

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Service for the Lord's Day

December 26th, 2021 | 11:00 a.m.

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“In dulci jubilo, BWV 729”
“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

Johann Sebastian Bach
Johannes Brahms

PEALING OF THE CHRISTMAS BELLS

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!**

**Praise God, all the angels;
praise God, all the host!**

**Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!**

**Praise God, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens!**

**Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for God commanded and they were created.**

**God established them forever and ever;
God 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!**

**Leaders of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!**

**Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
Praise God!**

HYMN 134

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as a light shining in darkness.**

**We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, hoping for less.**

**Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE: HYMN 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

SOLO

arr. Gustav Holst

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. *Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!* His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him. *Ideo....* God’s bright star, o’er his head, wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him. *Ideo....* On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven’s King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us. *Ideo....* –Piae Cantiones; trans. Jane Marion Joseph

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

SERMON

“Parenting in Jerusalem”

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Brief Statement of Faith, 1983

**We trust in Jesus Christ,
Fully human, fully God.**

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor

and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed

and blessing the children,

healing the sick

and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts,

forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

OFFERTORY

Robert MacGimsey

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little holy child, didn't know who you were. Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord, to take our sins away. Our eyes were blind; we couldn't see. We didn't know who you were. Long time ago you were born, born in a manger low, sweet little Jesus boy. The world treat you mean Lord; treat me mean, too. But please, forgive us Lord; we didn't know it was you. Sweet little Jesus boy born long time ago, sweet little holy child, and we we didn't know who you were.

—Robert MacGimsey

RESPONSE

OLD HUNDERETH



Traditional Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures
Inclusive Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple



here be - low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

HYMN 159	“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”	KINGSFOLD
BLESSING		
POSTLUDE	“Tocatta on ‘Joy to the World’”	Craig Phillips

LEADING THIS MORNING

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Audrey Webber, M.Div., *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

Andrew Martens, *soloist*
Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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