

First Presbyterian Church IN VICTOR

WHOEVER YOU ARE.
HOWEVER YOU HAVE COME.
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



First Presbyterian Church

70 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564
585-924-2289
www.victorpres.org

Pastor: Rev. Michael McNamara

Organist: Ayn Patrowicz

AV: Steve Simpson

Greeters/Fellowship: Steve Mowers
& Linda Smith

Liturgist: Beverly Frost

Order of Worship **December 31, 2023, 10am**
First Sunday of Christmas
**Please stand if you are able.*

Prelude “Ding, Dong! Merrily on High!” arr. by Gordon Young

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

The grace of God has appeared
bringing salvation to all
Glory to God in the highest!
The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.
Glory to God in the highest!
For a child has been born for us,
a Son has been given to us.
Glory to God in the highest!
He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Glory to God in the highest!
And the Word became flesh and lived among us.
Glory to God in the Highest!
Christ is born! Give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!
Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!
O earth, sign to the Lord!
O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified!
Amen.

*Opening Hymn *No. 41*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Gathering Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

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

Assurance of Pardon

*Passing the Peace

Time with Children

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit show us the Word made flesh-- good news of great joy for all-- so that we may sing with the angels: glory in the highest and peace on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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 turtledoves 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. (cont.)

Scripture Readings (cont.)

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 seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped 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 favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

"When It Happens"

*Hymn of Response No.28 "Good Christmas Friends, Rejoice"

Offering

*Doxology

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn GTG No. 545

"Song of Simeon"

Benediction

Postlude

"Alleluia, Alleluia!" with Hallelujah Chorus
arr. by Dick Torrans