

## WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**Thank you to all who have submitted 2026 Pledge Commitments:** Pledge cards are available at our Welcome Centers. You may either fill out a pledge card and drop it in the offering plate or by the Church Office to the attention of Christy Rippy (EPC Treasurer), or make your pledge online via our website. Go to [www.eastminsterpres.org](http://www.eastminsterpres.org) and click on the PLEDGE button.

**Bring an Ornament in Honor of a Loved One to Help Decorate the Memory Tree:** This special memorial tree is moving to the Adult Reception Hall this Advent. You may drop off ornaments at the Church Office reception. Just look for the blue bin. We'll be adding ornaments to the tree throughout the season.

**MSB's November Food Drive:** The game has changed! We are now ONE team with ONE goal to help our neighbors in need by donating food and funds for Harvest Hope. Our goal is 5,000 lbs of food for Harvest Hope. There is a list of preferred food donations under the Upcoming Event, and monetary donations can also be made via the REGISTER HERE button. Fight Hunger...Feed Hope. Let's GO!!!

**MSB's Homeless No More Collection:** Thank you to all who shopped Amazon for adults. A generous member has donated the balance of the presents for adults. Stocking stuffers can be dropped off at EPC and are due by tomorrow.

**Give the Gift of Life this Thursday, December 4th, at the CLC:** The Blood Connection mobile unit will be in the CLC parking lot between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sign up via Upcoming Events on our website.

**Poinsettia Dedications (\$25.00) may be made through Monday, December 8th:** Form at the Welcome Center or fill out the online form with the wording you would like to have printed in the bulletins. Checks should be made out to Eastminster with "Poinsettia Memorials and Honoraria" in the memo line. Please return hard copies with checks to Julie McDaniel in the Church Office.

**EPW's Holiday Social is Saturday, December 13, at the Bullard's house from 2 to 4 p.m.:** Save the date and plan to join us. All Eastminster ladies are invited. There will be shuttles from the upper Medway lot beginning at 2 p.m. Donations for the Columbia Women's Shelter can be made by scanning the QR Code or by visiting the Upcoming Event on our website. It is a lovely time each December for fellowship and giving.

**Join us for Lessons and Carols on December 14th during Traditional Worship (9 & 11:15 a.m.):** This year's theme is "Love Has Come." Favorite Advent hymns and carols will be led by our Chancel Choir and an orchestra. Each year, Lessons and Carols is a fun and joyful way to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

**The Living Nativity is on December 14th at 5, 6, and 7 p.m. on the front lawn:** Members of all ages enjoy this rendition of the Christmas Story with livestock and wise men.

**Carols and Keyboards is on Thursday, December 18th, at 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary:** Join us for dinner before the concert in Thompson Hall at 5:45. Enjoy festive music accompanied by two pianos, an organ, handbells, and the familiar voices of the Eastminster Chancel Choir. RSVP for dinner on our website.

**The Longest Night Worship Service is on Sunday, December 21st, at 4 p.m., in the Sanctuary:** Understanding that the holidays can be especially difficult for those who are grieving, this service of Hope and Light provides comfort and is open to our community. Invite a friend who may benefit and join us.

**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship at Eastminster:** Please join us and note that the times have changed for our Christmas Eve services. **The Children's Service is at 3 p.m.** The Family Candlelight Service is at 5 p.m., and the Candlelight Communion Service is at 7 p.m. We will have one carol service on Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Dress casually, and plan to sing Christmas favorites.

**The cornucopia in the Trenholm Road Entrance** is given by an Eastminster family. **Flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God by an Eastminster family.

**Unison Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5**

**The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.**

<sup>2</sup> **In days to come  
the mountain of the Lord's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.**  
<sup>3</sup> **Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
to the house of the God of Jacob,  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."**

**For out of Zion shall go forth instruction  
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**

<sup>4</sup> **He shall judge between the nations  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;  
neither shall they learn war any more.**

<sup>5</sup> **O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the Lord!**

## SERMON NOTES

### Pledge Status Report as of November 23, 2025

*Thank you to those who have pledged. If you have not yet done so, please give us an estimate of your giving to support Christ's work through Eastminster in 2026.*

228 Pledges Increased  
89 Pledges With No Change  
20 Pledges Decreased  
43 New Pledges

For a total of 380 pledges totaling \$4,176,263

111 pledges were made for 2025, but not yet for 2026

**DEACONS:** ZACK HUDSON AND CHESLEY GOOD  
**HEAD USHER:** RUSS PURDY (9:00 AM) BILL STALLINGS (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  
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry  
Louis Shirer, Organist  
Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth  
Katie Herndon, Day School Director  
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.  
Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship and Arts  
Blythe Lewis, Senior Communications Officer  
Christy Rippy, Treasurer  
Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian  
Alex Rogers, Plant Operations Director



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

9:00 AND 11:15 AM

3200 TRENHOLM ROAD

COLUMBIA, SC 29204

803-256-1654

[www.eastminsterpres.org](http://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**  
*Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 659* Johann S. Bach

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**  
*Lord, Before This Fleeting Season is Upon Us* Libby Larson  
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

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**  
Bruce and Phyllis Peterson *(9:00 am)*  
Josh and Muffet McCain, Anna, Claire, Ashleigh and Caroline *(11:15 am)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
Leader: Let us go to the mountain of the lord that he may teach us his ways.  
People: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
Leader: God shall judge between nations and arbitrate for many peoples.  
People: Instruments of war shall become instruments of peace.  
All: Come let us walk in the light of the lord!

†\*HYMN OF ADORATION #93  
*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith *(9:00 am)*  
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall *(11:15 am)*

\*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. Dr. Douglass D. Key  
Almighty God, we confess that it is often difficult for us to admit when we are in need of your guidance and correction. There are times when we have caused hurt to our families and friends, acting like it doesn’t exist. There are times when we have been difficult to love and distant from those who care about us. We use our preoccupation and business as an excuse to remain aloof to our needs and the needs of those around us. But you are a God who is ever present, a God who draws near. For these times when we have gone astray or lost our way, show us your way, that we might be renewed in your Word and filled with your hope, your peace, your joy, and your love.

**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 #83**  
*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* STUTTGART  
1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
3. Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

**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**  
*O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Arr. Parker/Shaw

\*DOXOLOGY  
Praise to God, the One who made us. Praise to Christ, the soon-born Son. Praise the Spirit, ever with us. Praise the Godhead, Three in One. Clear a path! Prepare the way! Advent leads to Christmas Day!

\*OFFICER’S PRAYER George McCutchen

\*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

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**  
**Unison Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5** Page 594  
Scripture Focus: Matthew 24:36-44 Page 26

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

**SERMON** Rev. Emily Mooneyhan  
“This Hour”

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #350  
*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* KEEP YOUR LAMPS

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

\*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #147  
*The First Nowell* THE FIRST NOWELL  
Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

**POSTLUDE**  
*Lord Christ, the Only Son of God, BWEV 601* Johann S. Back

**\*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 February 22, 2026, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.*

**December 7, 2025**  
Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key