

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

* For details and to register for EPC programs and events, visit Upcoming Events (www.eastminsterpres.org).

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for today immediately following the 9 am service, for the purpose of filling a vacancy on the Session. The Officer Nominating Committee recommends elder Kevin O’Connell, who recently rotated off Session, fill the vacancy through this calendar year, with elder George Kennedy extending his current term until the end of 2027.

EPC’s Fall Worship Schedule begins today with three worship services- Traditional Worship at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary, and Jubilee Contemporary Worship also beginning at 11:15 a.m. in Thompson Hall. Sunday School for children and youth is at 10 a.m. in classrooms. 3K-5K will be in the Gym today only.

*The Bible Makes Sense Combined Adult Sunday School starts today: Dr. Douglass Key’s three-week study, “The Bible Makes Sense,” is for all adults at 10 a.m. in Thompson Hall. This study will prepare us for Fall faith formation related to our new theme, “Come and See: Journey with Jesus.”

*Seniors’ Smart Driver Course is this Thursday, August 13th, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Room E-351. (\$20 AARP Members, \$25 non-members).

*Scotland Travelers Meeting is August 16th, at 3 p.m. in the Gray Music Room. Record-ings of past meetings can be found under Upcoming Events, along with links to recently added handouts.

*Blessing of the Backpacks Peace Service next Sunday, August 16th, at 4 p.m. (Thomp-son Hall) EPC Students and families are invited for a short celebratory worship service with blessings for the school year. School supplies will be collected as our offering. Don’t forget to bring your backpacks!

The EAA (Eastminster Arts Academy) Fall Lessons begin August 17th: Visit the EAA page on our website to see offerings, sign-up and make payments. We are excited to begin our second year of arts excellence. Voice, piano, guitar, and various strings will be offered.

*Eastminster Missions Night is Wednesday, August 19th (Thompson Hall). “Come and See: The Mission Table.” Hear from Eastminster’s Missions leaders/volunteers and community partners. Learn ways to serve all year. Dinner is free (5:30 - 6:45 p.m.). Childcare is available for nursery-3rd grade. Please RSVP.

*Transitions Third Thursday is August 20th at Transitions: We have two opportunities to serve a meal (AM&PM). Donations of pasta salad, pound cakes, bananas, and water are appre-ciated and due to EPC’s Staff Kitchen by 3 p.m. on August 20th.

Kingdom Kids and Club 345 Kickoff August 23rd from 5-6:30 p.m. See emails from Mrs. Stefanie for details and sign-up forms.

*Sundays@5 Adult Bible Study on the Gospel of John starts on September 13th in the Gray Music Room. Our study, led by Dr. Douglass Key, will cover the first 11 chapters of John, starting with an invitation to “Come and See.” You will be able to register soon.

*WE@EPC Church-wide Book Study-*Jesus Changes Everything* by Stanley Hauerwas begins September 16th (6 p.m.) in the Adult Reception Hall. Dr. Douglass Key will lead our study as we discern what God wants and hopes for us, as well as what is required of us on the journey.

*WE@EPC Adult Study, *The Gift of Empathy*, by Bretscher & Haugk conversation begins September 16th (6 p.m.). Led by Rev. Emily Mooneyhan and EPC Stephen Ministers- together, we’ll explore empathy, a familiar yet underutilized skill. We’ll share and learn through informal discussions.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given in celebration of the baptism of Ada Anderson Loggins by her parents, Blake and Logan Loggins.

For detailed information and to register for the above programs and events, visit our website: https://eastminsterpres.org/, scroll to “Upcoming Events”

UNISON READING: Mark 1:1-6
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.
2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,’ ”

4 so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: JONI RICHARDSON AND JIM KITCHENS	
HEAD USHER: JEFF MUTHIG	
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MINISTERS—ALL OF US!	
STAFF	
Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor	
Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor	Rev. Emily Mooneyhan, Associate Pastor
Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor	Rev. Robert Schoonover, Associate Pastor
Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry	Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate
Louis Shirer, Organist	Dr. Augie Gil, Director of Worship & Arts
Alisha Hudson, Ex. Dir. Finance and Admin	Emily Higgins, Director of Middle School Youth
Blythe Lewis, Sr. Communications Officer	Katie Herndon, Day School Director
Emmet Hough, Director of Christian Life Center	Christy Rippy, Treasurer
James Cassidy, A/V Director	Caroline Bennett, Small Groups Dir./Librarian



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 9, 2026
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
Festival Prelude on “Thaxted” Gustav Holst/David Petit
Thomas Finigan, trumpet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP
This Little Light of Mine

†***HYMN OF ADORATION #35**
Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty LOBE DEN HERREN

***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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Ada Anderson Loggins (*11:15 am*)

BAPTISMAL HYMN #188
Jesus Loves Me! JESUS LOVES ME

****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
Lord God, in Jesus you came into the world, yet the world did not receive you. You came to your own, and your own did not welcome you. Still today, people are distracted, disregarding your message and your way of living. Worse yet, O Lord, we confess our guilt. Too often we are among those who are distracted, disregarding your teaching, your example, even your love. Forgive us, O Master, and help us turn back to you in this time of 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 #442
Just As I Am WOODWORTH
Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come; I 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
I’ll Sing Molly Ijames
I sing the mighty pow’r of God that made the mountains rise, That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day: the moon shines full at His command and all the stars obey. I’ll sing to the Lord while live. I’ll sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food. He formed the creatures with His Word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how Thy wonders are displayed where’er I turn my eye, If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky! There’s not a plant of flow’r below but makes Thy glories known; And clouds arise and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne.While all that borrows life from Thee is ever in Thy care, And ev’ry-where that man can be Thou God art present there. I’ll sing to the Lord while I live, I’ll sing! Isaac Watts

***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** Kit Pound

SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Unison Reading: Mark 1:1-6 Page 32
Scripture Focus: John 1:1-18 Page 86

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
The Uniqueness of Jesus #1 of 5: “The Ultimate Adoption Agent”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #12**
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (*following the 9 am service*)

***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
Toccata John Weaver

***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 Katie Barthel at kbarthel@eastminsterpres.org or 803-256-1654 to learn more and find out about our next First Step group, a class designed to help you learn about Eastminster and our ongoing ministries.

DURING THIS MORNING’S WORSHIP:
Ada Anderson Loggins, daughter of Logan and Blake Loggins, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 am service. Laura Long will offer the baptismal prayer.

August 16, 2026
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
John 1:29-34
The Uniqueness of Jesus #2 of 5: “He’s Here, He’s Here”