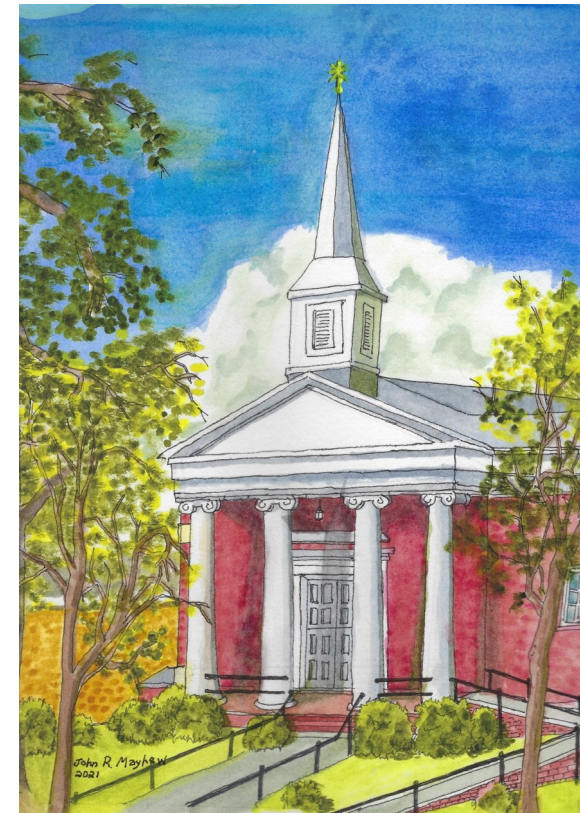


# CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

10:30 AM



## \*Sung Response

*“Jesus, Name above All Names”* LUYH No. 39  
Jesus, name above all names;  
beautiful Savoir, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us;  
blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

## \*Prayer of Thanksgiving

### Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord be with you;

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

## Distribution of the Elements

## \*Hymn

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”* No. 119

## \*Sending

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.**

### Pastor

Family Ministries

Music Director

Church Secretary

Nursery Attendant

### Staff

John Bethard

Garth Stevens-Jennings

Penny Liston

Rebecca Kaetzel

Jordan McLain

[jbethard@ctpres.org](mailto:jbethard@ctpres.org)

[garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org](mailto:garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org)

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[rkaetzel@ctpres.org](mailto:rkaetzel@ctpres.org)

### The Session

Marsha Dibbern, Lazan Rogers, Bill Whitacre, Patsy White

Kathy Donadio, Beth Pugh, Roger Snook

Signe Garms, Gary Scott, Kathy Shue

Class of 2022

Class of 2023

Class of 2024

### Board of Deacons

Judy Edwards, Brooks Kursey, Tommy Morgan, Jason Mullens

Hoyle Fulbright, Matthew Henshaw, Anne Portrey

Alex Bethard, Kaz Feldstein, Debra Low, Doug McDonough

Class of 2022

Class of 2023

Class of 2024

### Trustees

Steve Bossung, Margaret Kursey

Allen Rogers, Susan Wall

Janet Harner

Class of 2022

Class of 2023

Class of 2024

*Please hold the bread and the cup and partake when directed, when all have been served. Gluten free bread is in the center of the tray.*

*Our sending is a recommitment to the mission of Charles Town Presbyterian.*

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*Glory to God the Presbyterian Hymnal © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.*

*Please be sure to silence your cell phones*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude (please use this time to quietly prepare for worship)

*“Carol Medley”* arr. Mark Hayes

© 1981, Harold Flammer Music)

Lighting of Second Advent Candle Doug & Julia McDonough

Musical Response *“Awake! Awake!”* No. 107 (verse 2)

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a singing;  
His humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
Music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of loving kindness.  
The thunder of his anthems rolls  
to shatter all hatred and violence.

\*Songs *“Prepare the Way, O Zion”* No. 106

*“There Is a Longing”* LUYH No. 141 (refrain & verse 2)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of all creation, your vision of peace is beyond our knowing. We have been hurt and we have seen destruction, so we turn around and hurt others, destroying what you have called good. Forgive us, and fill us with your knowledge, so we may help bring forth your peaceful kingdom.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon...

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel,

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\*Sung Response to Confession

*“Blest Be the God of Israel”* No. 109 (verse 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!

*Songs listed with “No. ” are found in the purple hymnal. Songs listed with “LUYH” are found in the light blue songbook*

*When this symbol (\*) precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

*Confessing our sins brings us to a place of humility, allowing us to hear God more clearly as we worship.*

Children’s Moment

Garth Stevens-Jennings

Special Music

*“Advent Echo Carol”*

(2022 Candela works music (ASCAP)

Glory Singers

Mary Kay Beall

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.

\*Song *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”* No. 96

Scripture

Matthew 3:1-12

p. 960

Message

*“Who Is This Guy?”*

Pastor John

\*Profession of Faith

*“Apostles Creed”*

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.

Musical Offering

*“What Child Is This?”* arr. Virginia C Thomas

© 1952, Mills Music, Inc)

Rose Ann Glover

Sharing of our Gifts and Offerings

*The congregation responds in song because God hears our prayer.*

*Prayer in worship connects us to God and to one another.*

*The Apostles’ Creed dates back to the fourth century.*

*The musical offering allows us time to reflect on all that God has given us.*

*Please pass the offering plate to your neighbors in your pew.*

*Offering is our response to all that God has given us!*

**Notes:**

**Today's Scripture Reading**

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We Warmly Welcome Visitors** in the name of our Lord. We invite you to tell us more about yourself by filling out a visitor's card, and placing it in the offering plate located in the narthex.

**Comfort & Joy Service** will be next Sunday, December 11, at 4pm. Please plan to join us.

**Memorial poinsettias** will be placed in our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Call or email the church office by this Wednesday, December 7th, to sign up (304-725-5316 or [ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto:ctpres@ctpres.org)). Cost is \$10.00, single stemmed. If you purchase a poinsettia, please remove it from the sanctuary after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, or following worship on Christmas Day. Thank you.

**Christmas Joy Offering**. Because of your generous gifts of \$1,045 in 2021, 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.

**Christmas Mission update**: the CTPC church family generously donated \$4,230 to help two families. These gift were evenly split between two single-parent families, and will help them have a wonderful holiday season.

**Longest Night Service**. The season of advent and Christmas is typically focused on joy and celebration. However, not everyone feels that joy, especially those who are grappling with some kind of loss. That grief can cast a shadow over the season. Wednesday, December 21, will be the day with the shortest amount of daylight in the year, and many churches host "Longest Night" services that evening to mark the sense of loss and grief for those who are having difficulty during the holidays. Our Longest Night service will be Wednesday, December 21, at 7pm. The service is intentionally contemplative, allowing worshipers the time and space to acknowledge the sense of loss they may be experiencing. All who are struggling during this holiday season are welcome to attend.

**Christmas Eve** worship will be at 5pm, and feature communion and candle-lighting.

**Christmas Day worship** will be at 11:00am, no Sunday School.

**Church Office Holiday Schedule**. The church office will be closed on Friday, December 23rd, Monday, December 26th, and Friday, December 30th. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**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 Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement on the Google Play or Apple App Store. You can set up for weekly, monthly or one time giving! Note: If you were previously using the "Give Plus" app, that has been superseded by the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement as of January 31, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

**2023 Giving Envelopes** are now available in the narthex. If you give with a check, envelopes are not necessary. If giving with cash, please write your name on an envelope to enable us to credit your giving statement properly.

**Sermon Passages**: December 11th: Isaiah 35:1-10; December 18th: Matthew 1:18-25; December 25th: TBD

**Mission and Outreach News!** The Friendship meals are covered except for May 6th, June 3rd, September 2nd, and December 2nd. Think about pairing up with some friends and serving a meal to the many in need of a nice meal. Serving starts at 5:30, and it only takes about an hour. If you need help and would like to serve please call Patsy White at 304-725-8058. We will be staffing the Cheer Booth downtown on December 8th, from 12pm-2pm. Donations will go to Community Ministries. This is also fun to participate in. It is a great way to fellowship with the town as well as church members. See Kathy Shue or Patsy White.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Birthdays this week**: Judy Holt, Colton Ruffner; Doug White, George Tabb, Megan Henshaw, Meredith Hunt, Rachel Tansill.

**Anniversaries this week**: Frank & Kathy Donadio

**Prayer Concerns**: U.S. troops serving worldwide. Please continue to pray for those who are sick. Missionaries supported by CTPC: Drake Williams, Mark Hare in Haiti, Michael & Cathy Sander in Eswatini. Please keep these faithful servants in prayer. **Those persons admitted to the hospital or nursing home seeking a visit from Pastor John must have a family member make contact with the church office. HIPAA law prohibits hospitals from divulging their patient roster.**

**Last Sunday Worship**: In-person -70; Nursery-4; Virtual Views-140; Thanksgiving Eve-25.

**Weekly Congregational Giving** Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934.

Sunday's 11/20 Receipts: \$2,395; Special Offerings: Sunday School—\$52; Loose—\$136; Christmas Mission Project—\$835; Poinsettias—\$20; Thanksgiving—\$50.

Sunday's 11/27 Receipts: \$2,613; Special Offerings: Sunday School—\$44; Hunger—\$188; Christmas Mission Project—\$2,790; Poinsettias—\$30; Thanksgiving—\$107; Joy—\$50; M&O Parade—\$100.

**Ushers for December**: Matthew Henshaw (head), Brooks Kursey

**CTPC Upcoming Events**:

December 11th: Comfort and Joy Service 4:00pm (snow date December 18th)

December 11th: Beulah Chapel

December 22st: Longest Night Service 7:00pm

December 23rd: OFFICE CLOSED

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm

December 25th: No Sunday school, worship 11:00am

December 26th: OFFICE CLOSED

December 30th: OFFICE CLOSED

January 1st: NO Sunday school, worship 11:00am



**For electronic giving, please scan here:**

## The week ahead at Charles Town Presbyterian Church

**Sunday, December 4—2nd Sunday of Advent**

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)

10:30am Worship Celebration

3-5:00pm Kids Group

**Monday, December 5**

5:30-1:00pm Meals on Wheels (Mon-Fri)

6:30pm Prayer Group

7:00pm Stewardship & Vision Meeting

7:30 pm A.A. Meeting

**Tuesday, December 6**

7:00pm Mission & Outreach Meeting

**Wednesday, December 7**

6:30pm Geneva Ringers

7:00pm CAV Meeting

7:15pm Choir

8:00pm A.A. Meeting

**Thursday, December 8**

9:30am WW Workshop

**Saturday, December 10**

8:30am WW Workshop

5:30pm Friendship Ministry Meal

8:00pm A.A. Meeting

**Sunday, December 11—3rd Sunday of Advent**

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)

10:30am Worship Celebration

1:30pm Beulah Chapel

3-5:00pm Kids Group

4:00pm Comfort and Joy Service