

# Joy

I BRING YOU  
GOOD TIDINGS  
OF  
GREAT JOY

LUKE 2:10



## ***Welcome to Our Celebration of Worship!***

*To all who live joyfully and long to share their excitement ... to all who mourn and need comfort ... to all who are weary and need rest ... to all who are homeless and desire sheltering love ... to all who pray or are in need of prayer ... to all who sin and need a Savior ... to all who recognize Christ in their midst and hunger to share God's love with all the world ... Old First Presbyterian Church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ, says ... WELCOME!*

*\*Those who are able, please stand in body or spirit.*

*(The congregation is invited to join in speaking or singing **items in bold.**)*

### WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

*Improvisation*

K. Friese

*Use the prelude as a time to silently prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND UNISON OPENING PRAYER

**Gracious God, we joyfully praise you for fulfilling your promise of a Savior and for what that means in our lives. We thank you for the pure joy of the gift of salvation, freely given through the birth of your Son, Jesus. Create us anew as we wait upon his coming and open our hearts to your Spirit at work among us. Focus us on eternal matters, so that we may know the joy of a life lived for you. We pray in the name of Christ, the Lord, our everlasting joy, amen.**

INTROIT

*Be Filled with the Spirit*  
Sanctuary Choir

L. Lenel

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice in the coming of God the Savior, for there is good news on the way!  
**Good news for the down-trodden, weary, and broken-hearted?**

Watch ... wait ... prepare!

The good news of the hope and peace of God is on the way!

**Good news for the captive, imprisoned, suffering, and lonely?**

Watch ... wait ... prepare!

The good news of the joy and love of God is on the way!

**A thunder in the desert tells of God's coming ...**

**good news is indeed on the way!**

Let us add our voices to the sound of those crying

out for the joy of Christ, our Lord.

**This season and every season; this day and every day;**

**let us sing out for joy!**

Rejoicing for this season of listening and preparing,

let us worship our God together.

\*HYMN 107

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we are told this is a joyful season, but far too often, our hearts are without joy. We hear your call to rejoice, but we struggle to respond. Lost in the pressing demands of each day, we lose sight of your joyful presence. Distracted by burdens and concerns that weigh upon our hearts, we fail to notice simple joys when your grace is made known to us. We pray reluctantly, worship half-heartedly, and serve begrudgingly. True joy escapes us as we replace our anticipation of your coming in Christ Jesus with the fleeting pleasures offered by the world.**

**Loving God, gather us in your gracious mercy, forgive us through your unconditional love, and restore in us your everlasting joy. Ignite a new spirit within us, that we may re-discover the unspeakable joy for which we are created. May the anticipation of our Christ fill our hearts with joy, even as we seek new ways to share your joy with others. We pray in the name of our everlasting joy ... Emmanuel, God with us, in Jesus, our Christ ...**

*(Please continue in silent prayer of confession.)*

Together, let all of God's people say ... **amen.**

HYMN 551 (Kyrie Eleison)

*Lord, Have Mercy*

***Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

***Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God acts with justice and mercy.

In everlasting love, God redeems us and sets us free.

**People: God forgives us ... frees us ... and give us peace.**

**To God we are ever thankful. Amen.**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

*There's A Song*

**There's a song of joy in my heart; joy is a gift from Jesus. There's a song of joy in my heart; joy is a gift from God. Al-le-lu-ia! Joy in my heart is singing praises. Al-le-lu-ia! Joy is a gift from God.**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.*

***We Listen for God's Word***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7, Old Testament, p. 638 / P. 780

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Candles of Advent*

D. Besig

Rod Tibbetts, Flute / Sanctuary Choir

## TIME WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children are invited to come to the front pews.*

Congregational Invitation: *(sung twice)*

**This, this is where children belong,  
welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.  
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song:  
This is where children belong.**

*Church school is available for students, preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

## SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-33, New Testament, p. 56 / P. 69

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## MESSAGE

***“The Wonder of a Name”***

\*HYMN 100

*My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout*

## ***We Respond in Word and Deed***

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*(A Brief Statement of Faith – Presbyterian Church U.S.A.)*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.  
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept  
ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together  
with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life  
in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims  
us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of  
salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without  
ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to  
unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long  
silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**



\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Sung to the tune of "Edelweiss"*

**Come, O Lord, be with us. Fill us with joy and thanksgiving.  
May our hearts, flow with peace. Come with your love and surround us.  
Friendship and love, may they bloom and grow, bloom and grow forever.  
Bless us now. Bless our friends. Bless all people forever.**

\*POSTLUDE

*Toccata for a Joyful Day*

E.L. Diemer

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*The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and honor of God by the  
Presbyterian Women in joyful celebration of the ministry of our church family.*

THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor  
Rebecca Terc, Lector  
Ken Friese, Director of Music  
Dan Degnan, Usher Captain

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*Thank you for worshipping with us and being part of our family of faith!*

*If you are a first-time guest or returning visitor, please allow us to extend a special  
welcome and invitation to join us in the Parish Hall following worship for light  
refreshments and a chance to learn more about Old First Church.*

*Please use this opportunity to be greeted by our members and be introduced  
to our Pastor, Matthew Means, as we celebrate the joys of life shared together.*

**“SERVICE OF COMFORT AND HOPE”**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM**

Is Christmas a time when you remember friends, family, or loved ones who have gone before?

Do you desire a hope-filled way to honor the memory of those who are no longer with us?

Are you tired of hearing about all the "bad news" in this world and need a place of quiet rest to be filled with the peace and comfort of the Holy Spirit as you prepare for the coming Christ?

Come and join us ... **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> @ 7:00 PM** in the Parish Hall ... as we remember ... give thanks ... and join together in rejoicing for the gifts of faith and life!

We will gather in the week leading up to Christmas to seek God’s comfort, be inspired by the hope of Jesus Christ, allow space to name our grief, and remember our dear loved ones.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:**

**New to the prayer list:**

**Kevin Behrens – health concerns / struggling with addiction**

**Charles and Susan Worledge – health and travel concerns**

**Please continue to pray for those who remain on our prayer list:**

Holly Baptista, Richard Bedell, Tom and JoAnn Bosch, Bob Esser, Dave and Else Haddock, David and Sandy Lange, Joan and Pat Lobasso, Peg Weigers, Carole Witkowski

*Names on our prayer list will remain for approximately one month.  
If you would like to add a prayer request, please contact Pastor Means.*

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*Old First Presbyterian Church*

*125 Main Street*

*Huntington, NY 11743*

*(631) 427-2101*

*Rev. Matthew T. Means, Pastor*

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Old Testament, p. 638 / P. 780**

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Luke 1:26-33**

**New Testament, p. 56 / P. 69**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

<sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

<sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,  
and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**