



# The First Presbyterian Church Delhi, New York

December 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

## Second Sunday of Advent

*"...she gave birth to her firstborn, a son." Luke 2:7a*

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### Prelude

#### Welcome and Church Life Notes

#### Introit

*"That Boy-Child of Mary"*

#### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Last week we lit the candle of **HOPE**. We will relight that candle, and we will light the candle for the second Sunday in Advent. This candle reminds us of the gift of **PEACE**. As we prepare for the coming of Jesus, we remember that Jesus is our hope and our peace. We will read together from the prophet Isaiah, and the apostle John. From Isaiah:

**People: A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."**

Leader: The words of Jesus from the Gospel of John:

**People: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.**

Leader: Let us pray: Gracious God, grant that we may find peace as we prepare for our Lord's birth. May divisions in ourselves and in our families be peacefully resolved. May there be peace in our cities and in the countries of our world. Help us see the paths of peace in our lives, and then give us courage to follow them. Lord, let us remember that you only are the giver of lasting peace and that you are always with us. Amen.

#### \*Hymn

*"Once in Royal David's City"*

#140

#### Prayer of Confession

**We come before you, Mighty God, asking forgiveness and cleansing for our lives that are rough and unfinished. Cleanse us, purify us, give us your gentle love, your pure peace, and your shining hope. Let the offering of our lives be beautiful and unhindered. Let our hearts be steadfast and sure as we face the future, knowing that the future is yours and held in your kind and loving hands. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)*

#### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: As Zachariah sang at the birth of his son John the Baptist, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them." (*Luke 1:68*)

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

#### \*Choral Response

*"Glory to God"*

#583

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!*

## **\*Sharing the Peace**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **Anthem**

*“Prepare the Way of the Lord”*

by Rowan

### **Video – Glasgow Presbyterian Church Bell Choir**

*This is their first performance using the bells they purchased from our church. We sold these to them at a deep discount so Bea Mooney could start this ministry.*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Your Spirit dwells within us - the Spirit of Hope and of Peace. As we pause to remember what you did for us all at Christmas, still our minds, open our hearts and move your word from our ears to our inner most self. And be with us as we visit our family and friends. Grant us the grace of peace. In Christ’s Name, Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 40:1-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!” See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Message Reading – Luke 2:1-7**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Leader: God’s Word for Today.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

*“Peace”*

Pastor Jamie Tyrrell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### **\*Affirmation of Faith – The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Presentation of Gifts & Offerings**

#### **Call to the Offering**

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

#### **Offertory**

##### **\*Choral Response**

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

**#133**

*O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

##### **\*Prayer of Dedication**

We are your people redeemed in love and gifted with peace. We thank you. In Christ's Name, Amen.

### **Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer**

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

##### **\*Closing Hymn**

*“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

**#121**

##### **\*Charge to the Congregation**

##### **\*Benediction**

##### **Postlude**

*CCLI License # 275648*

**Thought for the Day:** *“Until he extends his circle of compassion to include all living things, man will not himself find peace.” —Albert Schweitzer*

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Leading us in worship this morning:

Pastor Jamie Tyrrell, Interim  
Billy Meredith, Music Director  
Elder Joe Weaver, Liturgist

When the office is closed and your need is urgent, I can be contacted at 585-705-0026.  
My email is: [jtyrrell43@gmail.com](mailto:jtyrrell43@gmail.com) - my Facebook page address is James.Tyrrell.12  
My YouTube channel is Jamie Tyrrell @jtyrrell43. Go to the search bar and enter that in.



# First Presbyterian Church

of Delhi, New York

December 10, 2023

The prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist call through the ages: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" This second Sunday of Advent we gather to do just that. Welcome.

*(Prayer)* Shepherding God, thank you for feeding your flock with love, gathering us lambs in your arms and carrying us close to your heart.

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

Our **mission focus for December** includes the Christmas stocking collection, the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree and the Living Nativity food bank collection. Angel gifts are needed by tomorrow, Dec 11!

Join us next Tuesday at noon or 7 pm for a **virtual conversation about what Christmas means**. Our teaching is provided by Adam Hamilton, a perfectly delightful and practical Christian pastor and thinker. You can find more information on our website at <https://fpcdelhi.org/adult-education/advent-study/> or you can contact Pastor Jamie or the office and we provide the link upon request.



**A CALL** has been issued by the Session for a **Meeting of the Congregation** to be held immediately after 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 17, 2023. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect officers for 2024. No other business may come before the Congregation at this time. Active members must be present in person in order to participate in the vote.

**CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE:** Pastor Jamie and Bessie would like you to drop by the manse anytime between 5 and 6:45 Christmas Eve. Come, look around, enjoy each other. Family and friends of yours are also welcomed. We will provide light refreshment and "heavy" appetizers so you can either snack or chow down for dinner.

**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.

The **TRUSTEES** responsible for counting today are Ed Goff and Alex Cantwell. The Trustees responsible for counting on December 17 are Kevin Lee and Tom Leo.

**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** *"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, puts us on the path to holiness and is an example for others to be holy, too. We are responsible not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. How are you helping others get to Heaven?

**STEWARDSHIP PRAYER:** That we are called to live holy lives and invite others to do the same.

The **Per Capita** amount for 2023 has been set at \$43.95 per member.

<i>Virtual and Sanctuary Attendance Sunday 12-3-2023</i>	52 - 47 in sanctuary + approx. 5 virtual
General amount needed each week	\$1,653.00*
General amount given week of 12-3-2023	\$3,386.00
General amount needed year-to-date	\$80,997.00
General amount given YTD as of 12-3-2023	\$83,519.41
Fuel Fund needed each week	\$423.62
Fuel Fund given week of 12-3-2023	\$225.00
Fuel Fund needed year-to-date	\$20,757.38
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 12-3-2023	\$2,905.00
Kirk Receipts 11-26-23 to 12-2-23	\$1,351.91
Mission giving week of 12-3-2023	\$20.00
Mission giving YTD as of 12-3-2023	\$2,190.50
Apportionment Needed 2023	\$7,163.85
Apportionment received YTD as of 12-3-2023	\$2,024.06

\*General amount needed each week is total expenses minus budgeted savings transfers and fuel expenses.

<b>SUNDAY</b> December 10	<b><i>Second Sunday of Advent</i></b> 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship
<b>MONDAY</b> December 11	<b><i>Angel Gifts Needed</i></b> 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
<b>TUESDAY</b> December 12	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am – 12:30 pm EDD Adaptive Sports Craft Day (Chapel) 12:00 pm Advent Study (Virtual) 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 4:15 pm PNC Meeting 7:00 pm Advent Study (Virtual)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> December 13	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga (Chapel) 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
<b>THURSDAY</b> December 14	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
<b>FRIDAY</b> December 15	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 10:30 am Adult Ballet Class (Chapel)
<b>SATURDAY</b> December 16	9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Store Open 10:15 am – 1:00 pm Yoga (Chapel)
<b>SUNDAY</b> December 17	<b><i>Third Sunday of Advent</i></b> 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers