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.

Thank you to all who have submitted Pledges for 2027: To pledge online, visit www.eastminsterpres.org, and click the blue PLEDGE button at the top right. You may also fill out a pledge card and place it in the offering or bring it to the Church Office, attention Christy Rippy- EPC Treasurer.

All MSB (Missions, Service & Benevolence) Service Opportunities: can now be found on our website's homepage (www.eastminsterpres.org). You will see "Mission Opportunities" midway down the page. Contact Laura Long with questions about holiday service at EPC (llong@eastminsterpres.org).

Advent Devotionals are Available in our Reception Areas: You may also find the online version under Resources/Publications on our website. .

Mall to Manger Cards and Envelopes are Available in our Reception Areas: Donations go to EMS Closet and the Women's Shelter. Be sure to note "M2M" on the memo line of checks, or on the envelope. You may place donations in the offering plate, or drop by the Church Office, Attn: Treasurer.

***Join us for Care Ministry's Advent "Creative Connection":** for three Thursdays beginning December 3rd, 10th, and 17th at 10am. Make Christmas cards for our homebound members and enjoy Christmas carols, coffee, and sweet treats as we create!

***2026 Poinsettia Memorials and Honoraria:** The Flower Guild is accepting memorials and honoraria to help decorate the Sanctuary and other areas of the church with live wreaths, greenery, and poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Submit your dedication wording through the online form by Monday, December 7.

***Carols and Keyboards Dinner and Concert is on December 7th:** Join us for dinner in Thompson Hall at 5:45 p.m. Menu: Chicken Scallopini, Cheese Tortellini, Roasted Asparagus, Roll, Pear, Cranberry, Feta, and Arugula Salad, Carrot Cake, and Red Velvet Cake. We'll move to the sanctuary for the concert at 7 p.m. to enjoy Christmas music featuring four pianos.

***The EPW Vine Retreat is January 29th-31st, 2027, at The Cove:** All women are invited for a weekend of fellowship and faith formation. Our speaker is Rev. Julie Bailey (Columbia Seminary). Contact Janice Blair (jblair@eastminster.org) with any questions.

***The Seniors' Holiday Tour of the Governor's Mansion** is Thursday, December 10th: We'll meet at Eastminster and depart by bus at 9:45 a.m., and return by 11:45 a.m. (tour only). Please RSVP.

***Transitions Service Opportunities and Donations** on December 17th and December 25th: In addition to the regular Third Thursday outreach, we will serve lunch and dinner on Christmas Day for 450 neighbors at Transitions and the Rapid Center.

Christmas Eve Worship: 3 p.m. Children's service, 5 p.m. Family Candlelight service, and 7 p.m. Candlelight Communion service. Our 3 p.m. Children's service is lively and well-attended. Overflow seating will be in the parlor once the sanctuary is filled. The Family Candlelight service at 5 p.m. will have overflow seating in Thompson Hall with the service on the screen, and a pastor and singers to help lead worship. The 7 p.m. Candlelight service is less crowded and Communion will be served. For any service, you may save one spot on the pew next to you, but not the entire pew. Ushers will help with available seating as our sanctuary begins to fill for each service. **Christmas Day worship** is in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m; dress casually and plan to sing plenty of carols.

***Bahamas Adult Mission Trip is January 16th-23rd, 2027:** Experience serving in the Abacos! Help rebuild for those impacted by Hurricane Dorian. See what God is doing in the Bahamas.

Cornucopia in theTrenholm Road Entrance is given in love and thanksgiving for the lives of Henry and Susan DaVega and in memory of Ellen DaVega and Anita Rownd by their family, Susan Gibbins and Michael DaVega. **Flowers in the sanctuary** are given in celebration of the baptism of Georgia Sutton Bristow and Margaret Banks Bristow, twin daughters of Mary and Melton Bristow and granddaughters of Anne and Walter Bristow.

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

UNISON READING: Unison Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

[2] But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
[3] Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
[4] And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
[5] and he shall be the one of peace.

SERMON NOTES

Pledge Status Report as of November 23, 2026
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 workthrough Eastminster in 2027.

210	*Pledges increased*
93	*Pledges with no change*
25	*Pledges decreased*
58	*New Pledges*

For a total of 386 pledges totaling $4,212,298
102 pledges were made for 2026 but not yet for 2027

Deacons: nate henderson and richard slater
Head Ushers: russ purdy (9:00 am) bill stallings (11:15 am)

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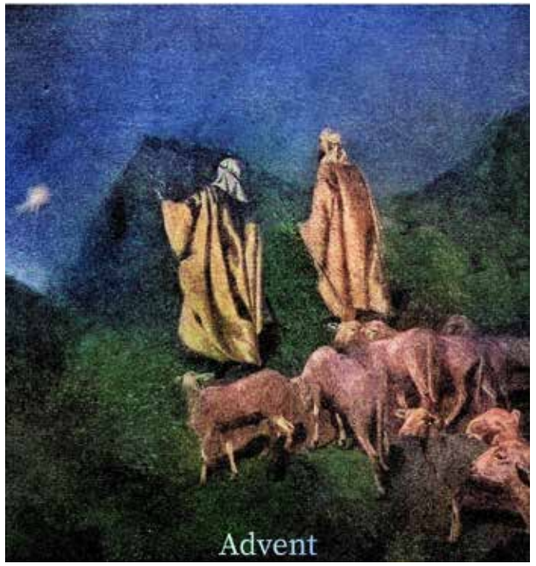
MINISTERS—ALL OF US!

STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor	Rev. 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

EASTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 29, 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

Meine Seele erhebt den Herren, BWV 648 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

Jeff, Kathleen, Wick and JP Muthig *(9:00 am)*
Danny, Hannah, Betty and Dawson Buckner *(11:15 am)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of hope: "The Lord is my light and salvation."
People: "He sends good news to the oppressed and binds up the broken-hearted.
Leader: He proclaims liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners."
People: God of all mercy, we praise you for the great gift of your Son, Jesus, the Christ!

†***HYMN OF ADORATION** #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

***PRAYER OF ADORATION** Rev. Rob Schoonover

***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

Margaret Banks Bristow and Georgia Sutton Bristow (9:00 am)

BAPTISMAL HYMN #115

Away in a Manger

****TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Emily Mooneyhan

Gracious God, As we begin this Advent journey, we humbly bow before you. Forgive our hurriedness so that we might be filled with your holiness. Forgive us our abiding anxiety, so that we might be filled with Mary's expectancy. Forgive us our worry, so that we might be filled with your wonder. Forgive our darker impulses, so that we might be filled with the light of our Savior. Hear our prayers, O Lord, even in this silence...

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!

RESPONSE TO THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON #83

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTTGART

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our joy in thee.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Rev. 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.

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

Magnificat, Collegium Regale

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath shew'd strength with his arm, and hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Luke 1: 46-55

***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!

R. G. Huff

***OFFICER'S PRAYER** Nate Henderson

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Unison Reading: Micah 5:2-5a Page 815
Scripture Focus: Luke 1:39-56 Page 53

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

SERMON Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

"Who? When? Where? Why?"

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #100**

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION #106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

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:

Margaret Banks Bristow and Georgia Sutton Bristow, twin daughters of Melton and Mary Margaret Bristow, will receive the sacrament of baptism at the 9 am service. Anne Bristow, paternal grandmother, will offer the baptismal prayer.

December 6, 2026
Rev. Dr. Douglass D. Key
Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11