

Response to Confession *“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”* (vs. 1)
 “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” so says our God.
 “Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
 To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
 Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”
(TEXT: Johannes Olearius, 1671; trans Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.; MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551)

Special Music *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”* arr. Anna Laura Page
 Bell Quartet: Debbie Huntoon-Gregory, Lazan Rogers, Marsha Dibbern, Signe Garms

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

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.

Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory Response *“My Soul Cries Out”* (vs. 2)
 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
 And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
 You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

*(Refrain) My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*
(TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990; MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990; Text and Music Arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.)

Scripture Mark 1:1-8
Message *“The Messenger”* Pastor John

Song *“As with Gladness Men of Old”* (vs. 1,2,4)
 As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
 As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
 So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
 There to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
 So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

 Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
 And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.
(TEXT: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1858; MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906)

Benediction

 Brothers and sisters, as the Church of Jesus Christ, go from this place...
 **Knowing Christ, growing in God’s love, and serving as
 the Holy Spirit leads.**

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Christmas Joy Offering. Because of your generous gifts of \$942.00 in 2019, the Presbyterian Mission Agency was able to help provide brighter educational opportunities for students at historically Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges, a longstanding tradition of the church. Gifts to the offering also supported the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, a fund that stands in the gap to assist retired church leaders and their survivors in difficult times. Together, they make the Christmas Joy Offering a tribute to the leaders of our church—past and present. Offerings can be mail to church office or you may give online at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org>. If you send your Christmas Joy offering to the church, please note on memo line: Joy Offering.



Virtual Poinsettias. Because our Advent worship services are virtual this year, we are simplifying Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. We will not have as many poinsettias as in Christmases past, but we can still honor our loved ones with a “virtual” poinsettia. The funds collected from this ministry will be given to Jefferson County Community Ministries to be used to help the many families who are experiencing economic difficulty because of the effects of the pandemic. If you would like to purchase and dedicate a “virtual” poinsettia please call or email the church office to let us know the person(s) ‘in memory of’, or ‘in honor of’, or “to the glory of God’ and the name of the giver, on or before Tuesday, ***December 15th***. Send your check for \$10.00 per poinsettia, or any donation to this ministry, to the church office at CTPC, PO Box 89, Charles Town, WV 25414 and note in memo line: poinsettia. The list will be printed in the worship bulletin on December 20th, and in the newsletter December 18th. Remember to call (304-725-5316) or email (ctpres@ctpres.org) the church office with the requested information by ***December 15th***. Thank you!

Online Giving. Online giving helps you to bring your offering before God. In addition to the no-fee Facebook donations and nominal fee Paypal service, we set up online giving through the Presbyterian Foundation. **Money donated via any of these services gets deposited to our church bank account.** By going through the Foundation, the fee they charge actually helps the mission of their organization, which is to help Presbyterian churches to be excellent stewards of their gifts and resources. The exciting part about working with the foundation is that we are able to use a mobile app that is connected to our account. The app is called Give Plus (created by Vanco) and you can find it at the Google Play Store if you have an android device or you may find the app in the Apple app store by searching for “Give Plus.” The great part about the Give Plus app is that you can set up for weekly, monthly or one time giving! If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

For electronic giving, please scan here:

