



The First Presbyterian Church Delhi, New York

December 18, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:33

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Church Life Notes

Introit – Bell Choir

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Joe & Toni Weaver

Reader One: Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, because too many of our conversations are laced with conflict and rancor we light candles.

Reader Two: Because people all over the world are suffering, and we're too often distracted to notice, we light candles.

Reader One: Today we stop everything and light these candles: one for hope, one for peace, one for joy and one for love. *(light fourth candle)*

Reader Two: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

Reader One: May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.

Reader Two: May the light and fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing God's love from being born among us.

Reader One: Friends, be not afraid, even now – even now – God's love is overwhelming the world, on earth as it is in heaven!

*Call to Worship *(from Luke 1:46-55)*

Our souls magnify the Lord...

And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior...

For the Mighty One has done great things for us...

And Holy is his name... and Holy is his name forever and ever. Amen.

*Hymn

“Joy to the World”

#134

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God-With-Us, we confess that at times we feel very far away from you. War, poverty, racism, climate change—with all the struggles of the world, sometimes we wonder where you are, instead of asking the question of who we are in this world. We forget we are all your children. We forget that you are with us, always, to the end of time. In the times of deepest struggle, may we remember that you promised us a sign of your presence: Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Your covenant with us, to be our God forever, endures even when we forget. In this last week of Advent, as we draw near to Christmas, may we remember you are with us. As the promises of the world let us down, as the music stops and the celebrations cease, may we know that we are forgiven and that you are with us, now and always. Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Amen.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Let us take a deep breath. With every breath, we breathe in God's love, breathe out our fear. With every breath, we know that we come from God, and we return to God. With every breath, we know that we are loved, and we love one another. We breathe deep, for the Spirit is in us. We breathe deep, knowing God's love is within. We are made in the image of God. We breathe in hope, breathe out peace. Breathe in joy, breathe out love. With every breath, we wait for God, and know God is with us, always. **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

Anthem – Bell Choir

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Micah 5:1-4

Now you are walled around with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the ruler of Israel upon the cheek.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore, he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor 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.**

Sermon

"The Magnificat"

Victor Lipko, ALP

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Hymn**

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

#158

***Affirmation of Faith - Shorter Catechism (1729)**

Are there more Gods than one?

There is but one only, the living and true God.

How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

There are three Persons in the Godhead: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

What are the decrees of God?

The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

How doth God execute his decrees?

God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

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 Lord, may the power of the Spirit, who came and blessed Mary the mother of your Son, also bless the gifts we bring here before you. Grant this through 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**

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

#146

*Benediction

Postlude

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Thought for the Day: *“Christmas is a box of tree ornaments that have become part of the family.”*

—Charles M. Schulz

Leading us in worship this morning:

Victor Lipko, ALP, Worship Leader

Billy Meredith, Music Director

Elder Joe Weaver, Liturgist



First Presbyterian Church of Delhi, New York December 18, 2022

“... and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us” (Matthew 1:23). What message is more comforting and praiseworthy? Welcome to worship.

(Prayer) With ages of worshipers, we pray: “O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home” (“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”).

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).

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 and place it in the offering plate. Thank you for making our local children’s Christmases bright!” **This morning’s offering is the last opportunity to give a donation to the Christmas Fund.**

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!

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 burnayfarm@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: “When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.” Matthew 1:24 Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return, striving to put God first in all things and follow him wherever he may lead us – Joseph was a model of these pillars of our faith. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER: That we can put our complete trust in God and become a model of discipleship like Joseph.

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

<i>Virtual and Sanctuary Attendance Sunday 12-11-2022</i>	44 - 38 in sanctuary + Approx. 6 virtual
The amount needed each week	\$2,147.35*
The amount given week of 12-11-2022	\$3,264.00
The amount needed year-to-date	\$107,367.50
The amount given YTD as of 12-11-2022	\$87,291.48
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 12-11-2022	\$7,433.60
Kirk Receipts 12-4-22 to 12-10-22	\$1,681.70
Mission giving week of 12-11-2022	\$165.00
Mission giving YTD as of 12-11-2022	\$2,944.00
Apportionment Needed 2022	\$7,182.00
Apportionment received YTD as of 12-11-2022	\$2,808.58

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

SUNDAY December 18	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship
MONDAY December 19	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day 6:30 pm MWS Committee Meeting
TUESDAY December 20	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 3:00 pm Girl Scouts
WEDNESDAY December 21	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga (Chapel) 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
THURSDAY December 22	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
FRIDAY December 23	9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Living Nativity
SATURDAY December 24	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 9:15 am Fit to be Tied Yoga (Chapel) 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
SUNDAY December 25	<i>Christmas Day & Bountiful Giving Sunday</i> 10:30 am Worship