

The First Presbyterian Church Delhi, New York

December 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent

“For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.” *Isaiah 61:11*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Church Life Notes

Introit

“That Boy-Child of Mary”

*Call to Worship

Leader: We relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath – the candle of **HOPE** and the candle of **PEACE**. Now we light the third candle of **JOY**. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth. From the Book of Isaiah, we read the words about our Lord:

People: But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.

Leader: From the New Testament, the words of Paul to the people of the church at Galatia:

People: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”

Leader: Let us pray: We joyfully praise you, O Lord, for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your Son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait, and help us see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#113

Prayer of Confession

Lord of Salvation, author of Joy, we acknowledge that as grateful as we are for the Living Christ in our hearts, we hold back entire areas of our lives. We think we want to control them. We act as though we are wiser than you or more loving. Forgive us, show us, and lead us back. In Christ’s Name, Amen.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (*John 3:16*)

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

"Will We Know Him?"

by Price/Besig

Video – Glasgow Presbyterian Church Bell Choir

Time for Small Disciples

"The Twelve Days of Christmas"

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 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Message Reading – Romans 7:15-21

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

Leader: God's Word for Today.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Restored to the Joy of Our Salvation"

Pastor Jamie Tyrrell

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. 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**

Such joy is found in you, O Lord. How you have loved us, have taught us, and have led us. Thank you and bless these gifts. May this gathering always be one of hope, of peace and of joy. In your name, Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

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

***Closing Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

#134

***Charge to the Congregation**

***Benediction**

Special Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers

Installation of Officers

Postlude

CCLI License # 275648

Thought for the Day: *“May God give you peace with yourselves; may he give you good will towards all your friends, your enemies and your neighbors; and may he give you grace to give glory to God in the highest.”*—Charles H. Spurgeon

Leading us in worship this morning:

Pastor Jamie Tyrrell, Interim
Billy Meredith, Music Director
Elder Linda Malcolm, 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 - 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 17, 2023

Welcome to what some branches of the Christian church call *Gaudete* (*gow-DET-eh*), or Rejoice, Sunday. May we find joy in worshiping God and anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth.

(Prayer) The spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news to all the world. May we be strengthened for this work through our time of worship.

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).



A CALL has been issued by the Session for a **Meeting of the Congregation** to be held immediately after 10:30 a.m. worship today, 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.

This morning we will elect and install our Elders for the class of 2025 and Deacons for the class of 2026. We rejoice in the continuing leadership of Joe Weaver, and welcome the returning leadership of Susie Little as Elder and Clerk. We are thankful for Karen LaFever as she continues to serve as a Deacon. We take this time to recognize Kathy Beveridge, who is returning to service, and Tom Little who is continuing his service, as Trustees for the Class of 2026. We still have two vacant positions on Session, four vacant positions for Deacons and one vacant position for Trustees. We will take nominations from the floor during the meeting.

Congratulations to Shanna & George Yopez on the birth of **Auley Malcolm Yopez** on December 5, 2023! Auley is welcomed by grandparents Linda & Richard Malcolm and siblings Dixon and Nieve Yopez.

Our **mission focus for December** includes the Christmas Stocking collection, the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree and the Living Nativity food bank collection. **Christmas Stockings** are due in the office this coming week, or in the Christmas Eve offering.

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.

Wreath orders are due tomorrow, Monday December 18, by the end of office hours!

There will be a **luncheon for all Kirk volunteers** on Monday, December 18 at 12:30. Again, ALL volunteers are welcome – please let Renee know if you are coming. Her email is oma8243@gmail.com.

Saturday night is the Living Nativity! We need volunteers to participate. If you are able to help out, either from 5:30 to 6:30 or from 6:30 to 7:30, please see Tom Leo or contact Darcy in the office.

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.

There will be no worship service next Sunday (Dec 24) in the morning. Instead, please join us for our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 7pm. The morning service at United Ministry starts at 10:30am, if you would like to attend worship in the morning as well.

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 Kevin Lee and Tom Leo. The Trustees responsible for counting on December 24 are Art Maxwell and Tom Little.

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 *“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.* This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. “Rejoice always” means place your trust in God; he will provide all that you need. “Pray constantly” means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. “Give thanks in all circumstances” means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER: That we realize suffering is a gift and helps us build empathy for others and build our dependence on God.

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

Virtual and Sanctuary Attendance Sunday 12-10-2023	45 - 39 in sanctuary + approx. 6 virtual
General amount needed each week	\$1,653.00*
General amount given week of 12-10-2023	\$2,290.00
General amount needed year-to-date	\$82,650.00
General amount given YTD as of 12-10-2023	\$85,809.41
Fuel Fund needed each week	\$423.62
Fuel Fund given week of 12-10-2023	\$200.00
Fuel Fund needed year-to-date	\$21,181.00
Fuel Fund given YTD as of 12-10-2023	\$3,105.00
Kirk Receipts 12-3-23 to 12-9-23	\$1,779.44
Mission giving week of 12-10-2023	\$55.00
Mission giving YTD as of 12-10-2023	\$2,245.50
Apportionment Needed 2023	\$7,163.85
Apportionment received YTD as of 12-10-2023	\$2,112.06

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



SUNDAY December 17	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers
MONDAY December 18	<i>Wreath Orders Due</i> 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day 12:30 pm Kirk Volunteers Luncheon
TUESDAY December 19	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 12:00 pm Advent Study (Virtual) 3:00 pm Girl Scouts 4:15 pm PNC Meeting 7:00 pm Advent Study (Virtual)
WEDNESDAY December 20	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga (Chapel) 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm MWS Meeting 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting
THURSDAY December 21	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations
FRIDAY December 22	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Adult Ballet Class (Chapel)
SATURDAY December 23	11:00 am Sadie Button Baptism 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Living Nativity
SUNDAY December 24	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm – 6:45 pm Christmas Eve Open House at the Manse 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service