

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Bringing hope to the heart of Charleston and beyond.**



**The First Sunday of Advent  
December 1, 2024 | 10:30am**

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

16 Leon Sullivan Way • Charleston, WV 25301 • 304-343-8961 • [www.firstpresby.com](http://www.firstpresby.com)

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers

**Ministers:** All members of the congregation

*A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.  
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.*

*We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign in via the Friendship Pads located at the ends of the pews. We use this information to keep in touch about church events. We hope you will take a moment to read about news and events happening in the life of the church, found in the worship bulletin after this morning's order of service. Please share news and notes with your friends and neighbors!*

**All children are welcome and encouraged to participate in worship.**

## **A reflection for worship:**

*The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the Lord and his anointed, saying,*

*'Let us burst their bonds apart and cast their cords from us.'*

*Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.*

*Serve the Lord with fear, with trembling kiss his feet,  
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way.*

Psalm 2 (selections)

**The following scriptures are provided for silent meditation during the prelude:**

Jeremiah 33:14-16 • Psalm 25:1-10 • 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 • Luke 21:25-36

## **Cover art:**

*Chartres Cathedral (1204-1210)*

From left, figures depict Isaiah or Jacob (identification uncertain) holding a scroll and standing on Jesse or Jacob recumbent; Jeremiah holding cross-embossed disk and standing on male figure crouched and listening; Simeon holding infant Jesus and standing on crouching figure; John the Baptist with the lamb of God, standing on dragon; St. Peter wearing tiara and pope's vestments with keys hanging from right wrist, and standing on rock.



*Seek the welfare of the city  
where I have sent you...  
and pray to the Lord  
on its behalf for in its welfare  
you will find your welfare.*  
Jeremiah 29:7

# The Worship of Our Lord

## THE CHURCH GATHERS TO... PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

*\*indicates congregation standing, as able.*

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**      As the Dark Awaits the Dawn      arr. David Lasky

**INTROIT**      Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah      Yiddish folk song, Wayne L. Wold  
Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
Let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.

**WELCOME**      Pastor Myers

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**      Christmas Eve Tableau      Sallie Daugherty

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Pastor Myers

**CHIMING OF THE TRINITY**

## PRAISE ALMIGHTY GOD

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**      The Clarke Family

One: The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when the promises of peace, justice, and salvation will be fulfilled.

**All: We gather to worship not a kingdom of this world, but the eternal reign of God.**

One: Lift your eyes beyond borders and banners, for Christ comes to unite, not divide, to heal, not to harm.

**All: Our hope is in the One who brings peace to all nations and justice to the oppressed.**

One: Let us prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of the Lord, rejecting fear and embracing love.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and salvation! We worship you in spirit and in truth, as one body, united in your grace.**

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

One: Today we light the candle of Hope, reminding us of the promise of Christ's reign—a kingdom where all nations are gathered, not by power or might, but by the Spirit of God.

**All: We place our hope not in earthly empires, but in the one who is the Prince of Peace.**

One: As we wait in hope, we commit to seeing the image of God in every person, rejecting all forms of supremacy or exclusion.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, our hope and salvation!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE #93**      Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates      TRURO

## CONFESS TO OUR FORGIVING CREATOR

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Pastor Myers

One: We have all sinned, not one of us is clean; but there is mercy for those who call on the name of the Lord.

All: **Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts.**

**Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

**Save us, O Lord, from traps of our own creating:**

**from fear that blocks the way of love,**

**from worry that blocks the way of joy,**

**from isolation that blocks the way of relationship,**

**from structural injustices that keep the world bound.**

**Forgive us, O God of hosts,**

**until the stars fall from heaven**

**and we live as people transformed.**

*(Silence is kept for personal confession.)*

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain is made low. Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

Let all mor - tal flesh keep\_\_ si - lence, and with fear and  
trem - bling\_\_ stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly\_\_ mind - ed,  
for with bless - ing in his\_\_ hand Christ our God to earth de -  
- scend - - - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor Myers

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### SCRIPTURE LESSON      Jeremiah 33:14–16

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Clarke Family  
*page 738, New Testament*

### ANTHEM

#### Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Calling

arr. Roger Price

Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding.	Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;	Comes with pardon down from heaven;
“Cast away the works of darkness,	Let us all, with tears of sorrow,
O ye children of the day.”	Pray that we may be forgiven;
Wakened by the solemn warning,	That when next he comes with glory,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;	And the world is wrapped in fear,
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,	With his mercy he may shield us,
Shines upon the morning skies.	And with words of love near.

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,  
High on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory;  
Claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Honor, glory, might, and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the everlasting Spirit,  
While eternal ages run. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 21:25–36

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Myers  
*page 85, New Testament*

### A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Pastor Myers

*(Children in grades 1–5 are dismissed to Children’s Church in Room E–117/119  
or they may remain in the sanctuary with their parents.)*

### SERMON

“God is with Us!”

Pastor Myers

### \*HYMN #348

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

## DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO GOD

### JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor Myers

#### OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

*Please bring your offering forward during the offertory.  
You may also text “firstpresby” to 73256 to give from your mobile device.*

### OFFERTORY

The Call (from *Five Mystical Songs*)

Ralph Vaughn Williams  
*Lindsay Marchio, soprano*

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:	Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:	Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:	Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Life, as killeth death.	Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:  
Such a Joy, as none can move:  
Such a Love, as none can part:  
Such a Heart, as joys in love.



## CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNION WITH CHRIST AND EACH OTHER

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe...

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing the glory of your name:

### SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Refrain*)

VENI EMMANUEL

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

...Great is the mystery of faith:

### SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Refrain*)

VENI EMMANUEL

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

### SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Refrain*)

VENI EMMANUEL

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*(This morning we share the bread and the cup together, gathered and scattered, united in Christ at the Table.)*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All: Gracious God, we thank you for this holy meal that nourishes us in body and spirit. In Christ, you gather us as one people, beyond all earthly divisions, to share in your love and grace. Send us into the world renewed by this feast, that we may live as witnesses to your peace, justice, and hope. Strengthen us to serve you faithfully until your kingdom comes in fullness.**

## GO FORTH TO SERVE

<b>*HYMN #106</b>	Prepare the Way, O Zion	BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
<b>*BENEDICTION</b>		Pastor Myers
<b>*CHORAL RESPONSE</b>	Amen	AMEN (Schubert)
<b>CLOSING VOLUNTARY</b>	Variations on "Von Himmel Hoch"	Elizabeth A. Krouse

## OUR WORSHIP CONTINUES IN OUR SERVICE TO OTHERS.

Worship is broadcast at 11:00am on WCHS 580AM  
Worship is also available on our YouTube channel: First Presby WV  
Follow us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Charleston, WV

### WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. William C. Myers  
The Clarke Family  
Sallie Daugherty

### GREETERS

June Mills  
Barb & Steve Hopta

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH LEADERS

Pam Kuyk  
Kasey Calvert

### NURSERY

Margaret Jones

### AUDIO & VIDEO

Byron Goodew  
David Cottrell

### CUSTODIAL SERVICES

David Feibelman

### THE MUSIC TODAY

Jayson Keeton, Director of Music & Organist  
The Sanctuary Choir  
Lindsay Marchio, soprano

As we enter the new year and the first Sunday of Advent, today's prelude is a meditation on the hymntune LUCENT, originally written by Carl F. Schalk in 1997. This arrangement comes from a collection of organ works designed for use in worship, specifically during the season of Advent. Today's anthem uses an ancient text, originally from about the 6th century, paired with the familiar hymntune BEACH SPRING, in this exciting arrangement by Roger Price. The *Five Mystical Songs* are a musical composition by English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, written between 1906 and 1911. The work sets four poems by seventeenth-century Welsh poet and Anglican priest George Herbert (1593-1633), from his 1633 collection *The Temple: Sacred Poems*. Originally for baritone soloist and orchestra, today's offertory is presented in an arrangement for soprano and organ. The postlude today is a set of variations on the well-known tune "Von Himmel Hoch" ("From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"). This hymn has been set countless times by famous composers such as J.S. Bach (and other members of his family), Johann Pachelbel, and many others. Today's postlude is an exciting arrangement by Elizabeth A. Krouse, currently organist at Beaver Creek Christian Church in Hagerstown, Maryland.

### THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**William Myers**, Pastor/Head of Staff  
**Jayson Keeton**, Director of Music & Organist  
**Jenny Pitchford**, Financial Services Manager  
**Diana Vorhees**, Office Administrator  
**Steven Barrett**, Facilities Manager

**Anne Moses**, Director of the Preschool  
**Erin Stone**, Preschool Office Administrator  
**Bernard Wooten**, Preschool Custodian  
**Lauren Dukes**, Preschool Custodian

## CHRISTMAS EVE TABLEAU — THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### *1st – 5th Grade Christmas Eve Worship Leaders Needed*

The children of the church will lead worship at 5:00pm on Christmas Eve as they present the Birth of Jesus through scripture and Christmas hymns in a living Tableau. This time-honored tradition is your child's chance to lead the congregation in worship as we center our hearts and minds on Jesus Christ at this blessed time of year. Hear and see the good news of the coming of the Christ Child – the Light of the World! Adult volunteers are also needed. To participate, please contact Diana Vorhees at the church by email at [diana@firstpresby.com](mailto:diana@firstpresby.com) or telephone 304-343-8961.





## **GIVING TREE IS COMING!**

Soon, a Christmas tree will appear in our church hallway. The Mission and Witness committee is asking that our church members might help decorate the tree with mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves that will be donated to people needing help with warmth this winter. CARE (Coordinated Addiction Response Effort) directed by the City of Charleston, and other organizations will help us distribute these items to our neighbors during the cold months. Consider helping to decorate our “giving tree”!

## **ADVENT FAIR EXPERIENCE**

Join your church family on December 8 immediately after worship in the Dining Room to celebrate the light of Christ. We will experience darkness and the radiance of Christ that came out of it. Crafts, Advent wreaths, and a light lunch will be part of the fun. “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.” (*Isaiah 9:2*)

## **LET'S CHRISTMAS SHOP AT THE HOPE AND JUSTICE FAIR TRADE MARKET**

Our market will be fully stocked December 3rd with coffee, chocolate bars, mini chocolates, cocoa, chocolate chips, tea, nuts, mangos, and Palestinian olive oil. Our Palestinian dates have sold out. The market will be open before and after church each Sunday. You may also shop any work day that the church is open. Fair Trade sold extremely well at Hope Village. Heartfelt thanks to all who dropped by to shop and make a difference in the lives of organic co-ops and their families in over 20 countries.

Linda Elliott: [koffeelade@gmail.com](mailto:koffeelade@gmail.com) | 304-410-2562

## **PRESBYTERY CHURCH PRAYERS**

Each week we pray for other congregations in our presbytery, along with the Presbytery of West Virginia and other ministry partners. This week please pray for Riverlawn Presbyterian Church in St. Albans, and Village Chapel Presbyterian Church in Charleston.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBY

### Sunday, December 1

10:30am	Worship	<i>Sanctuary &amp; YouTube</i>
11:00am	Worship Radio Broadcast	<i>WCHS-580AM</i>
12:00pm	Hope Village	<i>Bud Francis Rec. Room</i>

### Monday, December 2

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Room A-201</i>
5:00pm	Property Committee	<i>Room E-117</i>

### Tuesday, December 3

10:00am	Staff Meeting	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Christian Education Committee	<i>Room E-117</i>
6:00pm	Deacons Meeting	<i>Room A-201</i>
6:00pm	CCRA Elem. Basketball Practice	<i>Gym</i>

### Wednesday, December 4

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Room A-201</i>
10:00am	Knitting Club	<i>4th Floor, Education Building</i>
5:00pm	LOGOS	<i>Various</i>

### Thursday, December 5

8:00am	Shoney's Group	<i>Zoom</i>
4:30pm	Time for Refreshment	<i>Ruffner Room</i>
5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	<i>Choir Room</i>
6:30pm	Mission Committee	<i>Room E-117</i>

### Friday, December 6

8:30am	Aerobics	<i>Room A-201</i>
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## DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

<b>Sunday, December 1</b>	Matthew 25:1-13
<b>Monday, December 2</b>	Luke 20:1-8
<b>Tuesday, December 3</b>	Luke 20:9-18
<b>Wednesday, December 4</b>	Luke 20:19-26
<b>Thursday, December 5</b>	Luke 20:27-40
<b>Friday, December 6</b>	Luke 20:41-21:4
<b>Saturday, December 7</b>	Luke 21:5-19

## DISCOVERY CLASS

<b>December 8</b>	Angie Settle – CEO, WV Health Right
<b>December 15</b>	Julia Kesler & Chris Freeman – Children's Home Society
<b>December 22</b>	Beth Vorhees – "Food in the Bible"





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF CHARLESTON**