

*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.*

\*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

\*Hymn “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” No. 143

\*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  
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**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

# CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022  
10:30 AM



*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.*

*Please be sure to silence your cell phones*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude (please use this time to quietly prepare for worship)  
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
(© 2017 Hal Leonard) adapted by Thomas Helmore

Lighting of Third Advent Candle  
Anna Current & Robert Powers

Musical Response “Awake! Awake!” No. 107 (verse 3)  
In darkest night his coming shall be,  
When all the world is despairing,  
As morning light so quiet and free,  
So warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
The lame shall leap in wonder,  
The weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken a sunder.

\*Songs “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” No. 88 (verses 1, 5, 7)  
“There Is a Longing” LUYH No. 141 (refrain & verse 3)

Prayer of Confession (in unison)  
Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth.

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!

Children’s Moment Garth Stevens-Jennings

Special Music “Yuletide Fantasia”  
Pat Dick

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 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” No. 129

Scripture Isaiah 35:1-10 p. 707

Message “Previews” Pastor John

Musical Offering “Angels from the Realms of Glory”  
(© 2017 Alfred Music) arr. Carol Tornquist

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 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

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
<sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!"  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## 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.

**Today's flowers** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of J.B. Huyett, Jr., by his family.

**Comfort & Joy Service** will be this afternoon at 4pm. Please plan to join us.

**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 singe-parent families, and will help them have a wonderful holiday season.

**Memorial poinsettias** will be placed in our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. 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.

**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 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!

**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.

**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 18th: Matthew 1:18-25; December 25th: TBD.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Birthdays this week:** Kathy Reim, Glenn Moreland, Nathaniel Pugh, Andrew Rossi, Kathy Donadio, Jessica 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.**

**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 21st: 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 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

### **Monday, December 12**

5:30-1:00pm Meals on Wheels (Mon-Fri)  
6:30pm Prayer Group  
7:00pm Technology & Communication Mtg  
7:30 pm A.A. Meeting

### **Tuesday, December 13**

7:00pm Deacons Meeting

### **Wednesday, December 14**

6:30pm Geneva Ringers  
7:00pm CAV Meeting  
7:15pm Choir  
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

### **Thursday, December 15**

9:30am WW Workshop  
5:30pm Friendship Ministry Meal

### **Saturday, December 17**

8:30am WW Workshop  
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

### **Sunday, December 18—4th Sunday of Advent**

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)  
10:30am Worship Celebration  
3-5:00pm Kids Group