

**The First Presbyterian Church
Delhi, New York**

December 31, 2023

10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude

Welcome and Church Life Notes

Introit

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate word.

People: **Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives...**

All: **...through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

***Song**

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Smart/Montgomery

Prayer of Confession

You alone offer us the only everlasting gift: your son Jesus Christ, God with us. We confess to you our pride, our faithlessness and our reluctance to accept your grace. Through the work of the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, forgive us, heal us, correct us and transform us. Amen.

(A moment for silent personal prayer of confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Believe the news, the gospel that is Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Interlude

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Jesus Christ is the light of the world—a light which no darkness can quench.

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 148

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.' Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Leader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Fulfillment of the Lord, the Savior Has Arrived"

Pulpit Guest Ron Galley

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

#133

***Affirmation of Faith – The First Catechism**

Leader: How do you live by the Grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ?

People: I am not my own. I have been bought with a price. The Lord Jesus Christ loved me and gave himself for me. I entrust myself completely to his care, giving thanks each day for his wonderful goodness.

Presentation of Gifts & Offerings

Call to the Offering

Leader: God of hope and joy, the gifts we offer to you pale when our minds try to grasp all we have been given in this season; wholeness in our wilderness, hope in our despair, peace in our turmoil, forgiveness in our rebellion. You gave us light in your darkness and hope in our discouragement. Help us embrace your extravagant generosity as we give ourselves to others. In our Savior's Holy name, we pray.

People: Amen.

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**

Lord, in your mercy, please hear our prayer. Guide and protect your Church. Let it cherish and share the gifts of life. Give it grace to proclaim boldly and faithfully, and bestow them generously, so that these gifts may grow and flourish in your precious name. Amen.

Prayers of the People 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**

Postlude

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Thought for the Day: *“It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.”*

—Mother Teresa

Leading us in worship this morning:
Pulpit Guest Ron Galley, Worship Leader
Pastor Jamie Tyrrell, Interim
Billy Meredith, Music Director
Nancy Heimbuecher, 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 31, 2023

We gather today, only halfway through the season of Christmas, and trusting God's guidance for the new year. Welcome to worship, one and all.

(Prayer) As a child, Jesus "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom" (Luke 2:40). In the new year may I, too, grow and become stronger in faith, filled with the wisdom that comes from God.

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 Sunday, January 7, 2023. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect and install 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.

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.

Today 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 Alex Cantwell and Cullen LaFever. The Trustees responsible for counting on January 7 are Tom Little and Kathy Beveridge.

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 "...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - *Colossians 3:13*. Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Receive God's mercy and forgiveness, then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER: That God will provide us the strength to forgive those that have hurt us.

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

The financial information for 12/24/23 will appear in next week's bulletin, along with the 12/31/23 numbers. As I am on vacation all week, I will have no way of incorporating those numbers until I return to the office!

- Darcy

SUNDAY December 31	<i>Bountiful Giving Sunday & New Year's Eve</i> 10:30 am Worship
MONDAY January 1	<i>New Year's Day – Office Closed</i>
TUESDAY January 2	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations
WEDNESDAY January 3	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 10:30 am Gentle Yoga (Chapel) 5:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
THURSDAY January 4	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am Kirk Work Day
FRIDAY January 5	8:00 am – 12:00 pm Little Inspirations 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Shoppe Open 10:30 am Adult Ballet Class (Chapel)
SATURDAY January 6	9:00 am – 2:00 pm Kirk Thrift Shoppe Open 10:15 am Yoga
SUNDAY January 7	9:30 am Deacons Meeting 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Worship with Communion