

**Offering/Doxology**

arr. Rouse

"Carry the Light of Love"  
Resounding Joy

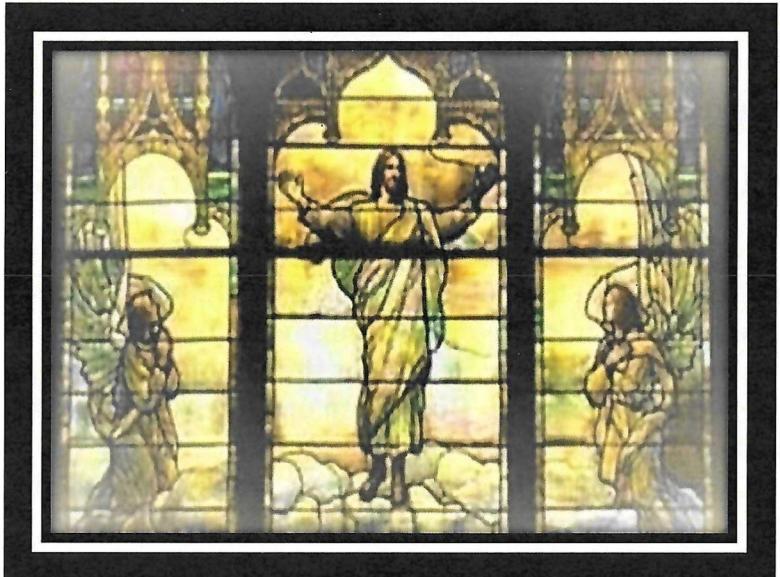
**Offertory Prayer**

**Passing the Peace**

**Hymn**

"Joy to the World" v 1,2,4      UMH 246

**\*Benediction**



**GATEWAY UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**DECEMBER 21, 2025**

**301 Diamond Street, Fairmont WV 26554**

**Rev. Nici Masters, Pastor  
Music Coordinator – Bev Slagle  
December Head Usher – Jeff Erdie**

**Acolytes**  
Esme and Ollie Allen  
Haeden and Kenslie Futter  
Nora Rae Huffman

# The Celebration of Worship

## Order of Worship

### Announcements

#### Prelude

Trace Tucker

#### \*Call to Worship

P: A voice cries, "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."  
**All: We are preparing our hearts for the God of joy to come into the world. God's joy flows into our lives through the gift of the Christ child.**

P: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

**All: God calls us out of the exile of sin with the good news of restoration. God has built a highway through the wilderness.**

P: Immanuel has come into our lives, and we know that God has the power to keep God's promises.

**All: God calls us to strengthen our faith and prepare our hearts to glorify God. We are joyful people waiting for the return of our God.**

#### Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Please fill me with joy in Your presence, with eternal pleasures at Your right hand. Grant that as Jesus promised, His joy may be in us and our joy may be complete.

Fulfill His promise that, though we may grieve, our grief will turn to joy, and no one will take away our joy. Teach us to always pray with joy, giving joyful thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. And grant us such love and

faith in You that we may be filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. Amen.

#### Children's Chat

Georgia Williams

Opening Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" v1,2,3  
UMH 211

#### Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

The Allen Family  
Resounding Joy

Anthem "Sing for Joy"

#### Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

The Jones Family  
Psalm 16:7-11

#### Scripture Reading

7 I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. 8 I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. 11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

#### Sermon Scripture

Luke 2:8-15

Sermon "Seeing the Promise Fulfilled" Rev. Nici Masters

Hymn "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240

#### Joys and Concerns

#### Pastoral Prayer