

The Community Church Celebration of Our Lord – January 1, 2012
1st Sunday after Christmas

Bible Memory Verse of the Week: “O Lord of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear to my petitions O God of Jacob.”

~ Psalm 84:8

We Enter to the Household of the Lord

PRELUDE

(Please take this time for quiet reflection and prayer.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOANNE DiBLASI

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST AND COLLECTION OF PRAYER REQUESTS

+ GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #813

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP: #346 THIS IS LOVE

LEADER: Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

ALL: **Thank you, Father, for your amazing love.**

LEADER: This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

ALL: **Thank you Father, for Your amazing love.**

PRAYER OF WELCOMING

+ HYMN OF PRAISE #290 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

Ministry of the Church

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (SILENT)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR 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 and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY: PSALM 148

SPECIAL MUSIC

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BRINGING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

+DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ministry of the Word

SECOND SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY: GALATIANS 4:4-7

+ HYMN OF PREPARATION #294 ONE DAY

SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY:

LUKE 2: 22-40

LEADER: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Praise be to God, Amen

MESSAGE

THINGS TO DO IN 2012

+ HYMN OF RESPONSE #811 ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

+ WORDS OF BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A warm and sincere welcome to one and all! It is a privilege to gather as God’s people to open ourselves to the presence of God and to praise God with loving hearts.

VISITORS: We welcome you! If you would like a visit from Pastor Gregory, please fill out the card in the pew or the one in your visitor’s bag and place in the offering plate. Thank you.

If you are in need of pastoral care please call the church office (during office hours) 609-397-0650; 10am-2pm Tuesday through Friday. If it is after office hours please phone one of the Elders on call for January: George Warner 215-794-0160 or Pat Buchanan 609-397-3065.

About the Sermon: *The concept of "New Year" was not really a settled event until the 4th century and the adoption of the Julian calendar in the West. Prior to that "New Year" was actually the Festival of Bacchus, the Roman god of both wine and new beginnings, which was normally a spring type of event. In the ancient Roman world New Year was a time of drunkenness, sexual debauchery, and general mayhem. Today New Years is usually associated with excess drinking, partying, and what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. So what is the difference over 2,000 years? But the question remains, what are you going to do in 2012 that may be a change of pace from 2011?*

Pastor Gregory

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TODAY

Greeting Grace Reading

Kara Serlenga is the **deacon** on stair glide duty

Nursery for church hour is provided for infants and children up to five years old.

1:30 PM Familias De Hoy

MONDAY

Office Closed

TUESDAY

10:00 AM Staff prayer

5:00 PM LBL

7:30 PM Praise Band

9:00 PM AA

WEDNESDAY

5:00 PM LBL

7:00 PM Women's Bible Study

7:30 PM FDH Worship

THURSDAY

5:00 PM LBL

6:30 PM Bell Choir

7:30 PM Adult Choir

FRIDAY

5:30 PM AA

6:30 PM Roller Skating

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Morning Worship

1:30 PM Familias De Hoy

Thank You: Kris and I wish to thank the congregation for your many letters and greetings this Holiday Season. We are blessed to be here and look forward to our time together in 2012.

Parents and Grandparents please note there are coloring and activity pages for children located on the church windowsills.

Service of Prayer and Healing: Next Sunday, January 8th we will have a time of prayer and healing before Holy Communion. If you would like prayer and the laying on of hands please come forward and the Elders and Pastor will pray for you.

Equipping the Saints Day: Pastor Gregory will be leading the training on community outreach and mission at the annual "Equipping the Saints Training Day" **Saturday January 21st at Princeton Theological Seminary at 9AM and 1 PM.** Sponsored by the Presbytery of New Brunswick. Free and Open to all.

Remember the Food Pantry- This is an ongoing project of the Deacons. It is an easy way to help those who are in need. Simply bring your non-perishable food to church and place on the shelves in the downstairs hallway, and one of the Deacons will take the food to the food pantry located at St. John's.

PRAYER CHAIN If you have any prayer needs during the week that you want the church family to pray for, please call, or e-mail the church office.

PRAYER CONCERNS our senior saints; our military at home and abroad; Harry Hartpence, health issues; Herbie and Barbara Hendricks, health concerns; Rayanna Marrero, at home.

HOME BOUND: Mr. Lowell Hunter, at home; Theresa Castle, Hunterdon Care Center, Flemington

SCHEDULED FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Jan 8, 2011

Communion Servers: Grace Hendricks; Pat Durborow

Greeter: Don & Desre Pidcock

Deacon scheduled for stairglide: Mark Dudick

HYMN Tyme

"Another Year is Dawning"

Frances Havergal (1836-1879)

Today's hymn is written by the woman who had become widely known throughout England as "the consecration poet". It was said of Frances that she always lived her words before she wrote them. Frances' life was one of constant and complete commitment to God. Her many talents - an accomplished pianist and vocalist, proficiency in seven languages, a keen mind (memorization of the entire New Testament, Psalms, Isaiah, and the Minor Prophets) - were all dedicated to serving God.

In January of 1874, Frances' many friends received a New Year's card with the heading, "A Happy New Year! Ever such may it be!" Following the greeting appeared Frances' new poem, which is the hymn we will sing today. It is still considered one of the finest New Year's prayers of consecration ever written. May her words be our challenge for this new year as well.

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