

Charles Town Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 13, 2020

10:30am

Prelude

*“An Advent Prayer”*

Allen Pote

Joy Quartet: Hoyle Fulbright, David Weil, Anne Portrey, Penny Liston

Welcome and Invocation

Lighting of Third Advent Candle

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 9:6,7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
**and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

**The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

Prayer

Pastor John

Hymn/Song

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air.  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

(TEXT: German carol; stanzas 1,2 trans Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.; stanza 3 trans. Harriet Knuth Speth, 1985, alt.;  
MUSIC: alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Your love is good news for the oppressed, O Lord, and you bind up the brokenhearted.  
Forgive us, O God, when we think that your good news is only for the righteous and  
perfect. Forgive us, O God, when we twist your gospel into something that fits  
comfortably into our lives. By your light, lead us beyond ourselves and to the people  
you love. By your grace, forgive us, and help us to live for you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon...

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

Response to Confession      *“Blest Be the God of Israel”* (vs. 1)

“Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;  
Who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.  
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;  
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.

(TEXT: Michael Perry, 1973, alt.; MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983; Text © 1973 the Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company)

Special Music      *“Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”*      arr. Joseph M. Martin  
Joy Quartet: Hoyle Fulbright, David Weil, Anne Portrey, Penny Liston

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer and Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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.

Response      *“Blest Be the God of Israel”* (vs. 3)

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,  
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner’s eyes.  
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.  
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

(TEXT: Michael Perry, 1973, alt.; MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1983; Text © 1973 the Jubilate Group (admin. Hope Publishing Company; Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company)

Scripture      Luke 1:67-80

Message      *“What Is Coming”*      Pastor John

Song      *“Silent Night, Holy Night!”*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright ‘round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angles let us sing  
Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

(TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 103, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863; stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, atl.;  
MUSIC: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818, Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea)

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 Eve Worship

On Christmas Eve, we will be worshipping virtually via our church Facebook page

### 5:00pm - Story Time with Pastor John

This will be a short time (approximately 10-15 minutes) for children. Pastor John will share the Christmas story and pray with the children.

### 7:00pm Christmas Worship

We will worship at 7pm, with lessons, carols, special music, messages from Pastor John and celebration of the Lord's Supper. Please have communion elements ready for that part of the service.

Both of these services are available live at the times noted. If those times are not convenient, the services will be available for viewing any time after the live broadcast. Even if you don't have a Facebook account, you can click on the link below. Facebook will ask you if you want to start your own account. If you don't want to do that, you can easily bypass that info and then get right to the church page.

<https://www.facebook.com/CharlesTownPresbyterian>



**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 15<sup>th</sup>***. 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 18<sup>th</sup>. Remember to call (304-725-5316) or email ([ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto:ctpres@ctpres.org)) the church office with the requested information by ***December 15<sup>th</sup>***. 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:**

