

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

A Baby Room (S-97) for crying or hungry babies is available in the sanctuary basement. The space has been set apart for parents who may need to change or feed their baby during worship. A changing table and rocking chairs are available; the worship service is online.

Houston Hackett, one of our Choral Scholars, is directing the Chancel Choir for the offertory anthem this morning. Houston is a senior at USC pursuing a Bachelor’s in Music Education. He is completing requirements for applying to graduate school to study choral conducting.

*Sundays@5 Adult Bible Study is on the Gospel of John in the Gray Music Room. Our study, led by Dr. Douglass Key, will cover the first eleven chapters of John, starting with an invitation to “Come and See.”

Kingdom Kids and Club 345 meet tonight from 5 - 6:30 p.m.: Kingdom Kids drop off is in Thompson Hall (TH). Club 345 drop off in Room 256 of the Education Building.

*Join us for WE@EPC Meals in Thompson Hall this Fall: Visit Upcoming Events to view the menu and RSVP by noon on Wednesdays. Pay online or at the door (cash or check). Pricing: ages 0-8: \$4, ages 9 and older: \$8- There is no household cap.

*WE@EPC Church-wide Book Study- Jesus Changes Everything by Stanley Hauerwas: on Wednesdays at 6 p.m., led by Dr. Douglass Key. We will discern what God wants for us, as well as what is required of us.

*Our WE@EPC Adult Study, The Gift of Empathy, by Joel Bretscher and Kenneth Haugk: on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. with Rev. Emily Mooneyhan and EPC Stephen Ministers- Apply empathy in everyday life. Books available at sign-up but not required.

*EPW Circles One and Three meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. in Thompson Hall: Members are invited to gather again for fellowship and conversation as the circles begin their fall meetings. New and returning participants are welcome.

*EPW Bible Study: “Honey in the Bible” begins Tuesday, October 13th: at 10 a.m. in the Adult Reception Hall. Susan Owen will lead our study on October 13th, 20th, and 27th on the significance of honey throughout Scripture. Please register so we can plan for seating.

*Transitions Third Thursday is October 15th: Serve either lunch or dinner to our friends at Transitions. Donations of pound cakes, pasta salad, bananas, and bottled water are appreciated and due to EPC’s Staff Kitchen by 3 p.m.

*Give the Gift of Life at Eastminster’s Blood Drive on Thursday, October 15th: from 1-5 p.m. The Blood Connection Bloodmobile will be at the CLC. Visit Upcoming Events or scan the QR code on the flat screens around campus. Sponsor Code: 13080.

Dedication Sunday is October 25th: The Stewardship Committee invites you to a celebration of thanks in the Courtyard at 12:30 p.m. Please join us for fellowship and refreshments accompanied by bagpipe music. To participate in the Kirkin Processional during traditional worship, contact Fredna Lee (flee@eastminsterpres.org).

Peanut Butter Sunday is October 25th: Bring a jar or two of peanut butter to help fight food insecurity in The Midlands. You may drop them in Harvest Hope bins in our reception areas. We appreciate your donations each fourth Sunday.

Fall Fest is October 25th on the Field from 3-5 p.m.: EPC is partnering with TRUMC and Shandon UMC again this year for a few hours of spooky fun. Wear your costumes and enjoy the fellowship, popcorn, hotdogs and other snacks. The popular cake walk is also back, along with craft areas. Look for details from Pastor Croskeys

*Return to Serve- W North Carolina Oct. 29th-Nov. 1st, and Bahamas Jan. 16th-23rd Adult Trips: repairing homes and buildings after Hurricane damage. Sign-Ups are live on the website. Come and serve with us!

EPW Vine Retreat is January 29-31, 2027, at The Cove. All Presbyterian women are invited for a weekend of fellowship and faith formation. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given in celebration of the baptism of Suzanne (Anne) Woods by her grandparents, Zan and Paul Eaddy.

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

UNISON READING: 2 Kings 17:29, 32-34, 41

29 But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the people of Samaria had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived;

32 They also worshiped the Lord and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 So they worshiped the Lord but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away. 34 To this day they continue to practice their former customs. They do not worship the Lord, and they do not follow the statutes or the ordinances or the law or the commandment that the Lord commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel.

41 So these nations worshiped the Lord but also served their carved images; to this day their children and their children’s children continue to do as their ancestors did.

SERMON NOTES

DEACONS: ROBERT SIMMONS AND DANA WILSON
HEAD USHERS: JEFF MUTHIG (9:00 AM) MIKE GORMAN (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. 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



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 11, 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD;
People: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Leader: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
People: let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down,
People: let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
ALL: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

†*HYMN OF ADORATION #41
O Worship the King LYONS

*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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM Suzanne White Woods*(11:15 am)*

BAPTISMAL HYMN #486
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise JESUS LOVES ME

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Rob Schoonover
Word made Flesh, when you could have turned aside, found another way, and avoided the iniquity of our sin, you instead set your course directly into our path. When we cannot come to you on account of our sin, you seek us out and restore us to life. When we are dying of thirst, you become for us a spring of water, gushing with hope and promise. We are unworthy to be called by your name. Our witness is halting and our hearts are slow to believe. Where you see beloved followers, we see despised outsiders. Where you see saints in progress, we see difficult and disobedient intruders. You invite us to come and see but our eyes are not trained and our minds are not receptive to your truth. Draw near to us, O Lord, in this silence; wash us clean from our sin, set us free from ourselves, and teach us to see what you see, that we might serve you with joy and justice all our days.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

CHORAL RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON
Thou, O Lord Lisa Ireland

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER Rev. Rob Schoonover
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 Lord, Thou Hast Searched Me Ronald Nelson
O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me! Thou knowest when I sit down and when I rise up; Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Where shall I go from thy Spirit? Or where shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend to heaven thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there thy hand shall lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. Even darkness is not dark to thee, The night is as bright as the day; for darkness is as Light to thee. I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful! Thou knowest me right well. Wonderful are thy works! I praise Thee for thou art fearful and wonderful, Lord. How precious to me are thy thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!
Psalm 139 Houston Hackett, conductor, Savannah Elgin, violin

***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** Robert Simmons
SCRIPTURE LESSON
Unison Reading: 2 Kings 17:29, 32-34, 41 Page 334
Scripture Focus: John 4:5-42 Page 89
Pastor: The Word of the LORD!
Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
“He Can’t Be. Can He?”

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #182**
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say KINGSFOLD

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #80**
You Shall Go Out With Joy THE TREES OF THE FIELD
You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there’ll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; **, the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands ** while you go out with joy.

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 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:
Suzanne White Woods, daughter of Mills and Williams Woods, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 11:15 am service. Paul Eaddy will offer the baptismal prayer.

October 18, 2026
Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith
Mark 12:38-44
“Radical Devotion”