



The First Presbyterian Church Delhi, New York

January 1, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion & First Sunday of Christmas

*"Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights."
Psalm 148:1*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Church Life Notes

Introit

***Unison Psalm Reading (*Psalm 148*)**

Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.

***Hymn**

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

#151

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Source of Salvation and Bringer of Light, we fail to sense the mystery of your love. We bear grudges against our neighbors, while it is your nature to forgive. We hold tightly to our possessions, while Christ blesses the poor. In him you have spoken peace, yet we live in turmoil. We care little for this planet, which you in goodness created for our habitation. In mercy forgive us and help us to amend our ways. Amen.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

God is righteous and just and forgives the "iniquity of all who repent." Like "rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth," God's goodwill overflows toward us in the Babe of Bethlehem. Through that child, who is our risen Lord, we plead for forgiveness and claim God's mercy and assurance of pardon.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Choral Response**

"Gloria Patri"

#581

*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.*

***Sharing the Peace**

One: Let us pass the peace of Christ who is our joy and our hope to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Interlude

Prayer for Illumination

Merciful God of deliverance, we praise you for sending Jesus as Light for the nations. He is the glory and radiance of your compassion and care. Our eyes behold the brightness of your promised righteousness; you illumine our darkness with the hope of justice. As generations before us, we stand in awe of your splendor; we bow down to worship you, lifting our voices in praise of your goodness and giving heed to your instruction. Open our eyes so we may see your Word more clearly, open our ears to hear those Words and open our hearts to receive them. In Jesus's precious name we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Apostles' Creed**

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Eucharist

Presentation of Gifts & Offerings

Call to the Offering

Offerings may be made online at <https://fpcdelhi.org/content/offering> or by USPS mail service.

Offertory

***Choral Response**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, as wise rulers of old brought gifts and worshiped a newly born baby; so also we bring offerings in praise of him whom you sent. The star that we follow is the light of Christ's teachings, calling us to be faithful in service to all in need. Accept what we earn, the products of our creative energy and talent. Let this be the gold, frankincense and myrrh that we bring. By our gifts may a sad and needy world be enriched and comforted. In Jesus' precious name we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Communion Hymn

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

#525

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

... "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion will be by intinction, or you may use the individual elements that were provided on your way in this morning.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, redeemer of all who trust you, heed the cry of your people; deliver us from the bondage of sin, that we may serve you in perfect freedom and rejoice in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn

"The First Nowell"

#147

*Benediction

*The Sending

"God Be With You Till We Meet Again" verse 1
God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

#541

Postlude

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Thought for the Day: *"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day of the year."*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Leading us in worship this morning:
Lay Preacher Marsha Muller, Worship Leader
Billy Meredith, Music Director
George Thompson, Liturgist



First Presbyterian Church
of Delhi, New York
January 1, 2023

Welcome! We begin worship and this new year as we always live: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Prayer) O Lord, let our New Year's resolution be to follow you more closely and to trust in your loving guidance.

Your **tithes and offerings** may be made online via PayPal, click the donate button at <https://fpcdelhi.org/content/offering>, or by regular USPS mail (4 Clinton Street, Delhi, NY 13753).

Tomorrow, January 2, is the **newsletter deadline**. If you have any articles or items for the Jan-Feb Courier, please get them to Darcy right away!

The last Sunday of every month is a BOUNTIFUL GIVING SUNDAY. The Delhi Food Pantry is accepting **non-perishable food items**. You can also donate via <https://fpcdelhi.org/content/offering> or give cash or check donations designated for the food bank. Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church. Checks may also be mailed via regular mail to the church at 4 Clinton Street, Delhi NY 13753.

Devotional booklets (Upper Room and Daily Bread) are available outside the office and in the new narthex. Please take one for your daily devotions!

THOUGHTS ON GIVING: “*And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.*” Luke 2:19 After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. She heard God’s message, and immediately said “yes.” Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER: That just as Mary reflects the light of Christ, we, too, are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world.

The **Per Capita** amount for 2022 has been set at \$42.00 per member.

<i>Virtual and Sanctuary Attendance Sunday 12-25-2022</i>	33 - 28 in sanctuary + Approx. 5 virtual
The amount needed each week	\$2,147.35*
The amount given 12-24-2022	\$608.25
The amount given 12-25-2022	\$3,071.00
The amount needed year-to-date	\$111,662.20
The amount given YTD as of 12-25-2022	\$91,574.48
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 12-25-2022	\$7,883.60
Kirk Receipts 12-18-22 to 12-24-22	\$755.96
Mission giving week of 12-25-2022	\$150.00
Mission giving YTD as of 12-25-2022	\$3,104.00
Apportionment Needed 2022	\$7,182.00
Apportionment received YTD as of 12-25-2022	\$3,024.58

*The amount needed each week is total expenses minus budgeted savings transfers.

SUNDAY January 1, 2023	<i>New Year’s Day</i> 10:30 am Worship with Communion
MONDAY January 2	<i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 8:00 am - 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
TUESDAY January 3	8:00 am - 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 3:00 pm Girl Scouts (Chapel)
WEDNESDAY January 4	8:00 am - 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga (Chapel)
THURSDAY January 5	8:00 am - 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
FRIDAY January 6	8:00 am - 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open
SATURDAY January 7	9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 9:15 am Fit to be Tied Yoga (Chapel)
SUNDAY January 8	9:30 am Deacons Meeting 10:30 am Worship with Installation of Officers