

Luke 21:25–36 Signs in the heavens show that the kingdom of God is near; be alert. (Pew Bible Page #85) Walter Lane

Anthem *Come, O Come* Marguerite Briggs Cromie

Sermon Thomas Ruehle

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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 and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn #9 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction

Postlude *Fugue in B* - J.S. Bach Peter Smith/Guest Accompanist

Enclosed is a form for the Christmas Poinsettia's. If you wish to purchase one, please have the form back by the 15th. \$9.00 cash or check payable to the church. Thank You.

Thank you the Worship & Outreach Committee for providing us with this morning's coffee hour.

Sandra Maceyka has placed beautiful flowers in the Sanctuary



Words of Welcome and Announcements

Thomas Ruehle

WELCOME TO THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT WITH JOHNSTOWN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. WELCOME TO ALL JOINING US HERE AND ON U-TUBE.

Mission of the Month

Christmas Joy

Prelude *Greensleeves*

Richard Purvis

Peter Smith/Guest Accompanist

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Betsy Camarra

Leader: Our Advent journey begins today with the lighting of the first candle, the candle of Hope. Like the flame of a candle may hope be ignited in our hearts, reminding us that brighter days are ahead.

For those of us facing difficult challenges

Ignite our hearts with hope.

For the end of wars wreaking havoc and pain in our world

Ignite our hearts with hope.

For safety for those fleeing the tyranny of oppression

Ignite our hearts with hope.

For the light of forgiveness to shine in our hearts

Ignite our hearts with hope.

Gracious Creator, in moments of uncertainty, we turn to you with hearts heavy but hopeful. Grant us the strength to navigate challenges, the wisdom to see possibilities, and the courage to embrace the journey ahead. May hope be our guiding light, leading us to a future filled with grace, love, and possibilities beyond our imagining. Amen.

Call To Worship

Thomas Ruehle

Leader: let us keep watch! Hear what the Lord will say to us in these days.

All: We need a good word for right now, but we can't hear God's voice over our own noise.

Leader: The proud and the wealthy don't have the right spirit: the arrogant will never understand.

All: So let us be humble and generous, listening before we speak and giving more than we receive.

Leader: The Lord is in his holy temple Let all mortal flesh keep silence before the God.

All: We will keep silent and not be afraid. We will be still and wait for a word.

Leader: Rejoice, O daughter Zion. The lord will come dwell in your midst, and none will be afraid.

All: Let all living things be silent before the Lord.

Opening Hymn #8 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

CONFESSION AND PARDON

THOMAS RUEHLE

Leader: Coming Christ, you may not find us as you hoped. We've looked away from signs we do not wish to see. We've stopped listening to distress we do not wish to hear. We are numb to inconvenient truths.

People: Keep us alert, O God, to the needs of our neighbors. Revive our hearts laden with compassion fatigue. Sharpen our minds clouded by worries. Sober our lives addicted to privilege. Show us the signs of your coming, that we may stand before you, the Son of Man, in whose name we pray.

Leader: Let us take a moment of silent confession and personal reflection

Assurance of Pardon

Thomas Ruehle

Leader: As sure as the fig tree blossoms, so sure is the salvation of God, poured out for the World in Jesus Christ our Lord. Believe the good news.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri

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.

Prayer of Dedication

Thomas Ruehle

Leader: God Most High, receive the gifts of our lives as an offering of gratitude for your grace. Overshadow us with your Holy Spirit and let it be with us according to your word, for nothing is impossible with you. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Alleluia!**

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, Rejoice! The Lord is near. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 May God strengthen your heart until the coming of the Lord Jesus. (Pew Bible Page #204)

Walter Lane



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA'S

Once again we are getting Poinsettia's for those who wish to purchase one. The cost is 9.00. Cash or checks made payable to the church with Poinsettia in the memo.

Please fill out the form below and return it with your payment by Sunday, December 15th. Thank You.

Your Name: _____

IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF:

Given by: _____

Check One _____ I Will Take _____ Deacons Please Share