

UNISON READING: Luke 1:1-4

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

SERMON NOTES

CRADLE ROLL BABIES AND THEIR PARENTS

Eleanor Kate Al Baldawi January 17, 2024 Kathryn and Nour Al Baldawi	Jack Leonard Springs IV April 3, 2024 Jack and Kaitlin Springs	Clayton Timothy Murrell September 4, 2024 Robert and Kellee Murrell
John Wilson Schultz February 2, 2024 Molly and Scott Schultz	Merrill Louise Beard April 18, 2024 Rory and Thomas Beard	Everett Ford Lea Law October 8, 2024 Seth Law and Hannah Lea
Sadie Grace Winterhalter February 2, 2024 Kaylin and JJ Winterhalter	Emma Adelaide Wise April 19, 2024 John and Laura Wise	Caulder Alexander Winkles October 16, 2024 Blake and Kasey Winkles
Dorothy Susan Kilpatrick February 3, 2024 Ashtin and Thomas Kilpatrick	Fordham Wardlaw Hammond May 13, 2024 Stefanie & Clay Hammond	Cordes Baxter Kennedy, Jr. November 27, 2024 Cordes and Paige Kennedy
Allen Nathaniel Wilkerson, Jr. February 21, 2024 Elizabeth and Allen Wilkerson	Sloane Sweet Mothena June 27, 2024 Stephen and Lauren Mothena	Sterling Carson Carter November 20, 2024 Ben and Kelsey Carter
William Mark Bowman February 23, 2024 Melissa and Seth Bowman	Mark Dale Chapell III July 9, 2024 Mark and Lane Chappell	Margaret Helen McLean December 4, 2024 Patrick and Olivia McLean
Jack William Wolfe III February 26, 2024 Bailey and William Wolfe Jr.	Emma Louise Green July 11, 2024 Dustin and Erin Green	Grady Hutchinson Kay December 6, 2024 Jordan and Amelia Kay
Theodore Lawrence Mac Adams March 3, 2024 Greer and Spencer Mac Adams	Stanley Alexander Richards July 18, 2024 Alex and Laura Richards	Barrett Riley Strasburger December 12, 2024 Kyle and Claire Strasburger
Charles Oliver Hines March 11, 2024 Jen and John Hines	Luke Harden McCants July 22, 2024 Spencer and Melissa McCants	Graves Potter December 27, 2024 Bryce and Perri Potter

DEACONS: PARKS BUNCH AND CHESLEY GOOD
HEAD USHER: RYAN BARNES (9:00 AM) SCOT SEIGLER (11:15 AM)
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WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For detailed information and to register for the below programs and events, visit our website: <https://eastminsterpres.org/>.

The “Next Steps” Class Begins Today, at 10 am in the Education Building (E-356): Are you looking to deepen your spiritual walk and connect with other members? Join us for Next Steps, Eastminster’s new four-week class designed to help you grow spiritually, build meaningful relationships, and discover your purpose within our church family.

WE@EPC Meals Begin on January 8 at 5:15 pm: MENU- Chicken Cordon Bleu Casse- role, Grilled Asparagus, and Tomato Pie, *Kids- Chicken Nuggets French Fries & Cucumbers with Ranch*. Visit our website and select the “Ministries” button at the top. You will see “Fellowship” in the drop-down menu. Select “Fellowship” and look to the right for the “WE@EPC RSVP” tab. Once there, you will see the menu graphic as well and pricing information. You may now pay online when you make your reservation (by Wednesday at noon), or you can bring cash or check and pay when you get to Thompson Hall.

WE@EPC Bible 201 Starts January 8, at 6 pm, in the Adult Reception Hall: This is a pastor-led study of the Gospel of Luke. We’ll explore the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and how his message continues to inspire us today. Join us for WE@EPC meals at 5:15 pm in Thompson Hall prior to the study.

WE@EPC Divorce Care Starts January 8, at 6 pm in the CLC Room 263: For those who are facing the challenges a divorce can bring, our Care ministry offers a safe and supportive space to heal and grow. Led by compassionate pastors, this group provides biblical guidance, practical advice, and the opportunity to connect with others who understand the pain of divorce.

Sundays@5 “Vanishing Grace” Class Starts January 12: Led by Dr. Douglass Key, we'll delve into a study of Philip Yancey's book, "Vanishing Grace." Learn about the power of grace and its impact on our lives and the world around us.

ECAMP (Eastminster’s Children’s Afternoon Music Program) Kicks off on January 12, at 5 pm. Singers in grades first through fifth are welcome! We will have a devotional, a rehearsal, and then dinner near the choir room in the Sanctuary basement. Drop off and pick up in the Sanctuary. Parents, we would love your help. You will be able to sign up to volunteer for ECAMP soon. Look for emails with more information from Stefanie Hammond (shammond@eastminsterpres.org) who leads ECAMP programming.

Bible Doers Will “Do” on Wednesday, January 15, at the Olivers’: 6 - 7 am, walk and fellowship, 7 - 8 am, prepare and pray over pasta salad for Transitions. Stop by any time. Friendly faces and coffee will be waiting for you! Text Beth at 803-622-5384 with any questions.

Save the Date for EPW’s Generations of Grace, a Tea Party: Ladies of all ages are invited on Sunday, January 26, to gather for a delightful afternoon of tea, treats, and fellowship. This special event is open to all ladies of the church, young and old.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION CLASS OF 2027
The Eastminster congregation elected candidates for the offices of Elder and Deacon on Sunday, June 30, 2024. Following their election these officers-elect began an 11-week training program. This training culminated in examinations by the Session who then set aside today as the Sunday for Ordination and Installation. The following officers are presented this morning to be ordained and/or installed:

ELDERS:
John Arnold, Elizabeth Barber, Amy Cain, Ryan Causey, Sark Derderian, Katie Evatt, Susanne Hicklin, Harriet Kneece, Marion Moses, Laura Twitty

DEACONS:
Chad Abramson, David Ellison, Nate Henderson, Mary Frances Jowers, Austin Rhodes, Matt riddle, Lucy Scoville, Clay Sharpe, Kris Whiteside, Sharon Williams
Robert Simmons is filling an unexpired term in the class of 2026.



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
JANUARY 5, 2025
9:00 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD
COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

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
Be Thou My Vision arr. Lloyd Larson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP
Leader: When we pass through the waters, God is there with us.
People: **When we suffer and feel hopeless, God is there with us.**
Leader: When we are joyful and celebratory, God is there with us.
People: **Whether we feel triumphant or defeated, God is there with us, always.**
All: **Come, let us worship Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us!**

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #151
We Three Kings of Orient Are KINGS OF ORIENT
(solos on verses 2, 3 and 4, congregation sing refrain only)

***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.

PRESENTATION OF THE CRADLE ROLL

****TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**
The 3K—5K children may come to the front and bring their offering.

CHILDREN’S HYMN #487
These Treasured Children PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
We are stubborn people, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, You have become flesh and dwelt among us, and yet we think mostly about our own problems, our own desires. Help us to yearn for your presence, Lord. Pour your baptismal waters over us again. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and negativity that keep us from being the people you have called us to be, and let it begin in this silent prayer....

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 #152
What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright PUER NOBIS NASCITUR
What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light? ‘Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring. O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan
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
The Work of Christmas Dan Forrest
When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To release the pris’ner, To rebuild the nations; To bring peace among brothers, To make music from the heart.

***DOXOLOGY** Howard Thurman
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.

***OFFICER’S PRAYER** Parks Bunch

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND. **CHILDREN MAY BRING THEIR OFFERING AT THIS TIME.
†THOSE WAITING IN THE NARTHEX MAY NOW BE SEATED.
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AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
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Pastor: The Word of the LORD!
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
“Orderly Account, Extraordinary Life”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #673** (verses 1 and 2)
Jesus, Light of Joy LAUDA ANIMA

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION#673** (verse 3)
Jesus, Light of Joy LAUDA ANIMA
With the saints we lift our voices, God of power, God of might. All creation shines with glory, singing praises day and night: alleluia, al-leluia, holy, holy, holy light.

POSTLUDE
This Little Light of Mine arr. Jason W. Krug

***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 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 which begins March 2, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

January 12, 2025
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith