



The First Presbyterian Church Delhi, New York

December 11, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

*"The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad, let the distant shores rejoice."
Psalm 97:1*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Church Life Notes

Introit

"People Look East"

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Tom & Susie Little

Reader One: When I look around I see shadows of sadness, families who have lost loved ones, people in prison, people who are isolated and feel on their own.

Reader Two: When I look around I see shadows of grief, people dreading the holidays because of painful memories, because they're recently divorced, because they don't want to spend another Christmas alone.

Reader One: In the face of sadness, we light a candle of joy.

Reader Two: In the face of grief, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy. (*light third candle*)

Reader One: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

Reader Two: May the light from this candle say to all that God's joy is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Reader One: Friends, be not afraid, God's joy is at hand!

*Call to Worship (*Luke 1:78-79*)

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Fill us with your Spirit giving light in our dark places. Amen.

*Hymn

"The First Noel"

#147

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Mighty and powerful God, your word says, "Rejoice always." But we would rather sulk about what we do not do right. You ask us to pray without ceasing, but we too often do not think about you. You tell us to give thanks, yet our thankfulness is fleeting because we believe we deserve blessings. You remind us to hold fast to what is good, while we hold fast to our sinful ways. Forgive us, mighty God. Amen.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

The prophets of old have declared, "I will rejoice in the Lord; my whole being shall exalt in my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation. He has covered me in the robes of righteousness. Friends, believe the good news; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Time for Small Disciples

Anthem

"Were You There on the Christmas Night"

by Sleeth

Prayer for Illumination

Dear Lord, illuminate this day and enlighten us as we seek to know you through your word. May we always be led by the light of the Lord so our hearts are opened to your word. We ask that through prayer we receive every word that you speak to us today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD***Hymn***"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

#121

***Affirmation of Faith - Shorter Catechism**

Who is the leader of God's elect?

The only redeemer of God's Elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who being the eternal son of God, became man and so was, and is today, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Presentation of Gifts & Offerings**Call to the Offering**

Lord, we are ever grateful for the opportunity to give our gifts, knowing you will bless those in need. Bless these gifts along with your good news to share with your people in our community and elsewhere. Amen.

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**

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are God. You give us eternal love and we give our gifts as an expression of our love for you. To you be the glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer Hymn*"Sanctuary"*

#701

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

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

Hymn"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

#133

Benediction*Postlude**

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Thought for the Day: *"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; Life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."* —Henri Nouwen

Leading us in worship this morning:
Pulpit Guest Ron Galley, Worship Leader
Billy Meredith, Music Director
Trustee Tom Little, Liturgist



First Presbyterian Church

of Delhi, New York

December 11, 2022

The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship.

(Prayer) "Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear." Your coming gives hope to this troubled world, and to our hearts, O Lord.

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).

Congratulations on a new baby girl! Ailish Elowynn Cobbe was born to Aubrynn (Nealis) & Tom Cobbe on Sunday, December 4, 2022.

Our **Angel Tree** is filled with angel envelopes. We will be collecting donations in any amount for the Delhi Children's Christmas fund. Checks can be made out to "Delhi Children's Christmas Fund." These funds will be used to purchase toys for children referred from both the Department of Social Services and Delaware Academy schools. Just place your donation in the envelope from our angel tree or leave your donation in the church office. Thank you for making our local children's Christmases bright!"

We are collecting the **Christmas Stockings** for the month of December! Your donations can be put in the offering plate or dropped off at the church office. The money will be split between Helios Care and Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for contributing to this mission!

St. John's is offering a **festive 'Lessons and Carols' service**, fun and enjoyable for everyone. Hear the story of God's redemptive love for his creation, by sending his son Jesus, as a baby, into this broken world. Enjoy singing familiar Christmas Carols and join in fellowship over refreshments. Starts at 7PM, Friday, December 16th.

For the time that we are without a full-time pastor, members of Session will be taking turns in serving as a go-to person if a pastoral need arises. For the month of December our contact person will be Kathy Sullivan. She can be reached at (607) 746-7287 or burnayrfarm@delhi.net.

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: *"You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."* James 5:8 Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what he wants us to do with the gifts he has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and his plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER: That through daily prayer we gain patience and align ourselves with God and his plan for us.

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

<i>Virtual and Sanctuary Attendance Sunday 12-4-2022</i>	41 - 36 in sanctuary + Approx. 5 virtual
The amount needed each week	\$2,147.35*
The amount given week of 12-4-2022	\$1,235.00
The amount needed year-to-date	\$105,220.15
The amount given YTD as of 12-4-2022	\$84,027.48
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 12-4-2022	\$6,413.60
Kirk Receipts 11-27-22 to 12-3-22 (donating to Deposit Presbyterian Church)	\$2,788.13
Mission giving week of 12-4-2022	\$25.00
Mission giving YTD as of 12-4-2022	\$2,779.00
Apportionment Needed 2022	\$7,182.00
Apportionment received YTD as of 12-4-2022	\$2,598.58

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

SUNDAY December 11	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship
MONDAY December 12	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day 9:00 am Fire Inspection
TUESDAY December 13	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations
WEDNESDAY December 14	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga (Chapel) 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY December 15	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
FRIDAY December 16	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open
SATURDAY December 17	9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 9:15 am Fit to be Tied Yoga (Chapel)
SUNDAY December 18	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship