

# CHARLES TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 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

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

\*Song

“The Days Are Surely Coming” No. 357

\*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

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**The Session**

Signe Garms, Gary Scott, Kathy Shue  
Doyle Criswell, Marsha Dibbern, Lazan Rogers  
Diane Mayhew, Beth Pugh, Patsy White

Class of 2024  
Class of 2025  
Class of 2026

**Board of Deacons**

Alex Bethard, Kaz Feldstein, Debra Low, Doug McDonough  
Judy Edwards, Sue Flanagan, Debbie Henshaw, Brooks Kursey  
Bob Tansill

Class of 2024  
Class of 2025  
Class of 2026

**Trustees**

Janet Harner  
Steve Bossung, Thane Van Zomeren  
Margaret Kursey

Class of 2024  
Class of 2025  
Class of 2026

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 Church.

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

*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 "A Shoot Shall Come Forth" Richard Horn  
(©1993 Morning Star Music)  
Glory Singers

Lighting of First Advent Candle Anne Portrey

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.*

\*Song "Prepare the Way, O Zion" No. 106

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. We study the trends of our times and ignore the signs of your reign. We trust in things that pass away and forget your eternal promise. Forgive us, God of grace. Strengthen us, by your hand, so that we may be ready for that day when you come to reign in glory; 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

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

\*Song "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" No. 129

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14-16 p. 787

Message "Promises, Promises" Pastor John

\*Profession of Faith "Apostles' Creed" (see screen)

Sharing of our Gifts and Offerings

Musical Offering "Noel (3 Variations)" Claude D'Aquin  
(© 1939 The H.W. Gray Co., Inc.)  
Rose Ann Glover

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

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

*While not written by the apostles the Apostles Reflects the faith of the early church. It has undergone numerous revisions attaining its final form during the 8th century.*

*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.*

**“A Shoot Shall Come Forth”** today’s prelude

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, and a bud shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of life shall be with him, the spirit of wisdom and truth.

Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,

For the hand of a Child shall lead them to the peaceable kingdom of God.

From out of the wells of salvation will he draw us the water of life;

His waist shall be girdled with justice, the heart of his heart shall be Love.

Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,

for the hand of a Child shall lead them to the peaceable kingdom of God.

He’ll come from the end of his heaven, and the earths shall be torn from its place;

our lives shall be filled with his radiance as floodwaters cover the sea.

Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,

for the hand of a Child shall lead them to the peaceable kingdom of God.

To the peaceable kingdom of God.

(©1993 Morning Star Music)

**Today’s Scripture Reading**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

**Notes:**

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

**Sunday, December 1**

9:00am Education Hour (all ages)  
10:30am Worship Celebration  
11:30am Advent Celebration/light lunch  
Decorate sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 4**

12:00pm Bible Study –Zoom  
7:00pm CAV Meeting  
7:00pm Glory Singers  
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

**Monday, December 2**

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

**Thursday, December 5**

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

**Friday, December 6**

7:30am A.A. Meeting

**Tuesday, December 3**

12:-00pm Basic Music  
1:00pm Silver Bells  
2:00pm Percussion  
6:30pm A.A. District Meeting  
7:00pm Mission & Outreach Meeting

**Saturday, December 7**

2:00pm Charles Town Christmas parade  
5:30pm Friendship Ministry Meal  
8:00pm A.A. Meeting

**Sunday, December 8**

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.

**An Advent Celebration** for all ages will be held immediately following worship. A light lunch will be served. There will be carol singing, crafts and the trimming of the Chrismon tree in the fellowship hall. **Please join us!**

**During the Advent celebration** following worship today we will decorate the sanctuary. Any adults wishing to help decorate would be most welcome.

**Memorial poinsettias** will be placed in our sanctuary this Advent and Christmas season. Call or email the church office by this **Wednesday, December 4th**, 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. service on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Christmas Joy Service** will be on Sunday, December 15, 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 on Sunday, December 15th. 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 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 service will be at 5:00pm, and feature communion and candle-lighting. Please plan to join us.

**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 worshipping. 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).

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

**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:** Judy Holt, Colton Ruffner, Doug White, George Tabb, Jannette Beeson, Megan Henshaw, Meredith Hunt.

**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—85; Nursery—5; Virtual Views—263.

**Weekly Congregational Giving** Needed to Meet Expenses Budget: \$6,934. General Offering: \$2111; Designated Offerings: Sunday School—\$19; Hunger—\$187; Restore God's House—\$200; Music Program—\$30; Thanksgiving—\$35; Poinsettias—\$60.

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

**Ushers for January:** TBD

### **CTPC Upcoming Events:**

December 1st:	Advent Festival/Decorate church after worship
December 7th:	Charles Town Christmas parade 2:00pm
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



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