

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

December 25, 2011 • 10:00 AM • Christmas Morning

(* Those who are able, please stand. Large print hymnals & wireless hearing aids available; ask an usher. Members, please wear your name tag.)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Silent Night" Rawsthorne

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: ... Sing to the Lord a new song,

People: ... For God has done marvelous things.

Leader: ... God has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness.

People: ... The whole earth has seen the victory of our God.

Leader: ... Let the floods clap their hands;

People: ... Let the hills sing together for joy at God's presence.

Leader: ... God is coming to judge the earth.

All: He will judge the world with righteousness and equity.

*HYMN "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" No. 31

*CONFESSION OF SIN Leader: Cynthia Pendergrast

Invitation

Unison Prayer

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

We confess that we do not always welcome the light, or trust good news to be good.

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and 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

Declaration of Pardon

Sharing God's Peace

Response "Away in a Manger" No. 25

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay

Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,

And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!"

Isaiah 52 7-10

OT Bible Page 529

SPECIAL

MUSIC

"Ding! Dong! Merrily on High" arr Helvey

Piano Duet, Kim & John Nethaway

NEW TESTAMENT READING

"The Word of the Lord / Thanks be to God!"

Hebrews 1:1-4

NT Bible Page 170

CHILDREN'S TALK

(4yr to Gr1 invited upstairs to Activity Period in 203. Children leave through front exits)

Julie Denton

*HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 44

SERMON

"Song without Words"

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it

OFFERING

Song of Praise "In the Bleak Midwinter" No. 36

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

Invitation

Offertory Music "What Child Is This" Manz

Prayer of Dedication

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN "Joy to the World" No. 40

*BENEDICTION – concluding with

Pastor:God is good

People: ...All the time!

POSTLUDE

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" Fedak

Our Mission Statement: The First Presbyterian Church exists to improve our understanding of Christ; to spread His word and teachings; and to reach out to our church family, our community, and the world through acts of compassion, kindness, and love.

A Staffed Nursery & Toddler Care is available during our Services. The room is located on the first floor behind the sanctuary. We also offer an optional **Quiet Room** for parents with small children.

Welcome Visitors to this branch of the family of God. Please leave us your contact information on the pink card that you will find in the pew rack. We pray that you feel at home here and find guidance and strength for your daily life. We invite you to make this church your home. Please share a cup of coffee with us today during our fellowship time immediately after Worship.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

Ushers today are led by Dave Scaccia. Jan 01: Ward Beeman

Our Worship Recorder is John Nethaway. Jan 01: Shari Fish

Greeters: Scaccia Usher Team & their families. Jan 01: Beeman Usher team & their families

Our Acolyte is Jon Denton. Jan 01: Tyriana Jones

Deacon Ramp Duty is Ron Rhodes. Jan 01 is Shari Fish

After Church Coffee Break is held immediately after today's service in our parlor. Join us for treats & fellowship. Cynthia hosts. Jan 01: Vi Head

Weekly Congregation & Presbytery Prayer List: Chris & Ernie Stockwell, Rev. Herb & Jean Stocker, Vera & Ralph Pezzula, Larry & Lynn Jones, Dave, Carrie, Megan, Michael and Maryrose Scaccia and Mission, Interpretation & Stewardship Committee and all Missions the Presbytery of Utica

Please ensure the doors are tightly shut behind you when entering and exiting our buildings

Need Assistance Getting In to the Church on Sunday Morning? There's a Deacon on duty beginning ½ hr before worship to assist anyone. This allows you to drop someone at the ramp and leave them in the care of a Deacon while you park your car.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today 10:00 amWorship Service · Merry Christmas!
11:00 amCoffee Break
Mon.....Offices Closed for the Holiday
Tues..... 10:00 amPrayer Shawl Ministry
5:30 pmRescue Mission Cook (*Captain Cynthia*)
Wed.....4:20 pmRescue Mission Serve

NEXT SUNDAY:.....“Adopted”
Luke 2:22-40; Galatians 4:4-7
Happy New Year!

Merry Christmas Everyone - Love Joanna Koch

“Communities That Care” City-Wide Blood Drive - Friday, Dec 30 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 502 W Chestnut St from 10am to 4pm / First Timers Welcome! Free T-Shirt To Every Presenting Donor! Register 1-800-Red-Cross - Walk-Ins Welcome! Sponsored By MV Chapter – Rome Office

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Worship Service will be held on Sunday, January 15, at 4pm, at Mount Calvary Baptist Church on Erie Blvd. Mt Calvary is planning a community youth choir. Youth from all churches in Rome are invited. Please talk to Kim Nethaway if you are interested. The 2nd and last rehearsal is January 14, at 7:00 PM at Mount Calvary

Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, January 08. That morning will also feature our January Hymn Sing, Fair Trade Coffee Sales, New Member Recognition and the Baptism of Harold Barry! Church School Classes and Choir practices (except Sacred Dance) resume that day too!

Also on January 08, Michelle Dolan will lead a continuation of her healing course from this past summer; *“Healing Above and Beyond...”*. Meet in our Library following worship. More details can be found in our new Spring Adult Education Brochures. Come join us for an inspiring, informative and healing opportunity!

JOY - Be sure to circle your calendars for our first meeting in 2012 – Sunday, January 8. We’ll meet from 4:00-7:00pm.

Is there a young adult who will be with you over the Christmas break, either college-age or recently graduated? Pastor Sam and Cynthia would like to get together with them while they are in town. Please let us know if you will have young adult children home over Christmas so we can include them in our plans.

Christmas Pageant Photos by Kiki Hinman



Jesus is the reflection of God's glory,
the exact imprint of God's very being;
he sustains all things
by his powerful word

Hebrews 1:3a

Merry Christmas

First Presbyterian Church
108 West Court Street
Rome NY

Photo: Carrie Scaccia