

Scripture Reading

Helen Thompson

Isaiah 35:1-10 (Pew Bible Page #663)

Luke 1:46b-55 (Pew Bible Page #57)

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God. And we all say:

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *A Tiny Child Will Come*

Don Besig

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon “The Road to Joy Is Paved with Song “

Pastor Ken

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 #540** “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

***Charge and Benediction**

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

Postlude *Werde Munter* (Become Cheerful)

J.S. Bach

Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

Thank you to the Mission & Outreach Committee
for providing us with today’s Coffee Hour

First Presbyterian Church of Johnstown, NY – YouTube link:

www.youtube.com/%40FirstPresbyterianJohnstown

Website Address: www.johnstownpresbyterian.org



December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

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.

MONA COLE

Mission of the Month Christmas Joy

Prelude *I Wonder As I Wander*

arr. by Mark Hayes

Belinda Vair Accompanist/Choir Director

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Candle of Joy – Mona & Oakley Cole

Followed by Choral Introit – “*An Advent Carol*”

Call To Worship

Mona Cole

Leader: The desert and the dry land shall be glad; the wilderness shall rejoice and blossom.

People: Like the crocus, it shall bloom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

Leader: Jesus said, “Go and tell what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news.”

People: We come rejoicing, for God’s promises are blossoming among us. We come singing, for Christ’s good news is breaking into the world.

Leader: Come, beloved of God, let us worship the One who brings life out of barrenness,

healing out of brokenness, and joy out of sorrow.

People: We will rejoice and be glad, for the Lord is near!

All: Let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving!

(PLEASE RISE IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT)

***Opening Hymn #2** “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Call to Confession

Mona Cole

Friends, Advent is a season of hope and joy, yet we know how often our lives feel barren, like a desert waiting for rain. The prophet Isaiah declares that the wilderness shall blossom and sing, and Jesus reminds us that the blind see, the lame walk, and the poor receive good news. We come before God now, trusting that the same power which brings life out of barrenness and healing out of brokenness will meet us in our confession. Let us open our hearts to the One who makes all things new.

Prayer of Confession

All: God of blossoming deserts and healing hope, we confess that we often live as though your promises are far away. We see wilderness and despair, but we do not trust in your joy. We hear of good news for the poor, yet we cling to our own comfort. We know that Christ brings sight to the blind and strength to the weak, but we resist being changed ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord. Turn our hearts toward your kingdom breaking in. Make us bloom with compassion, walk in the ways of justice, and sing with joy at the wonders you are doing. Through Jesus Christ, who is our healing and our hope. Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Mona Cole

Leader: Hear the good news: The wilderness shall rejoice and blossom, and the desert shall sing with joy. In Christ, the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the poor receive good news. This is the promise of Advent: God’s kingdom is breaking in, and through Jesus Christ we are forgiven, renewed, and made whole.

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

Helen Thompson

Leader: God of joy and promise, you cause deserts to bloom and the blind to see. By your Spirit, open our hearts and minds to your Word this day. Shine your light upon us, that we may hear good news with gladness, walk in your ways of justice and mercy, and rejoice in the coming of Christ, the One who makes all things new.

Amen.