



POINT HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

POINTING THE HEARTS OF CHARLESTON
TO THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

Welcome to Point Hope Presbyterian Church

*To all who are weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Thank you for joining us for worship today. We are delighted that you are here and we hope to be a blessing to you. Point Hope is a new church seeking to point the hearts of Charleston to the hope of the gospel. We desire to be a church where people can experience what it means to belong and live in a true community where Jesus Christ is experienced in His presence and power.

Our Worship

You will notice that we follow a thoughtful and connected rhythm in our worship, called our liturgy. The order of our worship reflects the progress of the gospel in our hearts. In worship, we come together to tell the story of the gospel by the structure of our worship, the content of our worship, and the way that we worship. Parts of our worship service may be new to you. We would encourage you to participate through observation and reflection and welcome the chance to discuss our service with you.

Parents of Young Children

We are so glad you are here. We believe the church is for all people, young and old, and we want Point Hope to be a church where children are seen, heard, and loved. We invite you to keep your children in our service and help them understand and participate. Children learn how to worship by imitating you. We say and sing parts of our worship service every week in order to help our nonreading children to participate.

If you need to step out during the service, feel free to do so but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." A nursery is provided for infants and children up to 3 years old. Your child's safety and security are our highest priorities! Our children's ministry is staffed by friendly, well-trained, well-screened workers.

Children ages 4 through 6th grade are invited to attend Point Hope Kids Club at 9:15. This is our Sunday school time which includes breakfast treats, an engaging and age appropriate Bible lesson, Scripture memory and group activities and games. Children will be dismissed by 10:00 to join their families for worship.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The First Sunday of Advent | December 3, 2023

PRELUDE | *Welcome to Point Hope. Please find a seat and silence your electronic devices*

WELCOME

REFLECTION | *As we prepare for Worship, we invite you to a time of quiet reflection*

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (adventus) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The...liturgies [of Advent] not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgment.

~ Charles Wesley, from Church of England, Common Worship: Times and Seasons

...in amongst the other stars, suddenly a bright new star appeared...God put it there when his baby Son was born—to be like a spotlight. Shining on him. Lighting up the darkness. Showing people the way to him...This baby would be like that bright star shining in the sky that night. A Light to light up the whole world. Chasing away darkness. Helping people to see. And the darker the night got, the brighter the star would shine.

~ Sally Lloyd-Jones, The Jesus Storybook Bible

***CALL TO WORSHIP** | from Luke 1 | *God invites us into His presence to worship Him*

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

That we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Because of the tender mercy of our God, the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

** Please stand*

***HYMN OF ADORATION** | *We sing praises to God*

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Words & Music: Henry Van Dyke.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

***INVOCATION** | *We pray for God's presence, power and blessing in worship*

***ADVENT DOXOLOGY** | *(Glory Words) We praise the Triune God*

O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
We'll praise Your name forever, We'll praise your name forever.
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord.

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *We acknowledge our sin and ask for God's grace*

Mighty God, in the beginning you made man in your image and crowned him with glory and honor. You took pleasure in mankind as you walked with them in the garden in the cool of the day. But in Adam we sinned & fell, exchanging the glorious light of your love for the darkness of sin and rebellion. We are lovers of darkness as we hide ourselves from you in guilt and despair.

Father, forgive us and deliver us from darkness through the light of your Son, the Lord Jesus, whom you sent into this world to shine the radiant light of your love into our dark hearts. Lord Jesus, you are worthy of the worship of angels, yet you laid aside your crown and took on our flesh in order to destroy our darkness. Born as a helpless babe, you are the Messiah who came to redeem us from the fall and reconcile us to God. Though you are the Light of the World, you were slain by darkness in order to satisfy the wrath of your Father as you paid for the sin of your people. Holy Spirit, draw our hearts from darkness to light. Cause us to hate the darkness of our sin and flee to the brightness of Christ's love, which welcomes us as treasured family members and carries us as honored guests to the table of celebration. We come to you in Christ's holy name, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDONING GRACE | *God forgives our sin and gives us grace*

from the Gospel of John

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." "Whoever believes in me, believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness."

***HYMN OF GRACE** | *We celebrate God's gift of grace*

O Come, O Come Immanuel

Words: Translated by J. M. Neale. Music: Thomas Helmore

O come, O come, Immanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine ad-vent here
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE | *Isaiah 9:2-7* | *Art and Misti Athens*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Prepare then the way of the Lord.

The lighting of the Advent candles depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world.

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** | *We confess what we believe*

from Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

TITHES AND OFFERING | *We offer our gifts to God*

from Matthew 2

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet.

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way.

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER | *We lift up our requests to God*

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

***GREETINGS OF PEACE** | *We greet those around us with the peace of Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you

HYMN OF PREPARATION | *We prepare our hearts to hear God's Word*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Words: Gerard Moultrie. Music: Picardy

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven, spreads its wings on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth, from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanquish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

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SCRIPTURE | John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

SERMON NOTES

THE INVITATION

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

O most merciful Father, we do not presume to come to your Table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. We humbly beseech you to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us a means of grace in your dearly-beloved son Jesus Christ. Renew us by your Holy Spirit and nourish us with the body and blood of Christ, that we may grow into his likeness and become a living temple to your glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Note About Partaking: The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who have believed the good news, have repented of their sins, and are baptized members in good standing in the Lord's Church. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the Church.

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself."
1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Note About Communion Wine: *The trays marked "Juice" contain only non-alcoholic grape juice. The other unmarked trays and the common cup contain wine.*

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Those Struggling Against Sin

Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Covenant Children

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN | *We celebrate the family meal of Christians*

Silent Night

Words: Joseph Mohr. Music: Freeman Young

Silent night, Holy night, all is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar heavenly hosts sing Alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, Holy night, Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus lord at thy birth, Jesus lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! wondrous Star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

***THANKSGIVING**

Greater Doxology - Gloria In Excelsis Deo

Words & Music: Traditional French Carol

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

***BENEDICTION** | *God pronounces his blessing upon us*

Benediction means "good word." A benediction is not a prayer. God pronounces His blessing upon His people and sends them out into the world to serve Him. We lift up our heads and our hearts to receive his blessing.

***DISMISSAL** | *God sends us out into the world*

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God



Daniel Island Christmas Celebration

Come together with friends and neighbors in our community to celebrate Christmas and spread the holiday cheer through a concert of Lessons and Carols presented by Point Hope Presbyterian Church.

Featuring:

Student choirs from our local schools accompanied by members of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and other local musicians.

A reception of wine & hors d'oeuvres for adults and a pizza party for kids, graciously provided by the Daniel Island Community Fund.

Reserve your seat today!



December 10 | 5:00PM | DI Rec Center

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

Welcome! At some point during our service, a pad will be passed down your row. We would love for you to fill it out and get to know the person next to you.

Devotional at the Wellmore | 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, at 10:30AM

You are invited to join us on Wednesday, December 13 at 10:30 AM, as we come together to care for the residents of Wellmore on Daniel Island. Together, we'll have a devotional service and share in meaningful conversations with Wellmore residents. Your kindness and presence will mean a lot as we develop and foster new friendships. We can't wait to see you there!

Service Project at ECCO | Tuesday, December 12 at 5:30PM | 1145 Six Mile Road

The women of Point Hope are invited to come together for a service project at East Cooper Community Outreach. The ladies will join together to build care packages for the clients at ECCO. For more information on the care package supplies and details, please connect with Joan Caldwell or Gretchen Ladley.

Celebrating the Christmas Season at Point Hope



Mark your calendar for our upcoming Christmas season!

December 10 - A Christmas Concert of Lessons and Carols - 5:00PM

December 24 - Christmas Eve Sunday Worship - 10:00AM

Free tickets are available for our Lessons and Carols event and can be reserved by following the QR code.

Connecting with Nick & Caroline McDonald

As the McDonalds prepare for extended treatment at the hospital, we would love to continue to find ways to support and care for them. Josie Adkins will coordinate all care, gifts, letters and updates. You can connect with Josie via email or cell phone. Josie Adkins: josiemaszk@gmail.com ; (843) 727-5161

Giving to Point Hope Presbyterian Church



You may use this QR Code if you would like to support the ministry of Point Hope Presbyterian Church.

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Clergy Advisory Council for the Mayor

Daniel Island Recreation Center | Jen Nelson

Daniel Island School | Lori Ann Grizzle & Laura Blanchard

Daniel Island Special Needs Pickleball | Steve & Suzanne Gilroy

East Cooper Community Outreach | Don Squires

Edgewood Ministries | Hal Farnsworth

FCA | Will Kendrick & Clint Echols

Philip Simmons Football | Eric Bendig & Kendra Christmas

Priority One | Bud Carpenter

RUF at College of Charleston | Jacob Lee & Ella Cait Downs

RUF at Furman University | Tom Hart

RUF at South Carolina State | Joel Brown

Wellmore of Daniel Island | Greg Johnson & Liz Hubbard

Young Life | Tracey Thomas

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