

## WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

**The First Step Class begins Today at 10 a.m. in Room E357:** This class series runs through March 22nd, at which time participants wishing to officially join our church family will do so at the 11:15 a.m. traditional worship service. Questions? Contact Katie Barthel ([kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org)).

**Seniors Ministry Kick-off Luncheon is Today:** Those who have RSVP'd for the meal should join us in the CLC game room after 11:15 a.m. worship.

**Kingdom Kids and Club 345 Tonight at 5 p.m.:** Look for emails from Mrs. Stefanie. Parents, we still need volunteers, so please sign up to help on Sundays if you can.

**Sundays@5 Pastoral Epistles Adult PM Class ends tonight. See below for next Sundays@5 offering.**

**Worship Discovery Second Graders are invited to assist with Worship:** now through March. You will see them serving as "Book Bearer" and "Light Bearers" on Sundays. What a great example of learning by doing! Parents, please see emails from Pastor Croskeys for Sunday sign-ups.

**WE@EPC Meal on February 25th (5:15 p.m.):** MENU: Adults: BBQ Chicken, Dirty Rice, Butterbeans, and Stewed Tomatoes & Okra Children: BBQ Drumstick, Dirty Rice, and Butterbeans. Please RSVP by Wednesday at noon.

**WE@EPC Adult PM Lenten Classes begin this Wednesday, February 25th:** "Praying the Scriptures" is a pastor-led class in the parlor (6-7 p.m.) to help us read and pray the scripture more slowly and thoughtfully. Dr. Douglass Key's Wednesday p.m. book study, "Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America," is about reasserting the truth of the Gospel. That study will be in the Adult Reception Hall (ARH) also at 6 p.m.

**Men's Oyster Roast is this Thursday, February 26th, at the Causey's:** EPC men are invited to join us for food and fellowship at 6 p.m. Venmo \$25 to Berry Mattox to RSVP, or sign up via Upcoming Events.

**Communion Sunday is March 1st:** If you know of a member who would like to receive in-home Communion, please contact Kelly McGrady ([kmcgrady@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:kmcgrady@eastminsterpres.org)).

**Sundays@5 Adult PM Lenten Study of James begins March 1st:** Join Dr. Douglass Key in the Gray Music Room to learn about James' letter for a "Settled World" through March 29th (5 weeks). The sermon series during March will be on James.

**EAA Group Photography 4-week Workshop begins Monday, March 2nd (HS Students+):** for all experience levels. Bring your digital camera or request one via EAA. Ryan Holcombe (EPC Communications) will lead our workshop (\$110/student registration fee). Visit the EAA page on our website to register.

**Nomination forms for EPW's Honorary Lifetime Membership Awards are available:** Forms may be picked up in our reception area or filled out online under Upcoming Events. Please submit nominations by March 6.

**March Out For Missions is March 7th with Rise Against Hunger in the CLC (gym):** Visit Upcoming Events to sign up and serve that morning. We will be packing food to fight hunger across the globe!

**Join us for a Peace Service on March 8th, at 4 p.m. (Sanctuary):** a Worship Service of Healing and Wholeness with Communion and Anointing. Each Peace Service is led by Care Pastors, and all are welcome.

**Serve with us in Western NC April 17th - 22nd:** repairing homes damaged by Hurricane Helene. There are also other options. You can travel Friday, April 17th, and return on Sunday, April 19th, or arrive Sunday, April 19th, and return on Wednesday, April 22nd. Visit Upcoming Events to sign up

**Flowers in the sanctuary** are given to the glory of God by an Eastminster family

## Unison Reading: Ephesians 4:21-24

<sup>21</sup> For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

## SERMON NOTES



EASTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN



DEACONS: MATT RIDDLE AND LEE TUPPER  
HEAD USHER: BERRY MATTOX (9:00 AM) WILSON MCDONALD (11:15 AM)  
<sup>1</sup> © PUBLIC DOMAIN CCLI LICENSE NO. 1892950

## 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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT  
FEBRUARY 22, 2026  
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 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

*O Lamb of God, Most Holy*

J.S. Bach

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

Leader: The world is hard. Cold, like winter wilderness.  
People: Life in this world can be confusing, overwhelming, anxiety-producing.  
Leader: Yet God is here. The Still Small Voice. The Light in the darkness.  
People: So we turn again to our Lord. To listen. To lean on.  
To follow.  
All: We gather to worship you, O God. Awaken our slumbering souls, stir our hearts and minds, unite and lift our voices in praise even hear and even now....

### \*\*HYMN OF ADORATION #166

*Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

ST. FLAVIAN

### \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

### \*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

Rev. Royall

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Rob Schoonover

Gracious God, too often we let the busy keep us from the best. Forgive us. We let insecurities and inadequacies put distance between ourselves and others, between ourselves and You. We let pride and vain pursuits displace disciplines that would help us open ourselves to You. We chase the ways of this world until we find ourselves lost in the wilderness. Forgive us and help us see how you reach to us in Jesus and beckon us through your Spirit, showing us in word and deed that You are the Way, the Truth and the Life....(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 #598

Choir will sing first, congregation joins  
*Amen, We Praise Your Name*  
AMEN SIAKUDUMISA  
Amen, we praise your name, O God! Amen, we praise your name, O God!  
Amen, amen. Amen, amen. Amen, we praise your name, O God!

### 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

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

arr. Vicki Smith  
Memorial Handbells

### \*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.

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Branford Breland

\*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: Ephesians 4:21-24

Scripture Focus: James 1:19-27

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Leader: The Word of the LORD!

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

SERMON: Gratitude in Action #1:  
"Doing and Not Just Hearing"

### \*HYMN OF DEDICATION #543 (verses 1-4)

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (following the 9:00 am service)

### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### \*RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #543 (verse 5)

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

GREEN TYLER

Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

### POSTLUDE

### \*A TIME FOR GREETING AND FELLOWSHIP



A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the 9 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing one Elder and one Deacon to fill vacancies in the classes of 2026 and 2027. The Officer Nominating Committee for 2026 will be elected: John Hart, Chair, Harriet Kneece, Vice-Chair, Lisa Newman, Robert Simmons, Bailey Wolfe, Harper James, Hank Mabry, Mary Bett Thorne, Ginger Bates and Danny Buckner.

### 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?** Join us for the First Step Class, beginning today and going through March 22. Visit Upcoming Events to register, or contact Katie Barthel ([kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org](mailto:kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org)).

March 1, 2026

Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key