

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

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

All: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

Leader: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

All: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

All: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

*HYMN OF ADORATION #136

Go Tell It on the Mountain

IRBY

Go, tell It On the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell It On the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Go, tell It On the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell It On the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

PRAYER OF ADORATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Mr. Joshua Woodsmith

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)

First Sunday of Christmas, December 27, 2020

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

Jordan Christopher Brummett, Jr.

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

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 61:10-62:3

Scripture Focus: Luke 2:22-40

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

First Sunday of Christmas, December 27, 2020

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #192**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

GLORIA

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by truth you now bring us; Shine on me; shine on me. (*Refrain*) 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.
2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance; by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness. Shine on me; shine on me. (*Refrain*) 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.
3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness; ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story. Shine on me; shine on me. (*Refrain*) 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.

***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

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

Jordan Christopher Brummett, Jr., son of Abby Bristow and Jordan Brummett, will receive the sacrament of baptism. Elder Anne Bristow will give the baptismal prayer.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Contact Rev. Brian Marsh (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.

January 3, 2021

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pledge Status Report as of December 21, 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.

239 Pledges Increased

103 Pledges With No Change

33 Pledges Decreased

49 New Pledges

For a total of 424 pledges totaling \$3,460,221

109 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. Please note that all contributions for 2020 must be postmarked or received in the church by Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 in order to receive a tax deduction.

11:15 AM FIELD WORSHIP HAS TEMPORARILY MOVED INSIDE! You will need to make a reservation for sanctuary worship each week (100 max). This will remain a casual and contemporary worship service led by Jubilee musicians.

TODAY IS PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY. Your donations go to Harvest Hope Food Bank to help fight hunger in The Midlands. Thank you!

PLEASE SEND ALL DONATIONS FOR MALL TO MANGER CARDS to the church office as soon as possible. Include "M2M" in the memo line of your check.

EPC FACILITIES WILL BE CLOSED ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

TUES/THURS TO-GO MEALS WILL RETURN ON JANUARY 5.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING'S MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE has begun. Visit the eastminsterpres.org Quick Link to learn more, and for resources to recruit family and friends across South Carolina to help feed the hungry. The time is now! Please sign up to help.

SUNDAYS@5 ACTS: "HOW APOSTLES ACT" CLASS KICK-OFF JAN 10 -This twelve-week study of how the disciple community ventured through unfamiliar territory is not unlike our own current path. Join Dr. Douglass Key via ZOOM or in-person (Adult Reception Hall) Jan 10-March 28.

S.O.A.P APPROACH WEDNESDAY DISCUSSIONS START BACK ON JAN 6. Join pastors in-person on Wednesdays at 11 am (Adult Reception Hall) or via ZOOM at 7 pm for a journey through Exodus. Send an email to now@eastminsterpres.org specifying which group you'll be joining.

WANT TO JOIN A SMALL GROUP IN JANUARY? There are groups kicking off 2021 with exciting new studies and plenty of room for new members! Contact Caroline Bennett at cbennett@eastminsterpres.org to find the right group for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR YOUTH SUNDAY ON JANUARY 31! Pastor Nick and Youth leaders are working with high school youth as they prepare to preach, teach, usher and lead us for all worship services that day.

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