options:

1. Mail contributions to: EPC, 3200 Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29204.
2. To set up recurring gifts, register on the members’ portal at <https://members.eastminsterpres.org> then follow prompts for giving.
3. One time gifts: Go to our webpage at <https://eastminsterpres.org/contribute> and select “2020 General Fund” and follow prompts.
4. Give by texting 18035909901, type “give” and hit send. You will be sent a link to give.

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Katherine Riley Scott

## **BAPTISMAL HYMN #115**

*Away In a Manger*

MUELLER

1. **Away in a manger; no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
2. **The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
3. **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. 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.**

## **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**Unison Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-8

**Scripture Focus:** 1 Thessalonians 5:14-24

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## **SERMON**

"Seeking Good for All"

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #88** (verses 1, 6, & 7)

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

1. **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**
6. **O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and earth's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**
7. **O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #192**

*Shine, Jesus, Shine (refrain only)*

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE

**Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory. Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy. Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Vivaldi Sonata*

Vivaldi

**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.

**DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP SERVICE**

Katherine Riley Scott, daughter of Sarah and Dustin Scott, will receive the sacrament of baptism. Elder Kami Thordahl will give the baptismal prayer.

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**

*Contact Rev. Brian Marsh ([bmarsh@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:bmarsh@eastminsterpres.org) or 256-1654 x164) 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 13, 2020

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

This Year Dedication Sunday plus 5 weeks pledges	370
Last Year Dedication Sunday plus 5 weeks pledges	393

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD.** You may drop it by the church office, or mail it to the church. If you need another pledge card, contact Kelly Fernet at ext. 127. You may also pledge online under the CONTRIBUTE tab (top right), or via the Quick Link. Questions about tithing options at EPC, contact Christy Rippey (Treasurer) at [crippy@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:crippy@eastminsterpres.org).

Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2020

**WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY!** We ask that you make a reservation to attend worship each week via Quick Links. The maximum for safe seating in our sanctuary is 100; we welcome all who can wear a mask throughout the service, ages 3 and up. Please practice safe-distancing. Ushers/greeters will be available to assist you.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS ARE AVAILABLE** via Quick Links and the Church Office. Contact Sarah Beasley (ext. 122) if you need a booklet mailed to you.

**MALL TO MANGER CHALLENGE CARDS ARE AVAILABLE** at the Church Office. Pick up cards/envelopes and write a check to EPC with "M2M" in the memo line, then give to a loved one in their honor this Christmas. This year, your donations will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance COVID-19 Relief.

**THE FLOWER GUILD IS ACCEPTING MEMORIALS** and Honoraria to decorate the Sanctuary with live greenery and poinsettias for Christmas. Forms are located in the reception areas around the church campus, or on the website under Quick Links. Enclose a check for \$25 made out to Eastminster Flower Guild for each listing. Return forms by this **Tuesday, Dec. 8**, to the attention of Julie McDaniel.

**COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY, DEC. 8 AT 7 PM—3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR CLC.** Please join us for a meal (text Nick at 919 272-9774 so we have enough food!) and catch up with EPC friends. To learn more, email Nick at [ndemuynck@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:ndemuynck@eastminsterpres.org).

**EPC'S CAROL SING IS DEC. 10 ON THE FIELD**—Pick up a meal at the CLC from 5:15 to 6 pm and head across the street. The singing will begin at 6 pm. Join us!

**TUESDAY/THURSDAY TO-GO DINNER MENUS FOR THIS WEEK:** Meal pick-up time is now 5:15-6:00 p.m. The costs are \$3 per child (0-8), \$6 per adult (9+) with a \$25 family cap. You must register through the EPC website's Quick Links by noon on Tues./Thurs.

Tues., Dec. 8: Pork Tenderloin, Rice Pilaf, Butterbeans, Vegetable Blend & Rolls

Thurs., Dec. 10: Fried Chicken Tenders, Mac&Cheese, Succotash, Fried Okra & Rolls

**CIRCLE OF GIVING AND ST. LAWRENCE PLACE:** This year we will combine the Homeless No More gift drive for the children at St. Lawrence Place/Family Shelter with the Circle of Giving drive which also serves families in shelters. Children will receive age-appropriate gifts and families will receive baskets of household supplies. Please go to [eastminsterpres.org](http://eastminsterpres.org) to see the page of options. **The gifts are to be delivered to the Reception area by Dec. 11.** We hope you'll participate with your children, Sunday School class, small group, or individually.

**ORNAMENTS FOR THE MEMORY TREE.** The tree won't be on display this Advent, but we would still love to add an ornament in memory of someone special to you for next year. To participate, bring your ornament with a card indicating whose memory you want to honor to the church office reception area ornament basket (Attn: Julie McDaniel).

**A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE, DEC. 13 AT 4 PM** in the Sanctuary. This service acknowledges that many of us don't always feel cheerful during the Christmas season. We'll celebrate Communion, pray, and hear words of Scripture that will bring the hope and light of Christ into our lives even as we have memories of loss and disappointment. RSVP via Quick Links.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC. 13.** Look for details from Bethany Dixon, new Director of MS Youth, via email.

**JOINT CIRCLE MEETING DEC. 14, AT 10:30 AM (SANCTUARY)** Circles 1 & 3 will enjoy fellowship and a devotional before the Joy Gift Tea. Wear a mask and join us in the sanctuary, or virtually via the LIVE FEED button at [www.eastminsterpres.org](http://www.eastminsterpres.org).

**ALL EASTMINSTER WOMEN ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL JOY GIFT TEA.** On Monday, Dec. 14, drop by the Breezeway and Courtyard between the Sanctuary and Thompson Hall, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Please wear your mask and enjoy a time of fellowship with all women of the church. We will be collecting for the Annual Joy Gift and Women's Shelter Christmas shopping.

**FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE ACTIVITY IS WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16.** We will host outside, weather permitting. Otherwise, it will be a “grab and go” event. Sign-up now via Quick Links.

**HS CHRISTMAS PARTY IS DEC. 20.** Look for emails from Pastor Nick with details. Bring a friend!

**THE CLC HAS REOPENED!** Temporary hours are 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday - Friday. Members will need to sign up for 40-minute time slots to use the facilities each week via Quick Links. If you have questions, please contact Emmet Hough, Director of the CLC, at 256-1654 (ext. 159).