

## 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 Little Town of Bethlehem*

arr. J. Ferguson

Memorial Handbells

### WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

### INTROIT

*Sing Gloria*

Ruth Elain Schram

Sunday Night Singers

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jonathan and Sarah Anne Hardin, Wells and Sellas

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: You, O Lord, have sent us the promised one of Israel.

**People: You have given us gladness instead of mourning, praise instead of sadness.**

Leader: You have bestowed righteousness upon us to show forth the glory of the Lord.

**People: You O Lord, have given us everlasting joy through Jesus.**

Leader: We will greatly rejoice in the Lord, we shall exult in our God;

**All: For he has clothed us with salvation and righteousness. Let us worship the Lord together!**

### \*HYMN OF ADORATION #140

*Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew: he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

### PRAYER OF ADORATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Nick P. Demuyneck

### 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**

Willa Frances Hartley  
Jacob Steele Livingston

**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. 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.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**Unison Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-4

**Scripture Focus:** John 1:6-9, 19-23

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

"Witnesses to the Light"

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

## \*HYMN OF DEDICATION #113

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

GLORIA

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

## \*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

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. V. Stephenson

Memorial Handbells

## 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

Willa Frances Hartley, daughter of Elizabeth and Robert Hartley, will receive the sacrament of baptism. Jacob Steele Livingston, son of Margaret Goodall and Alden Livingston will receive the sacrament of baptism. Elder Sharon Bryant 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 20, 2020

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pledge Status Report as of December 7, 2020

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.

228 Pledges Increased

89 Pledges With No Change

25 Pledges Decreased

36 New Pledges

For a total of 378 pledges totaling \$3,133,968

143 Pledges were made for 2020, but not yet for 2021

**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 Rippy (Treasurer) at [crippy@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:crippy@eastminsterpres.org).

**WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY!** You must make a reservation via Quick Links each time. The maximum for safe seating is 100 in our sanctuary, and while you are here, you are required to wear a mask and practice safe-distancing. Ushers/greeters will be available to assist you.

**HELP SPREAD THE WORD!** Go to "Million Dollar Challenge" under Quick Links on the EPC website to sign up and for more information about how you can help feed hungry people in Such a Time as This.

**OUR BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE IS TODAY AT 4 PM** in the Sanctuary (RSVP via Quick Links) and via the LIVE FEED button on our website ([www.eastminsterpres.org](http://www.eastminsterpres.org).) 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 CHRISTMAS PARTY IS TONIGHT FROM 5-6 PM** in the courtyard. Please bring a wrapped present (\$10-\$15) and bundle up! This is our last Youth Group for 2020. Join us!

**JOINT CIRCLE MEETING TOMORROW, DEC. 14 AT 10:30 AM IN THE 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.** Drop by the Breezeway and Courtyard, between the Sanctuary and Thompson Hall, tomorrow between 11:30 am and 1 pm. Please wear your mask and come to 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.

### **TUESDAY/THURSDAY TO-GO DINNER MENU FOR THIS WEEK.**

Meal pick-up is now from 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.

Tues., Dec. 15: Lasagna, Roasted Vegetables, Fried Green Beans & Garlic Toast

Thurs., Dec. 17: Ham w/Dijon Mustard Sauce, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Mushrooms and Pearl Onions & Tomato Pie

**COLLEGE BIBLE STUDY TUESDAY, DEC 15 AT 7 PM IN THE CLC (3RD FL.)** Please join us for a meal (need head count text Nick at 919 272-9774) and catch up with EPC friends. To learn more, email Nick at [ndemuyneck@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:ndemuyneck@eastminsterpres.org).

**"INSPIRED" BY RACHEL EVANS CLASS BEGINS DEC. 15.** Hosted by the CALM Class but all young adults are welcome. This class will be led by Pastor Nick. For details and to learn more about this study, email Nick at [ndemuyneck@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:ndemuyneck@eastminsterpres.org).

**TRANSITIONS THIRD THURSDAY IS DEC. 17.** Donations should be delivered to the McGowan's by 4 pm that day. Reminder to donate clementines rather than bananas. **The Christmas Day meal** will be catered with fewer servers (10-12 only). Donations of GORP (M&Ms, raisins, peanuts & pretzels individually

bagged 1 cup each) and Christmas cookies (3 per bag) due to McGowan's by Dec. 23. Email Alison to help with either of these meals at [alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com).

**THE LIVING NATIVITY IS DECEMBER 20 (5 & 6:30 PM FIELD)** Stop by the CLC portico drive-thru for a bowl of chili at 4:30 or 6 pm. The meal is free, but you must RSVP via Quick Links. Want to help out with one of the shows? Contact Croskeys at [croyall@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:croyall@eastminsterpres.org).

**HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY IS DEC. 20 (5-6 PM LONGLEAF ST PARKING LOT)** with music from the Youth Band! Enjoy fellowship, snacks and a Service Project. Look for details from Pastor Nick. Questions? Email him at [ndeymunck@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:ndeymunck@eastminsterpres.org).

**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.

**FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY** are given in celebration of the baptisms of Willa Frances Hartley, daughter of Elizabeth and Chuck Hartley; and of Jacob Steele Livingston, son of Margaret Goodall and Alden Livingston, grandchildren of Chris and Linell Goodall.

CHRISTMAS EVE

3 PM: CHILDREN'S SERVICE IN THE FIELD

5 PM: FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE IN THE FIELD

7 PM: CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY

REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE, 100 PEOPLE MAX

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 AM LIVESTREAMED SERVICE OF SONG AND SCRIPTURE



In honor of Liz Agee - my Angel

In thanksgiving for our grandchildren, Clarke, Foster, Evelyn, Ivy, Yates and Wren Anderson by Joe and Carol Anderson

In loving memory of Furman and Evelyn Gerrard by Joe and Carol Anderson

In loving memory of Joe and Clarissa Anderson by Joe and Carol Anderson

In appreciation for all that Fredna Lee does at Eastminster

In loving memory of "B" and Harvey Brown by Joe and Carol Anderson

In loving memory of Fran DiBiase and Mac Atkins, Jr., given with love by Mac, Carmen, Tilden and Carter Atkins

To the Glory of God and in honor of Peggy M. Batten

In honor of our children-Gracie, Katharine, and Mary Martha by Lynn and Neal Beard

In loving memory of Charles "Buddy" Padgett, cherished father and grandfather, by the Beard family

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020

In honor of our parents and grandparents: Mary Padgett, Eleanor Beard and Jim Beard, by the Beard family

To the glory of God and in honor of Laura Long by the Beard family

To the glory of God and in memory of Don Barton by the Beard family

To the glory of God and in honor Caroline Bennett by Lynn Beard

To the glory of God and in honor of the pastoral staff by the Beard family

In loving memory of Emilie and Keith Benson, Paul Benson and Martha Cox Beighley by Phyllis and George Beighley, George Beighley Jr. and Kathryn Beighley Dinkins

In memory of and with gratitude to God for the life of Roy Benton

In honor of my precious grandchildren - Margaret Anne, Mariah, Jack, Harry, Kate, Hagood, Heriot and Robert Sims - who are perfect in every way and have my everlasting love!

In honor of Nelle Holcombe given by Jacquie and Wayne in grateful appreciation

In honor of Robin and Mike Gorman and in appreciation for their leadership in the Spiritual Discoveries Class

In loving memory of our mother and father and grandparents, Annette and Jake King, from Gus, Kim, Drew & Robert Dixon.

In loving memory of our mother and father and grandparents, Augusta and King Dixon, from Gus, Kim, Drew & Robert Dixon.

In honor of Caroline Bennett and love for my small group ladies, Kathy Fant

In loving memory of our beloved Jane and Hal Williams, Nancy, Kathy and Lee and families

In loving memory of Christie and Jimmie Fant, Simpson and Kathy Fant and family

In honor of our parents and in memory of our grandparents, Julie and Bruce Fewell

In loving memory of Jane's parents, Frank & Dorothy McFaddin by Bill, Jane, and Lizzie Francis

In loving memory of Bill's parents, Marion & Jane Francis, Bill, Jane, and Lizzie Francis

In loving memory of Jane's siblings, Frank McFaddin, Jr., Jack McFaddin and Lorraine M. Walker, by Bill, Jane, and Lizzie Francis

In honor of Sarah Davis with gratitude for her example. Love, Boo

In honor of Dennis Daye and to the glory of God. We miss you. Love, Boo

To the glory of God and in honor of Marilyn Stradtman, a most gracious loving lady. With love and affection, William G

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Phyllis and Joe Williams, and of Bill Halligan by their family

In loving memory of Martha and Jimmy Spangler and Mary and Lloyd Hendricks, by Lloyd and Susan Hendricks

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Ross Holcombe by his family.

In Honor of Betty and Alex Jenkins with love from their grandchildren.

In Loving Memory of Mary Ball Graham.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020

In honor of Fredna Lee

In memory of Cheryl Yates

In Loving Memory of Dr. Joe B. Donaho - Blythe, Tim, Gracie, Tinnin & Baye Lewis

In memory for Bill Littlejohn from Mrs. Elaine Littlejohn and Leigh Ann Littlejohn

In loving memory of Mrs. Johnnie Livingston by Josh, Rankin, Mary Russell and Maggie Livingston

In honor of Mrs. Rankin Craig given by Josh, Rankin, Mary Russell and Maggie Livingston

In honor of Lorenzo Kennedy's service to our EPC family. Go Tigers!

In recognition of Julie McDaniel's service to EPC. Always serves with a smile!

In loving memory of Clarke and Anne McCants from their family

In honor of our children and grandchildren, Reece, Lauren, Mac, Walker, James, Phillips, Christy, Phillips Jr., Reagan, Andrew, Leslie and our new granddaughter, Molly Hamilton McWilliams

In memory of our parents, Reece and Josephine McWilliams and Phil and Legare Bates

Julie McCue-cards equal love. Henry, Bobbi & Jackie

L and L - thanks for your love. Henry, Bobbi & Jackie

In loving memory of Edward and Mary Schlaefer

In loving memory of Jack and Ellen Scoville

In honor of Fredna Lee and the Chancel Choir

In memory of Don Barton

In loving memory of Dwight Hennison Smith, Anne Macon and Grant

In loving memory of our parents, Jake and Inez Strait and Eutace & Kathleen Studstill.

In Memory of Peggy Boykin from the Boykin Family

In Memory of Dr. Fred Boykin from the Boykin Family

In love and gratitude to a wonderful wedding director and a pillar of this church, Betty Barton

In memory of "Mimi and Papa" King. In honor of our CALM Sunday School Class - Matt and Jane Marie Trail

In memory of Ann Stafford; Mildred & Bob Williams - Chuck & Ashley Williams