

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Prayer Cards are Available in our Welcome Centers: You can pick up a Prayer Card to pray for members. Contact Rev. Emily Mooneyhan to add a member to the prayer list.

Mall to Manger Challenge Begins Today through Christmas Eve: Make a donation in honor of a loved one. Please include “M2M” in the memo line of your check. Mall to Manger Cards are available in the Welcome Centers. All proceeds go to purchasing Bibles for children in need through the Salvation Army.

Today is the last day to RSVP for EPW’s Holiday Social on December 10: All ladies of EPC are invited for a time of fellowship between 3 pm and 5 pm at the Oliver’s home. Shuttles will run throughout the event from the upper Medway lot. To RSVP and for details, visit eastminsterpres.org/events/epw-holidaysocial/.

ECAMP for Children Meets from 5 pm to 6:30 pm: Tonight’s rehearsal focuses on Christmas Eve worship, so all singers should plan to attend. Drop-off and pick-up in the Sanctuary, and dinner is included.

Embracing Hospitality Advent Bible Study Continues Wednesday: From 12 pm -1 pm in Thompson Hall, bring your lunch and explore a Biblical approach to using your home to care for others this Advent season. Dr. Ben Sloan will lead this study through December 13.

Giving for Homeless No More Outreach: Help families experiencing homelessness by volunteering at the Holiday Shop on December 11. For more information, visit eastminsterpres.org/events/homeless-no-more-outreach/.

Dedicate a Poinsettia to Help Decorate Eastminster for Christmas: Pick up a form in the Welcome Centers and return it with your dedication to Julie McDaniel’s attention by December 6, or you can complete a form online at: eastminsterpres.org/events/poinsettia-dedications/.

Children’s Gingerbread House Decorating Party is December 13: Families are invited to join Pastor Croskeys in the CLC-Gym between 5pm and 7pm for pizza and a time of decorating and fellowship. Please bring \$25/1 per family and pay at the door.

Carols and Keyboards Dinner and Concert is December 14: Enjoy the sounds of the season featuring 18 hands on pianos and the EPC Chancel Choir. A delicious meal will be served in Thompson Hall prior at 5:45 pm. To RSVP for the meal, visit eastminsterpres.org/ministries/fellowship/rsvp/.

Lessons and Carols is December 17 in the Sanctuary: Get in the Christmas spirit by joining us for worship at 9 am or 11:15 am for holiday hymns.

Blue Christmas Service is December 17 (Adult Reception Hall - ARH): If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, you are invited for a time of prayer and communion at 4 pm. Bring a friend or neighbor who may benefit.

EPC’s Living Nativity is December 17: Join us in the Courtyard for one of three shows (5 pm, 6 pm, or 7 pm). A host of little angels, wise men, livestock, and Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus will grace our new stable. Don’t miss it!

Seniors Christmas Drop-in is December 19 (ARH): Stop by between 10 am and 12 pm for Christmas Cheer, music, and fellowship with Eastminster friends.

Christmas Eve Worship in the Sanctuary: Join us on Christmas Eve morning for one blended worship service at 10 am in the Sanctuary (no Sunday School) and in the evening for worship at 5 pm, 7pm, or 9 pm.

Current Pledge Totals: (Week 4)	374
Prior Year Pledge Totals: (Week 4)	345

Unison Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

SERMON NOTES

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 3, 2023
9:00 AND 11:15 AM



DEACONS: KAREN HUDGENS AND SHANNON MCCUTCHEN
HEAD USHER: JOSH ARD (9 AM) SCOT SEIGLER (11:15 AM)
CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950 ONELICENSE.NET # 735640-A

MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor	Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck, Associate Pastor
Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor	Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate	Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate	Lucinda Shields, Interim Organist
Bill Collins, Business Manager	Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer	Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Blythe Lewis, Director of Communications	Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center	Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
James Cassidy, A/V Director	

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www.eastminsterpres.org

Welcome to Eastminster Presbyterian Church!

In Christ's name, we welcome you to Eastminster. We hope that you will feel the love and peace of Christ as you worship with us. Please take this time to silence the world and focus your heart and mind on worshipping our Living God.

“So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God's glory.” Romans 15:7.

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, arr. Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

INTROIT

Before This Fleeting Season

Libby Larson (1950-)

Lord, before this fleeting season is upon us, let me remember to walk slowly. Lord, bless my heart with love and with quiet. Give my heart a leaning to hear carols. Grace our family with contentment, and the peace that comes only from You. Lord, help us to do less this busy season; go less, stay closer to home; kneel more. May our hearts be Your heart. May we simply, peacefully celebrate You, Lord.

Mary Ann Jindra (1939-2019)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mike and Melanie DaVega (9 am)

Nate and Rebecca Herring, Eleanor and Adelaide, Kathie Williams (11:15)

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The world says, "All is lost." God says, "All are loved."

People: **The darkness says, "The light is dying." God says, "The light will overcome the darkness."**

Leader: Fear says, "Cover your eyes and your ears." Hope says, "Wait, watch and listen, Good News is coming."

People: **As we light our first Advent candle, we remember the holy hope of God.**

All: **Come now, O child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Hope.**

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. W. Croskeys Royall

*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 3K—5K children come to the front and bring their offering.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Dawson Andrew Buckner *(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #250 *(verses 1 and 3)*

In the Bull There Is a Flower

PROMISE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuyneck

Lord of creation and of all created ones, you are holy and righteous.

Individually and collectively we are unclean, blown far from you by the winds of our iniquity. Forgive us. Forgive our propensity to be lured by the loud and the lurid, to divide and demean. Forgive our propensity to divide and demean, to be lured by the loud and the lurid . Forgive us as we lift our confessions even in this time of 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 #92

While We Are Waiting, Come

WAITING (Cason)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come. Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S 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.

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

Veni, Veni Emmanuel

Michael John Trotta (1978-)

O Come, O come, the “I AM” that is with us; Break the bond of the captive people who mourn in exile derived of the Incarnation of the Father. Rejoice! Rejoice, the Great I AM will be born for you! O come, Gatherer of all nations, come to make all whole, to save Your servants from their separateness. O come thou light of live (Morningstar) to shine on us by Your coming, dispel the clouds of night, Drive away the shadows of death.

18th century hymn

*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

THE FLOOR LEVEL OF THE SANCTUARY HAS A HEARING LOOP FOR HEARING AID USERS

*OFFICER'S PRAYER

Karen Hudgens

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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Scripture Focus: Isaiah 64:1-9

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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Yet, O Lord,...”

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #121 (verse 4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

*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 scan the QR code or leave your contact information in the Friendship Pad when it is passed.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Contact the church office at 803-256-1654 to learn more and find out about our next First Step class, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

DURING THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP:

Dawson Andrew Buckner, son of Hannah and Danny Buckner, will receive the sacrament of baptism this morning at the 11:15 service. Madison Dye will offer the baptismal prayer.

December 10, 2023

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

Isaiah 40:1-11

"What Shall I Cry?"