

# CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

10:30 AM



Know. Grow. Serve.

[www.ctpres.org](http://www.ctpres.org)

\*Sung Response  
“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” No. 143 (vs. 4)

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

\*Song  
“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” No. 136

\*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.**

*When directed, please come to the front of the sanctuary. The servers will tear off a small piece of bread and serve you. Please dip it in the cup, partake, and return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, raise your hand and an elder will bring the elements to you. Please indicate to your server if you would like to receive gluten free bread*

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

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

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Staff</b>	
Family Ministries	John Bethard	<a href="mailto:jbethard@ctpres.org">jbethard@ctpres.org</a>
Music Director	Garth Stevens-Jennings	<a href="mailto:garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org">garthstevensjennings@ctpres.org</a>
Church Secretary	Penny Liston	<a href="mailto:penfvfarm@aol.com">penfvfarm@aol.com</a>
Nursery Attendant	Rebecca Kaetzel	<a href="mailto:rkaetzel@ctpres.org">rkaetzel@ctpres.org</a>
	Jordan McLain	
	<b>The Session</b>	
Signe Garms, Gary Scott, Kathy Shue	Class of 2024	
Doyle Criswell, Marsha Dibbern, Lazan Rogers	Class of 2025	
Diane Mayhew, Beth Pugh, Patsy White	Class of 2026	
	<b>Board of Deacons</b>	
Alex Bethard, Kaz Feldstein, Debra Low, Doug McDonough	Class of 2024	
Judy Edwards, Sue Flanagan, Debbie Henshaw, Brooks Kursey	Class of 2025	
Bob Tansill	Class of 2026	
	<b>Trustees</b>	
Janet Harner	Class of 2024	
Steve Bossung, Thane Van Zomeren	Class of 2025	
Margaret Kursey	Class of 2026	

*Please be sure to silence your cell phones*

*Please use this time to quietly prepare for worship.*

*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.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"  
(©2019 Lorenz Corp.) arr. Mark Hayes

Lighting of Third Advent Candle Diane Mayhew

Sung Response "There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"  
No. 470 (refrain)  
*There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,  
for you to reveal yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts  
for love we only find in you, our God.*

\*Songs "Mighty Is Our God" LUYH No. 49  
"Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord" LUYH No. 48

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God our Maker; we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You send your Spirit to release us, yet we remain captivated by sin. You stand among us in Christ Jesus, yet we claim we do not know you. Forgive us, God of grace. Make us holy; make us whole. Keep us safe and sound until the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon...

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

\*Sung Response to Confession  
"From Heaven Above" No. 111 (vs. 3)

Children's Moment Garth Stevens-Jennings

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

\*Song "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" No. 82

Scripture Zephaniah 3:14-20 p. 939

Message "Why Jesus Came" Pastor John

Sharing of our Gifts and Offerings

Musical Offering "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"  
(©2019 Lorenz Corp.) arr. Mark Hayes

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

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

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

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

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

**Notes:**

**Today's Scripture Reading  
Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.  
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup> I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.  
And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**The week ahead at Charles Town Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday, December 15**

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)  
10:30am Worship Celebration  
3:00pm Christmas Joy Service

**Monday, December 16**

5:30-1:00pm Meals on Wheels (Mon-Fri)  
7:30am A.A. Meeting  
5:00pm Prayer Group  
7:30pm A.A. Meeting

**Tuesday, December 17**

12:-00pm Basic Music  
1:00pm Silver Bells  
2:00pm Percussion  
7:00pm Session Meeting

**Wednesday, December 18**

7:00pm CAV Meeting  
7:00pm Glory Singers  
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

**Thursday, December 19**

2:30pm FCHC  
5:30pm Friendship Ministry Meal

**Friday, December 20**

7:30am A.A. Meeting

**Saturday, December 21**

7:00pm Longest Night Service  
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

**Sunday, December 22**

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)  
10:30am Worship Celebration  
2:30-4:00pm Youth Group  
4:00-5:30pm Kids Group

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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.

**Christmas Joy Service** will be this afternoon at 3pm. Our music ministry will present "Prepare the Way -The Road to Bethlehem," featuring our vocal and handbell choirs. Please join us.

**Christmas Joy Offering**, will be collected today. Because of your generous gifts the Presbyterian Mission Agency is 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.

**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. Saturday, 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 next Saturday, 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. Please plan to join us.

**Six-cents a meal** offering will be collected next Sunday, December 22nd, to benefit the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

**5th Sunday**, December 29th, is 5th Sunday, the loose offering collected today will go to the Pastor's Help Fund.

**A nursery is available** for children ages 2-5. Please see an usher if you want more information.

**Activity Bags** for children attending Worship services are now available. Deacons will be offering them to any child attending. Children who are visiting may take the Activity Bag home with them. Children who are regular attenders will leave their bag in the Narthex to be used again the following Sunday.

**Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table!** The central Sacrament of our faith is Holy Communion. Preparation for this holy experience requires the hands and hearts of those willing to serve at the Lord's Table by preparing it for celebration of the Sacrament. We need your help! If you feel called to Serve the Lord by Serving at His Table please contact Lazan Rogers or any member of the Worship Team or the church office.

**The Discipleship and Family Ministry Committee** is seeking an additional attendant for our nursery. This is a paid position to be filled on Sunday mornings from 10:00AM-12:00 noon. We are looking for a Christian individual, 18 years or older, who loves and respects children and is able to provide for their care during the time that parents or caregivers are worshiping. Please contact the church office if you know of someone who would be a good fit for this position. [ctpres@ctpres.org](mailto:ctpres@ctpres.org).

**Online giving** helps you to bring your offering before God in a simple, and secure way. You can choose from The Presbyterian Foundation, Facebook, or PayPal, each of which have a nominal fee that you can include as part of your gift. The Presbyterian Foundation fee does help the organization's mission, and you can easily use a mobile app (Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement on Google Play/Apple AppStore) to set up for repeating or one time giving. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Donation options and tax information at [www.ctpres.org](http://www.ctpres.org) (<http://www.ctpres.org>).

**Worship Help Needed.** We need help running the technology used in worship each week. We are seeking two or three people to help run the PowerPoint slides and the camera for our live broadcast. These are fairly simple tasks, and we provide training. Please speak with Pastor John or Roger Snook if you can help.

**The CTPC Hospitality Center** has created this wish list to assist in maintenance and growth. All donations greatly appreciated!



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**Birthdays this week:** Nathaniel Pugh, Kathy Donadio, Jessica Donadio.

**Anniversaries this week:** Dennis & Marsha Dibbern, Marty & Katherine Hunt.

**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 -74; Nursery-5; Virtual Views-397

**Weekly Congregational Giving** Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934.  
General Offering: \$6,397; On-Line Offering: \$1,793; Designated Offerings: Sunday School-\$59; Loose-\$201; Help Fund-\$80; Hunger-\$111; Missions/Parade-\$366; Facility Use-\$100; Poinsettias-\$56; Christmas Joy-\$10, Restore God's House-\$12,890.

**Ushers for December:** Doug McDonough (head), Brooks Kursey (counter)

**Ushers for January:** TBD

## CTPC Upcoming Events:

December 15th:	Christmas Joy Service 3:00pm
December 21st:	Longest Night Service 7:00pm
December 24th:	Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm
December 25th :	Merry Christmas—OFFICE CLOSED
December 26th:	OFFICE CLOSED
January 1st:	OFFICE CLOSED
January 12th:	Ordination/Installation of officers Annual Congregational Meeting following worship



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