



*Christmas Eve*

# The First Presbyterian Church Delhi, New York

December 24, 2022

7:00 p.m.

## Christmas Eve

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace ..." Luke 2:14*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

**Prelude – Bell Choir**

**Welcome**

**Introit – Bell Choir**

*"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**\*Call to Worship**

Like the shepherds we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard or seen...

**...longing to hear a word of peace and joy.**

Like the wise ones we have journeys to make, gifts to offer and hope in our hearts...

**...that this world can change for the better.**

Here, in the stillness of a winter's night, we gather to share the light of Christ: a light that shines in the nightfall.

**We gather in the wonder of this night to share our joy and thanks for new life.**

**\*Hymn**

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

**#133**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Art & Renee Maxwell

Reader One: Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope.

Reader Two: Because so many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we pray for peace.

Reader One: Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy.

Reader Two: Because hatred is still so strong, and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love.

Reader One: God has come to us as a child, to dwell with us and to walk with us.

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

Reader One: Friends, be not afraid. Even now – even now – the light of Christ is overwhelming the world, on earth as it is in heaven!

**\*Sharing the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**\*Hymn**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**#121**

### A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**The First Lesson – Genesis 1:26 - 2:4**

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So

God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

**\*Hymn**

*"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

**#88**

### **The Second Lesson – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Interlude – Choir**

*"Come Follow That Star"*

### **The Third Lesson – Luke 1:26-35**

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.'

**\*Hymn**

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

**#119**

### **The Fourth Lesson – Luke 2:1-20**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## Interlude – Choir

*"O Holy Night"*

## The Fifth Lesson – John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

*"Are You Ready?"*

Elder Renee Maxwell

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### 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

*"In the Bleak Midwinter" verse 4*

**#144**

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

## Prayers of the People

God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love. As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears.

(Silence)

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope. We pray for your courage and peace.

(Silence)

Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry or forgotten, for those who are ill in body and in spirit, for those who are confused or afraid. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people.

(Silence)

Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust. May we embody love that is forgiving, compassionate, and gracious. May we send back the angels' song of peace and joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who became the Christ, who taught us when we pray to say...

**The Lord's Prayer** ... "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

## Sharing the Christ Light

*The leaders will share the light of the Christ candle with the congregation, with the assistance of the ushers who will light the candle of each person sitting nearest the aisle. Please tip your candle to receive the light and then turn to your neighbor so they can do the same. When the hymn is over we will stand in silence for a moment and extinguish the candles together as a congregation.*

**\*Hymn** "Silent Night, Holy Night" #122

## \*Extinguishing the Candles Together

### \*Benediction

From this house to yours, may you share in the gifts of this season. May love, the promise of generations, attend you. Joy, the gift of life together, fill you. Peace, the desire of neighbor and nations, find you. Hope, the horizon of faith, sustain you. And may a very merry Christmas be yours.

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn** "Joy to the World" #134

## Postlude

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Leading us in worship this evening:

Renee Maxwell, Worship Leader

Billy Meredith, Music Director

Tom Little, Liturgist

Susie Little, Liturgist

Art Maxwell, Liturgist

Tammi Tully, Liturgist

Eric Specht, Liturgist



# Poinsettias



<b>IN MEMORY OF</b>	<b>IN HONOR OF</b>	<b>GIVEN BY</b>
Karl Baier and Gert Bell		Betty Jean & Harry E. Bell
Karl Baier		Jeffrey & Lucas Baier
Robert Mackey Jr. and Karl Baier		Barbara & Robert Mackey and Garry, Nate & Nicole
Karl Baier and Jim & Mimi Roberts		Jeana & James Roberts Jr. and Karleigh & Michael
Stoshie Pawlikowski		Betty Jean & Harry E. Bell
Joan L. Pawlikowski (Mom)		Kathy Beveridge
Ida and Douglas Hume		Margie Hume
Dr. Howard & Evelyn Dickson		David & Margie Jones
Dr. Charles & Lois Palin		David & Margie Jones
Gayle Olsen		Jerry & Chris Kilmer
	Our children & grandchildren	Jerry & Chris Kilmer
	Margie Hume	Tom & Barb Leo
Dick Mostert		Tom & Barb Leo
Lydia & Raymond Nealis and Frank & Mabel Brown		John and Gwenn Nealis
Joe Rosa		David & Heather Rosa
Bill & Ida Sanderson		David & Heather Rosa
Dottie Wilklow		David & Heather Rosa
Joseph & Gladys Rosa and Leland & Verna Wood		Helen Rosa
My Husband Joseph Rosa		Helen Rosa
Ida & Bill Sanderson		Wes & Shirley Warren
Dorothy & Flobert Warren		Wes & Shirley Warren
Richard Wickham		Marilyn Wickham



## Wreaths in the Choir Loft



IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY
Harry & Lucy Hebbard	Jane & Don Hymers
Alfred & Helen Hymers	Jane & Don Hymers
The white bows on these wreaths were generously donated by Kathy Beveridge.	

The Fontanini Nativity figures are given as a gift to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This gift is in memory of Conrad Larsen and is given by Betty Larsen and Linda and Bruce Burr.



## Monetary Gifts Toward Wreaths and Decorations



IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY
Velma Liskow, Melody's mother For the Advent wreath - the stand was given in Velma's memory (1988)	Rev. Dr. Bob and Melody Barrett and family
Evelyn Bedient	The Cantwell Family
William Bedient	The Cantwell Family
John, Helen and Janice Raitt	The Raitt Children - Jeanne, Christie, Jack and Linda
Lee & Verna Wood	David & Heather Rosa
Cliff Frazier	Tammi, Talia & Vincent With Love
Helen and Kay Hoffman	Their children, grandchildren, & great grandchildren
Richard Wickham	Marilyn Wickham