

THE KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS

AT EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Today is a day of multiple celebrations. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther penned *Ninety-five Theses*, and nailed them to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany, thus signaling the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Secondly, we offer our pledges today to support Christ's work through this church in the coming year.

Celebrating God's work throughout history and through previous generations, today is also Eastminster's Kirkin' o' the Tartans service. As we worship, may the sounds of the bagpipe and drums remind you how God's Spirit works through history, reaching from Jesus Christ to the first disciples to John Calvin in Switzerland, and from Calvin to John Knox in Scotland to our ancestors to us. Similarly, may the tartans remind us, not only of the Scottish families that asked God's blessing centuries ago, but also of our opportunity to live for God in ways that may impact our own families and communities for generations yet to come.

The Kirkin' in its present form was first held in Washington's New York Ave. Presbyterian Church in 1941, led by Dr. Peter Marshall, a Scot, who was Chaplain of the U.S. Senate and a pastor.

Kirk is the Scottish word for church, and the tartans represent specific Scottish clans, families, regions, and regiments. Perhaps no symbol is more associated with Scotland and the Scottish tradition than the colorful Highland dress.

The tartan is an old tradition, with many references to it in early Scottish literature. The ancient tartan was described as "chequered" or "striped." The pattern and length of tartan is made of one "sett" repeated over and over again until the desired length is reached. For many centuries, tartans formed part of the everyday dress of the Highland people, and it was there that its use continued and developed, until it became recognized as a symbol of clan kinship.

John Knox, the Scottish Reformer, studied under John Calvin, the father of Presbyterianism, in Geneva, Switzerland, in the 1500s. Upon returning to Scotland, he wrote the first Book of Church Order and established the first Presbyterian churches. The church spread to Ireland, and it was immigrants from Scotland and Ireland who brought the Presbyterian Church to America. The Scots Confession was the first Reformed confession in the English language. It has been called the charter of the Church of Scotland and of world Presbyterianism.

The Scottish Parliament, at the conclusion of a civil war, invited John Knox and five colleagues to prepare a confession of faith for the church and the nation. During the Middle Ages and through the Reformation, Bibles were rare among common people. The Bible of the Kirk (church) was a treasured possession. The value of the sacred scriptures and the danger of theft led to the establishment of a special lay office within the Kirk known as "the Beadle." The Beadle begins the worship service by carrying the Bible ceremoniously into the sanctuary. The Beadle removes the Bible from the Kirk for safekeeping following the service.

The bagpipe is a musical instrument now regarded as the national instrument of Scotland. Each clan had its own bagpiper, and its fame was based to some extent on the bagpiper's ability. Crimond, the bagpiper of the clan McLeod, wrote a tune to the Twenty-Third Psalm still used today.

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Columbia, South Carolina

Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans
October 25, 2026
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

God Calls Us to Gather and Worship

Prelude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, BWV720

J. S. Bach

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE KIRK

REV. DR. BRADLEY D. SMITH

PROCESSION OF THE TARTANS

Highland Cathedral

Christian Markle, piper, Russell Davis, drummer

Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb

ORDER OF PROCESSION

The Beadle, Clerk of Session, Anne Seabrook
Pipes and Drums, Christian Markle and Russell Davis
The Reverend Doctor Bradley D. Smith
The Reverend Emily Mooneyhan
The Reverend Doctor Douglass D. Key
The Reverend Rob Schoonover
The Reverend Doctor Carol J. Byrd

OPENING SONG

This Little Light of Mine

HYMN OF ADORATION #275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN FESTE BURG

PRAYER OF ADORATION

REV. EMILY MOONEYHAN

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

REV. DR. BRADLEY D. SMITH (11:15 AM)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From the Scots Confession, 1560)

We confess and acknowledge one God alone,
to whom we must cleave, whom alone we must serve,
whom alone we must worship, and in whom we put our trust.
Who is one in substance and yet distinct in three persons,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible,
to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled
and guided by His inscrutable providence,
for such end as His eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed,
and to the manifestation of His own glory.

**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.

A TIME WITH THE WEE KIRK (9:00 AM)

REV. ROB SCHOONOVER

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

REV. DR. DOUGLASS D. KEY

Dear Gracious God, We are poor and needy in matters of the Spirit. You offer the Bread of Life,
but our hands are clenched around bread that does not satisfy. You offer a Living Water for our
souls, but we confess to drinking that which leaves us parched. On this new day, O God, help us
confess our waywardness and accept the gift of your transforming love in Jesus Christ, the Good
Shepherd, who died that we might have life, and have it abundantly. Hear now our silent prayer,
prayers of confession....

RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #463

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in God’s excellent Word!
What more can be said than to you God hath said, to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I’ll
strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

DR. CAROL J. BYRD

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.

GOD’S WORD IS PROCLAIMED

ANTHEM

An Offering

Dan Forrest

O Christ, Who spared not any cost, Not any grace withheld, But poured forth Your redeeming blood In love unparalleled; What would you have me offer, Lord? What must I count as loss That I may taste the fellow-ship That brings me near the cross? Why should I cling to gifts You give? Why grasp in foolish pride What You who gave Yourself for me Now bid me lay aside? To know You is my highest gain, With any sacrifice, A treasure worthy to possess At any earthly price. Yet if behind my open hands, My heart shrinks from the cost, Teach me that nothing offered You Is ever truly lost. A hundredfold reward awaits In one glimpse of Your face, My sacrifice forgotten in the riches of Your grace.

Eileen Berry

UNISON READING:

Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 4-8

“Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ² so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ...

⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ...”

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Philippians 1:1-11

SERMON

“Giving Thanks”

REV. DR. BRADLEY D. SMITH

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE, JOY, AND SERVICE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #649

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SANDY SPANN

Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true, holy and life-giving, thank you for who you are. Thank you for your love made flesh in Jesus the Christ. We praise you for your work through the Body of Christ around the world, and for your work in our lives through Eastminster. In grateful response to your generous provision, we dedicate our whole selves- heart, mind, strength and soul- to you. Accept our offerings of time, talent and treasures, and use them for your glory. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE TARTANS

Sir, representing the clans of Scots through whom God worked to plant seeds of faith in this great land, we present these tartans as symbols of families from every tongue and nation before Almighty God and request you to ask God’s blessings on all those who bear witness to Jesus Christ.

THE BLESSING (UNISON)

As brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, we raise these tartans before God in grateful appreciation of God’s redemptive work in the lives of those faithful witnesses in genera-tions gone by, and on God’s servants of every land and of every tongue, that we may to-gether praise His Holy Name. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

BAGPIPE RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Suite Gothique Op. 25

Léon Boëllmann

Looking Ahead

November 1	Falcon Sunday in Jubilee; All Saints in traditional worship, Communion She Sings in Concert at Trenholm Road Methodist to benefit Epworth Home 4 pm
November 17	Eastminster Arts Academy Recitals, 6:30 pm in the Adult Reception Hall
December 6	Four pianos in traditional worship
December 7	Carols and Keyboards at 7 pm preceded by dinner in Thompson Hall
December 13	Lessons and Carols in traditional worship
December 20	Longest Night service in the sanctuary at 4 pm, followed by the Living Nativity at 5:30 and 6:30 pm
December 21	Sandlapper Singers in holiday concert at 7 pm in the EPC sanctuary
December 24	3 pm Children’s Service; 5 pm Family Candlelight, 7 pm Candlelight Communion
December 25	Christmas Day worship at 10:30am in the sanctuary

DEACONS: NATE HENDERSON AND SALLIE JAMESON
HEAD USHER: BERRY MATTOX (9:00 AM) AND WILSON MCDONALD (11:15 AM)
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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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Matthew and Sophia Abney



Mitch Amoriello & Madeline Ballard



Drew and Megan Balcerzak



Laurel and Cole McCarter



David and Elizabeth McCutchen



Trey and Ashley Miller



Sam and Jill Baxter



Colby and Pamela Bohannon



Dylan and Suzanne Brandon



Kate O'Keefe



Hannah and Matt Pangle



Court and Allison Russo



Mary Boyd Brown



Jan and Hugh Burgess



Mary-Myers and Jacob Corsi



Caroline & Peter Vangerseenhoven



Sarah Watson



Nicholas and Laura Whitmore



Grant Fontaine and Maggie Randle



Lauren Halter



Gene Locklair



William Woods

WELCOME TO EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

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

Welcome to Dedication Sunday: You will find pledge cards in our Friendship Registers, or you may pledge online at www.eastminsterpres.org blue PLEDGE button. You are invited to a celebration of thanks hosted by Stewardship in the Courtyard after the 11:15 a.m. services. Join us for fellowship, and enjoy lunch fare with heavy hors d'oeuvres and sweet treats.

New Members join Eastminster today during 11:15 a.m. worship (Sanctuary): Be sure to stop by the Courtyard Celebration and introduce yourself.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoeboxes are here: Pick up a shoebox at OCC tables in Reception areas. Fill it with gifts for a boy or a girl, and return by November 22nd.

***Fall Fest is Today on the Field from 3-5 p.m.:** Wear your costumes and join us for fellowship! Enjoy popcorn, hotdogs and other snacks. The cake walk is back, along with craft areas. If you can help this afternoon, please let Pastor Croskeys know. You can find the sign-up on our website.

***Sundays@5 Tonight's Programming:** Dr. Brad Smith will lead the Gospel of John class tonight. No regular Youth or Children's Sunday Night Programming.

***Seniors' Fall Social is Tomorrow, from 3-4:30 p.m.,** in the Adult Reception Hall: We hope you'll join us to catch up with friends and enjoy seasonal treats. You may still RSVP on our website's Upcoming Events.

***The EPW Vine Retreat is January 29-31, 2027, at The Cove:** All Presbyterian women are invited for a weekend of fellowship and faith formation. Our speaker is Rev. Julie Bailey (Columbia Seminary). \$200 is due on November 13th, with the balance due on December 18th. If you paid for last year's retreat which was canceled, please indicate on this year's registration form. Contact Janice Blair (jblair@eastminster.com) with any questions!

***Join us for WE@EPC Meals in Thompson Hall:** 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.

Next Sunday, November 1st, is Communion Sunday: Next Sunday is All Saints Sunday: Join us as we honor members who have joined The Church Triumphant over the past year (Sanctuary Worship). We will celebrate Communion at all three services. If you would like to receive Home Communion, please contact Kelly McGrady with Care Ministries (kmcgrady@eastminsterpres.org) or 803-256-1654 ext. 123)

Next Sunday is AC Flora "Falcon Sunday" at Jubilee Contemporary Worship (TH): Join us in support and celebration of EPC's Falcon Football Ministry. Be sure to welcome team members and families.

A special "She Sings" Concert is Next Sunday at 4 p.m. at Trenholm Road UMC: in loving memory of She Sings Co-founder, Paula Wilson. Donations will go to Epworth Children's Home. All are welcome. Bring a friend and join us.

***Lightly Seasoned Fall Social is Tuesday, November 3rd:** (7-9 p.m.). We welcome empty nesters, retirees, and adults who find themselves with a little more time to reconnect. RSVP and sign up to bring a side or dessert. We'll meet at Clarissa & Jeff Adams' home (1623 Milford Road). Beth and Hampton Oliver are co-hosting. Bring a canned good for Harvest Hope.

***Eastminster LIFE (Learning Is For Everyone) Moms' Social** is Thursday, November 5th: at the Liggitt's (7-9 p.m.). If you have a child who is neurodivergent, has a learning difference, or any other disability, this group is for you! Invite a friend who may benefit & RSVP to Laura Twitty (laura.twitty@gmail.com).