GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude “Love Came Down at Christmas” Robert Thygerson

Welcome and Church Life Notes

*Passing of the Peace – please share the peace & love of Christ with your neighbor

Introit “In the Bleak Midwinter” Gustav Holst
Sally Scrimshaw, Harp

*Call to Worship - (read responsively)
Leader: People of God, Esther was a heroic woman who took a great risk to bring peace for her people.
People: We want peace to overcome struggle, violence, and cruelty.
Leader: It can be dangerous to call for peace.
People: This might be the job God needs us to do.
Leader: Today we light a candle to symbolize God's peace. We hope in the One who will come.

(Lighting the candles of hope and peace)
Leader: People of God, take courage.
People: We take courage from the light of God!

*Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #82

Prayer of Confession (read responsively)
Leader: Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin, confident in God's mercy.
People: Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (read responsively)
Leader: Friends, I am confident of this: if we repent, God is sure to forgive us.
People: The One who began a good work in us will bring it to completion. Grateful for the promise of joy and peace, we share that with one another.

*Choral Response Refrain only from “Angels We Have Heard On High” #113
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Anthem “Every Valley” John Ness Beck
Chancel Choir

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time with the Children Rev. Sarah Hooker
(Children may leave for the Child Care Room following the Time with Children.)

Leader: Let us prepare for God's eternal Word, touched and seen in Jesus by bringing crèches that we can touch and see as signs of God's goodness and love.
People: Love that rules the universe lived and suffered, died for us: abundant, touched and seen, ever living, ever-green.

*Hymn “Once in Royal David’s City” (vs 1 & 2) #140

Prayer for Illumination (read in unison)
Holy One, through your Holy Spirit instruct us by the light of your prophets. Illuminate our hearts, that we may hear your call to become your path in the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

First Scripture Reading (page 4 NT in the pew Bible) Matthew 5:13-16
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading Esther 4:1-17 (pages 446-447 OT in the pew Bible)
Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God

Sermon “For Such a Time As This” Rev. Sarah Hooker
RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Minute for Mission  
Tree of Hope  
Elder Nancy Althaus

Presentation of Gifts, Offerings

Call to the Offering

Offertory  “Soon He Will Appear”  
Robert Schirman, arr. Lani Smith

*Choral Response  “The Doxology”  
# 606

*Prayer of Dedication

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

… “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”

Symbols of Christmas (Tree, Lights and Ornaments)

Leader: Let us prepare for God’s eternal Word, touched and seen in Jesus by bringing trees, chrismons and white lights that we can touch and see as signs of God’s goodness and love.

People: Love that rules the universe lived and suffered, died for us: abundant, touched and seen, ever living, ever-green.

*Hymn  
“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”  
#93

*Benediction and Decorating the Tree

*Postlude  
“Medley of Alfred Burt Carols”

(Music will be played as the congregation decorates the Christmas tree. When the tree is decorated, then the lights are turned on.)

* You are invited to stand.

Thought for the Day: “Jesus did not come to make God’s love possible, but to make God’s love visible.” —Author unknown

Pastor: Rev. Sarah Hooker
Music Director: Gayle Olsen
Today’s Organist: Gayle Olsen
Harpist: Sally Scrimshaw

Liturgist: Elder Renée Maxwell
4 Clinton Street, Delhi, NY 13753
(607) 746-2155, Fax # 746-2156
Web Site: www.fpcdelhi.org

e-mail: office@fpcdelhi.org

The First Presbyterian Church
Delhi, New York

First Presbyterian Church actively exists as the living body of Christ, committed to growing in faithfulness to God, serving the whole human family and welcoming all people into God’s love.

(Our Mission Statement)
Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Delhi as we worship in the name of the One who was, who is and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“I will strive to enter that intimate space of Christ’s radical love with you.”

We invite everyone to take a moment during the offertory to sign the Church Attendance Register found in each pew. A special welcome is extended to all who are visiting with us this morning. We hope that your worship experience will be meaningful and enjoyable. If you are interested in learning more about First Presbyterian Church or becoming a member of this congregation, please speak with Pastor Sarah, the Church Office or any Elder.

Please join us for a Christmas Season Fellowship Dinner - Come share in fellowship and celebrate the Christmas season with your church family. TODAY, Sunday, December 7 after church, the Fellowship committee will be hosting a roast pork dinner in Fellowship Hall. You are all invited. You may bring a side dish or dessert to go along with the roast pork but if you didn’t, please come anyway! We will sing Christmas carols and play a holiday game or two! Contributions for the food bank will be joyfully accepted. We look forward to celebrating Christ’s birth with you! EVERYONE is invited to this time of fellowship. Come, celebrate the Christmas Season!

The FLOWERS this morning are given in memory of Bill and Andy Philion by Tom, Sarah and Miles Philion.

The TRUSTEES responsible for counting today are Linda Burr and Pat Sullivan. The Trustees responsible for counting on December 14 are Tom Leo and Jackie Clark.

Mission Emphasis for December – Christmas Joy Offering

Merry Christmas to Our Church Family!
A Christmas card wall will be set up in the narthex for people to send Christmas greetings to the entire congregation. You can hang the card up yourself or mail it into the church office and we will hang it for you! This is a wonderful opportunity to share the joy of the season with our family in Christ at First Presbyterian.
Liz Arehart will be in the child-care room today during the worship service. There is a list of who will be providing care each week posted on the Nursery door. Child care is provided from after the children's sermon until the end of worship most Sundays. If you are in need of care earlier in the service arrangements can be made by locating a nursery attendant prior to the service.

Our annual Christmas Pageant is on Sunday December 14, at 10:30 am. Pageant Practices will start at 9:30 each Sunday leading up to and including the 14th.

Thoughts on Giving: “Prepare the way of the Lord...” - Mark 1:3
We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

Stewardship Prayer: That we take time to invite others to share and participate in our Faith.

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<th>Attendance last Sunday</th>
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<tr>
<td>The amount needed each week</td>
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The Per Capita amount for 2014 has been set at $31.71 per member.

Delhi First Presbyterian Church is Sponsoring a bus trip to Sight and Sound show Moses on Saturday, April 11, 2015. See the Courier for more information or pick up a registration sheet in the Narthex or outside the church office. Priority registration deadline is December 30.

On December 7, 14, 21 and 28 the PW will be collecting the Christmas Stockings that were sent in the January Courier. The collection area is located in the Narthex. Following the poem, the total amount to fill a stocking is $7.80. The money will be divided equally between Habitat for Humanity and Hospice. If anyone wants to know if they are up to date with their pledge, have paid their apportionment, or any other information about their giving, please give me a call at 746-3611 or e-mail giajoe@delhitel.net. Thank you, Gia Cantwell, FPC Financial Secretary.

FOOD BANK MISSION REMINDER! Food donation boxes are located in the Narthex and in the New Narthex or in the church office. In addition, cash donations may be placed in the offering plate or left in the church office. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church.

Children's worship bags now available. Puzzles, small toys, coloring and drawing materials are located in the hospitality room on the shelves. Children are welcome to select a bag with items of their choosing to use during worship. Children’s Bulletins are also available. You may return the materials to the shelves at the conclusion of the service or simply leave the bag in the pew.