CLOSING HYMN #88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" ***Verses 1-4

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" J.S. BACH
BELINDA VAIR

ANNOUNCEMENTS (PLEASE SEE THE UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENT SHEET)

+ Our **Mission of the Month** is for the **James A. Brennan Humane Society**.
+ The next **Free Community Meal** is **Saturday, December 5.**
+ We are accepting orders for Poinsettias. They are $10 each. **December 7** is the deadline.
+ The final date for submissions for the **Steward Ship is Friday, December 4.** We will offer a blessing for the submissions next week**.**
+ Please stay after the service today and join us for a time of fellowship provided by the **Deacons as we celebrate November birthdays!**.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JOHNSTOWN, NY
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Ken Killian, Pastor
Craig Talarico, Clerk of Session
Dawn Austin, Office Administrator
Belinda Vair, Music Director
Jim Wright, Custodian



Welcome to worship at the First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. Whether you are here in the sanctuary or joining us online, we are glad you are with us!

PRELUDE BELINDA VAIR

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Candle of Hope RON & DONNA CHIZEK

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR SPIRIT) 2

Leader: We come together at the beginning of Advent, carrying our hopes, our worries, and our questions about tomorrow.

People: We come trusting in a God who remains faithful through every season of life.

Leader: When the world seems uncertain, Christ calls us to stay awake and pay attention.

People: To notice the signs of hope, the needs of our neighbors, and the presence of God's love.

Leader: We may not know what the future holds, but we do not face it alone.

People: God is with us, today and in all the days to come.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God of hope!

All: With open eyes, open hearts, and renewed spirits, let us worship God!

***OPENING HYMN #82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Gracious God, we confess that our worries about tomorrow sometimes keep us from appreciating today. We become distracted by uncertainty and miss opportunities to share kindness, show compassion, and recognize your presence in others. Forgive us when fear overshadows our hope. Open our eyes to the goodness around us, our hearts to the needs of our neighbors, and our lives to the possibilities of your love. Help us trust in your faithfulness, today and always. Amen.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***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 LAURA RUEHLE

Leader: Gracious God,
as we hear your Word today, open our minds to its wisdom and our hearts to its promises. Help us look beyond our fears and uncertainties to discover the hope you offer. May your Spirit guide us toward lives of faith, compassion, and love.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING LAURA RUEHLE

Psalm 130:5-7 (Pew Bible Page #574)
Mark 13:24-37 (Pew Bible Page #50)

Leader: This is the word of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Carol For Advent" DON BESIG & NANCY PRICE

DEACON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION HELEN THOMPSON

SERMON "Hope With Our Eyes Open"

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.