

## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### WELCOME

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Will Johnston

### PRELUDE

Bill Hardie, pianist

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Dean & Sonnie Allison

We have called one another to hope, and we have sought peace with one another. Now comes a reminder to rejoice!

***We look forward to a time when God will bring joy to the world. For so many reasons, we need this joy ourselves.***

The demands and reminders of this season may make joy difficult. This is why we come together to worship.

***We as a worshipping community are called to point out joy to one another. We set our lights on a lampstand for all to see.***

Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I will say rejoice! The Lord, our source of joy, is near!

***May our lives and spirits be brightened by this worship moment, and by those with whom we praise God's name!***

Let us Pray

***Gracious God, we confess that we're not always able to detect reasons for joy that you have placed all around us. We are not always open to the rejoicing to which you have called us. This time of year, is often as much of a reminder of endless tasks and lost relationships as it is an invitation to sing and to be merry. Help us to join together with joyful hearts in this time and place. Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy for the wonderful things that you have done and will do for us. Amen.***

### OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Kevin Channell

### \*OPENING HYMN

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Hymnal #168

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Will Johnston

***Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sins and the sins of this world. We know perfect joy only comes through faith in you,***

***yet we seek it elsewhere. In search of comfort, we indulge our desires. In search of love, we hide from our faults. In search of approval, we spend beyond our means. Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places. Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to discover what is honorable, just, and pleasing in your sight. Amen.***

### TIME OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

Psalms 139:23-24

Will Johnston

***Search me, oh God, and know my heart, try me, and know my anxious ways. See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Amen (Silent Confession)***

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Kevin Channell

The scriptures say, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The forgiveness we seek is ours through the grace of Jesus Christ. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

Hymnal #142

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Kevin Channell

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 3: 7-18

Will Johnston

### THE MESSAGE

Pastor Kevin Channell

### \*HYMN OF RESPONSE

"What Child is This?"

Hymnal #180

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### \*DOXOLOGY

Hymnal #382

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### \*CLOSING HYMN

"Child in a Manager"

Hymnal # 198

### COMMISSION & BEDICTION

Pastor Kevin Channell

**“GOD BE WITH YOU TILL WE MEET AGAIN”**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*The congregation will please stand. The bold type indicates congregational response. A/V – Audio/Visual screens CCLI License # 1786884 OneLicense #A-728529*

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***Burgettstown Presbyterian Church***

December 15, 2024

***In-Person and Virtual Worship***

