

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 63:7-9 (Pew Bible Page #69)
Hebrews 2:10-18 (Pew Bible Page #219)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. And we all say:
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *What I Have I Will Give Thee*

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Prayers of the People (Sharing of Joys and Concerns)

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 #29** “Go Tell It on The Mountain”

***Charge and Benediction**

Choral Benediction *Dona Nobis Pacem* (Grant Us Peace)

Postlude *Overture From On To Us A Child Is Born* JS Bach
Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

Thank you to the Deacon's
for providing us with today's Coffee Hour/Birthday Celebration
First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, NY – YouTube link:



Website Address: www.johnstownpresbyterian.org

Helen Thompson

Mark Patterson

Pastor Ken



December 28, 2025

10:30am

WELCOME: TO JOHNSTOWN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. WELCOME TO ALL JOINING US HERE AND ON YOUTUBE. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SHARE THE SERVICE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY. WE WANT TO REMIND YOU THAT YOU ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE HERE.

LAURA RUEHLE

Mission of the Month Christmas Joy

Prelude *Away In A Manger*

...arr by Jim Brickman

Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

Choral Introit

Call To Worship

Pastor Ken

Leader: In the days after the celebration, when the lights dim and the ordinary returns, we remember the steadfast love of the Lord.

People: We will tell of God’s mercy, and of the many ways God has carried us.

Leader: In every joy and in every sorrow, God has been present—sharing our pain and bearing our burdens.

People: We praise God who does not stand far off but comes near to us.

Leader: When praise comes easily, and when trust must be whispered, God remains faithful.

People: We will persist in praise, and when praise is hard, we will persist in trust.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God who saves, the God who walks with us through all that befalls us.

All: Let us worship God.

(PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT)

***Opening Hymn** #210 “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Call to Confession

Pastor Ken

Leader: Even as we remember God’s steadfast love, we confess that our trust is often fragile. When joy fades and life grows difficult, we forget the God who has carried us and shares our suffering. Yet Scripture reminds us that Christ is not ashamed to call us siblings and that God meets us with mercy, not rejection. Trusting in God’s compassion and faithfulness, let us come before God with honesty and humility, and confess our sin together.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Faithful God, we confess that our praise does not always endure.

When life is joyful, we speak easily of your goodness, but when hardship comes, our trust falters and our voices fall silent. We forget how often you have shown mercy, how you have carried us in times of trouble, and how, in Jesus Christ, you chose to share fully in our human struggle.

Forgive us for our short memories and fragile faith. Restore in us a trust that persists through sorrow and joy alike. Teach us to lean on your steadfast love, and to follow Christ, who walks with us through all that befalls us. Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ, God has entered fully into our human life, sharing our weakness, our suffering, and our fear. God’s mercy does not fail, and God’s love does not let us go. Through Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and set free. We are no longer bound by our past, but restored to trust and hope by God’s steadfast love. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **All: Thanks be to God.**

***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 for Illumination

Gracious God, as we turn now to your Word, quiet our hearts and open our minds. In familiar stories and challenging truths, speak to us again.

Remind us of your steadfast love, shown again and again, and of Christ who shares our humanity and walks with us in every season. When praise comes easily, deepen our gratitude. When trust feels harder to hold, strengthen our faith. By your Spirit, help us hear what we need to hear, that we may learn to persist in trust and praise through all that befalls us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our brother and our Lord. Amen.