

The First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301-2487
304/343-8961
www.firstpresby.com

Pastors:

Dr. William G. McCoy
Rev. Christian J. Johnson

Ministers:

All members of the congregation



The Celebration of Worship Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

10:30 AM

Worship is broadcast at 11 AM on WCHS-580AM

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship here today.
Large print hymnals, Bibles, hearing devices,
and information about child care are available from any usher.

If your hearing aid has a button for telephone use, turn it on now
to receive sound directly to your hearing aid.



All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.
Clipboards, children's Bibles and books to borrow during worship are located at the entrances.

The asterisks (*) invite you to stand in body or in spirit.

We Gather

TIME FOR PREPARATION

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Psalm 126

PRELUDE

"Break Forth into Joy" from *Christmas Oratorio*
Paula Legge, organist

J. S. Bach

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

We Praise God

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The First Presby Youth

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bill McCoy

*HYMN OF PRAISE 86

The People Who Walked in Darkness

ISAIAH 9

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Bob Newman

*RESPONSE

Emmanuel

Bob McGee

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, His name is
called Em - man - u - el. God with us, re - vealed in
us. His name is called Em - man - u - el.

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PRAYER OF CONFESSION

GINNA TAYLOR

God of the loving heart, we confess before You those places in our hearts where we have refused You entrance: people we have refused to love; habits we never get around to changing; good things we have left undone; and ways in which we hurt You, ourselves, and others. Come to us in the light of Christ, that we may discover new ways to live, as Christ finds a home among us.

Please continue to pray silently.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WELCOME AND CELEBRATION OF FRIENDSHIP

Bill McCoy

Please sign the friendship pad placed at pew's end, so we may greet each other by name.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Mary Odin

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

We Declare our Faith

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Ginna Taylor

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.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

HYMN 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

We Give Thanks to God

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bob Newman

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.

OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE

Offertory

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. C. Uehlein

*Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ginna Taylor

God, You have blessed us beyond all deserving. Use us and our gifts to bless others, we pray, in ways that are pleasing to You, that we might make a difference for good, according to Your plan. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Word is Proclaimed

VOLUNTARY

Carol of the Bells

Leontovych, arr. Sophie Alexander

Sophie Alexander, piano

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON
EPISTLE LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Pew Bible, OT, p. 630
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; Pew Bible, NT, p. 205

Bob Newman

GOSPEL LESSON	Luke 1:1-25; Pew Bible, NT, p. 56	Bill McCoy
SERMON	THE GREATEST MIRACLE: Preparing the Way	Bill McCoy
*CONCLUDING HYMN 113	Angels We Have Heard on High	GLORIA
*INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BLESSING		Bill McCoy
*HYMN OF PARTING		HYMN 106, v. 1
	<i>Prepare the way, O Zion, Your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name!</i>	
*POSTLUDE	Festive Fanfare on "Angels We Have Heard On High" Paula Legge, organist	David Lasky

We gather to worship,
 We scatter to serve,
 In the relentless love of Christ.

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• *Restrooms and water fountains* are found through the double doors to the left of the chancel; please
 • accompany children.
 • *Childcare:* Nursery and Rooms 112 and 114
 • *Elder visitation:* Mike Abernethy, Ben Adams, Eddie Baker
 • *Greeters today:* Raegan Elmore, Claude Churchwell, Barb Gessner, Sally Slicer
 • *We are thankful* for the gifts given this week to the Music Gift Fund which provides for musicians for
 • special worship services.

• PLEASE FEEL FREE TO KEEP THIS BULLETIN OR DROP IT IN THE RECYCLING BOX AS YOU EXIT. THANK YOU!

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