

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.”***

A Service of Lessons and Carols

Chiming of the Bells

Prelude

The Bells of Christmas

Shr Han and Josh Evanovich

Announcements

Introit

Jesus the Light of the World

Chancel Choir

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Bill and Susan Coggins

Call to Worship

Leader: I will sing of your steadfast love forever, O Lord, with my mouth will I proclaim your faithfulness

All: God has established the descendants of David forever, and has built an eternal throne through Jesus Christ.

Leader: Jesus the chosen one is exalted over all.

All: You O Lord are our father, our God and the rock of our salvation. We praise you for the great gift of your son, Jesus, the Christ

Carol of Adoration # 133

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Brian J. Marsh

Apostles' Creed

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.

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-9

Carol

Brightest and Best

arr. Shawn Kirchner

Hail the bless'd morn, see the great Mediator down from the regions of glory descend! Shepherds go worship the babe in the manger, lo, for his guard the bright angels attend. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid. Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid. Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining, low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall. Angels adore him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Savior of all. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid. Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid. Shall we not yield him, in costly devotion, odours of Edom and off'rings divine, Gems of the mountains and pearls of the ocean, Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine? Brightest and best of the stars of the morning dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid. Star in the East, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Sanctuary Singers

Second Lesson: Micah 5:2-5

Carol #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Rev. Lynn A. Grandsire

Third Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38

HOMILY

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

INSTRUMENTAL

The First Noel

arr. Joshua Evanovich

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-12

Carol

Shepherds' Joy

Parker/Hayes

One quiet night when all was still, I saw a wondrous sight while tending sheep upon a hill one peaceful winter's night: for in the sky there shone a light so glorious and bright. Behold, an angel did appear upon that special night. Glory to God! Glory to God on high! Messiah has come! Love has transformed this night! The angel said, "Now have no fear, I bring good news to all. A Savior now is born to you; your god has heard your call; in Bethlehem in lowly manger lying in a stall. Go worship Him, the newborn King; before Him humbly fall." Then angles quickly filled the sky with glory all around, praising God with joyful voice I listened to their sound. Then all the shepherds went to where the Baby could be found, then bowed in homage to the King, their faces on the ground.

Virtual Choir

Congregational Carol #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Benediction

Postlude

On Christmas Day in the Morning

Dec. 27, 2020

Seminary Students preaching

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pledge Status Report as of December 14, 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.

238	Pledges Increased
97	Pledges With No Change
28	Pledges Decreased
41	New Pledges

For a total of 404 pledges totaling \$3,373,768

121 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 803-256-1654 x127. 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. Please note that all contributions for 2020 must be postmarked or received in the church by Thursday, Dec. 31 in order to receive a tax deduction.

WELCOME TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY! Please make a reservation via Quick Links each week. Safe seating capacity is 100, and you must wear a mask while you are here. To maximize the safety of our congregants, particularly those whose health is more fragile, families with young children are encouraged to sit in pews toward the back of the sanctuary. Children ages 3 and older are welcome to attend if masks can be worn throughout the service. Young children who need to excuse themselves to the restrooms may do so with a parent. Thank you for helping keep one another safe and healthy! Ushers/greeters will be available to assist you.

JOIN US FOR THE LIVING NATIVITY TONIGHT (5 & 6:30 PM FIELD) Stop by the CLC portico drive-thru for a bowl of chili beginning at 4:30 or 6 pm. The meal is free, but you must RSVP via Quick Links. Questions? Contact Croskeys at croyall@eastminsterpres.org.

HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY IS TONIGHT (5-6 PM) in the Longleaf lot with music from the Youth Band! Enjoy fellowship, snacks and a Service Project. Look for details from Pastor Nick. Questions? Email him at ndemuyneck@eastminsterpres.org.

C.H.A.M.P.S. IS HOSTING A BLANKET DRIVE THROUGH DEC. 22 for the homeless. Please drop off new blankets (any size) to the collection box in the Church Office reception area (Medway lot) Questions? Contact Rebekah Gaston at 803-256-1654 x141.

TUESDAY TO-GO DINNER MENU FOR THIS WEEK. There will only be one meal this week. The next meals will be on Jan. 5 & Jan. 7. Meal pick-up is from 5:15-6 pm. The costs are \$3 per child (0-8), \$6 per adult (9+) with a \$25 family cap.

Tues., Dec. 22: Chili, Stuffed Potato Skins & Corn Bread

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING'S MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE has begun. Visit Quick Links to learn more and sign up to help feed the hungry. Support one of EPC's Five Kingdom Goals. The time is now!

NEXT SUNDAY 11:15 AM FIELD WORSHIP WILL MOVE TEMPORARILY TO SANCTUARY.

Beginning Dec. 27 you will need to make a reservation through Quick Links (100 max.) This will remain a contemporary worship service led by Jubilee musicians.

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.

TRANSITIONS CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL WILL BE CATERED. We do still need donations of Christmas cookies (3 per bag) and GORP (raisins, peanuts, M&Ms and pretzels—1 cup per bag) Deliver to Alison McGowan's house by Wednesday, Dec. 23. Contact Alison at alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com to help.

PLEASE NOTE PARKING FOR CHRISTMAS EVE FIELD SERVICES—Due to expected increased attendance for Field Services on Christmas Eve (3 & 5 pm), worshippers should park on the main campus and walk to pods on the field. Crossing guards will assist you safely to the field. Families with young children, or anyone whose health status requires them to remain in cars, may drive onto the field to listen via 87.7 or "tailgate" from marked spaces. Bring blankets and chairs!

FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the Glory of God by an Eastminster family.

CHRISTMAS EVE

3 PM: CHILDREN'S SERVICE IN THE FIELD (GYM IN CASE OF RAIN)

5 PM: FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE IN THE FIELD (GYM IN CASE OF RAIN)

7 PM: CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY (this service is full)

7:30 PM CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE GYM (Register on Quick Links)

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

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.

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 Lorenza 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.

Third Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20, 2020

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