

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Today is Communion Sunday: If you or a member you know would like to receive in-home communion in the future, please contact Kelly McGrady, 803-256-1654 ext. 123.

Tonight our Youth Ministry End of the Year Party: Look for details from Emily Higgins via the ENews. Pastor Rob Schoonover begins today as Associate Pastor for Senior High Youth and Younger Adults.

The Palmetto Mastersingers Present, “Of Thee We Sing,” on May 23: at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. Join them for a patriotic concert directed by Dr. Benjamin Stogner. Visit the Palmetto Mastersingers website for more information.

Join us Memorial Day Weekend for Breakfast and Blended Worship- Sunday, May 25: Intergenerational Breakfast will be at 9 am in Thompson Hall (no Sunday School) followed by one blended worship service at 10:15 am in the Sanctuary.

Cancer Care Support Meeting is May 28: at 5:30 pm in Room 351 in the Education Building. This is a one-time meeting for those who are facing physical and emotional challenges with either a cancer diagnosis of a loved one or having been diagnosed with cancer themselves. Join us for prayerful fellowship and discussions with others who understand what it means to fight cancer.

Our Summer Worship Schedule Begins on Sunday, June 1: and continues through Sunday, August 3, with two worship services- Jubilee Contemporary Worship at 10 am in Thompson Hall, and Traditional Worship at 10:15 am in the Sanctuary. Mark your calendars and plan to worship with us this Summer!

Combined Adult Summer Sunday School Begins on June 1: and will be led by Dr. Douglass Key. We'll meet in the Adult Reception Hall at 9 am before worship. Our focus will be “From Jesus to Christ,” a book by Paula Fredriksen. The class will repeat on Wednesday evenings if there is interest. More details to come.

Update Volunteers and Donations for Camp Impact 2025 June 1-6: Thank you for the generous response to donations! A few spots remain for volunteers to make beds on Wednesday, May 28. If any current or retired healthcare professionals are available during that week to assist the Camp Nurse, there is still a need. Visit our website's Upcoming Events to see details of remaining volunteer opportunities. Donations will be accepted through Friday, May 23. If you have questions, please contact Kristy Stoneburner (kstoneburner@eastminsterpres.org).

Join a Small Group this Summer/Fall: EPC's Small Groups Ministry offers a variety of Small Groups (Women's, Men's, Couples and Mixed) for men and women from 20s to 90s. Each Small Group gathers weekly to study scripture, pray, and discuss how scripture impacts lives. Small Groups also serve together in the community. To find out more or join a Small Group, fill out the Small Groups Interest form in the ENews, or contact Caroline Bennett at 803-256-1654 (ext.124), or cben-nett@eastminsterpres.org.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is June 23-26, 2025 (9 am - 12 pm): Rising 4K through rising 4th graders (\$20) and rising 5th and 6th graders (\$30) will learn how to “Live It Out” and love like Jesus. Register your child or volunteer via the registration form under Upcoming Events on the website.

Save the Dates for Children’s Music Camp 2025-July 15-17: Rising 5K through rising 6th graders are invited to attend. We will enjoy music and singing, arts and crafts, devotion time, snacks, and recreation at Eastminster. Join us from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. for three fun days of learning and expressing God’s love through music. Sign up today under Upcoming Events on our website. We also welcome parents to volunteer. If you would like to help out in July, please contact Stefanie Hammond at shammond@eastminsterpres.org.

The Flowers in the Sanctuary are given by an Eastminster family.

UNISON READING: Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: SUSAN RATTEREE AND DARREN KNIGHT
HEAD USHER: RYAN BARNES (9:00 AM) AND SCOT SEIGLER (11:15 AM)

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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor
Dr. J. Ben Sloan, Parish Associate
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry
Louis Shirer, Organist
Blythe Lewis, Senior Communications Officer
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center
James Cassidy, A/V Director

Rev. Emily M. Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. Rob Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin.
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Christy Rippy, Treasurer
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director



EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 18, 2025

9:00 AND 11:15 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 worshiping our living God.
“So welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God’s glory.” Romans 15:7

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen!
People: Christ is risen indeed.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to God.
Leader: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #366

Love Divine, All Love Excelling HYFRYDOL

***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 may come to the front and bring their offering.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rob Schoonover
Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called us to be a servant people, but we do not do what you command. We are often silent when we should speak, self-centered when we should be selfless, and passive when we could be useful. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us and free us from sin, even as we lift our prayers in this silence...

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 #518

Your Only Son LAMB OF GOD
Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God. Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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

God Go Before You Roy Hopp

***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.

***OFFICER’S PRAYER**

Susan Ratteree

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Matthew 5:43-48 Page 5
Scripture Focus: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Page 102

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

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
“Hole Paradoxes”

HYMN OF PREPARATION #518

Your Only Son LAMB OF GOD
Your gift of love, we crucified; we laughed and scorned him as he died; the humble King we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.
I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy lamb of God! O wash me in his precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Invitation to the Table of the Lord
The Sursum Corda
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up unto The Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to our Lord God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer
The Words of Institution
Communion of the People

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #543**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me GREEN TYLER

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION**

May the Road Rise to Meet You Lee Turner
May the road rise to meet you; may the wind be at your back; may the sun shine warmly on your face; may the rain fall softly on your field and until we meet again, until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand. Amen.

POSTLUDE

***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.

May 25, 2025

Rev. Dr. J. Ben Sloan
One Service at 10:15 am in the Sanctuary