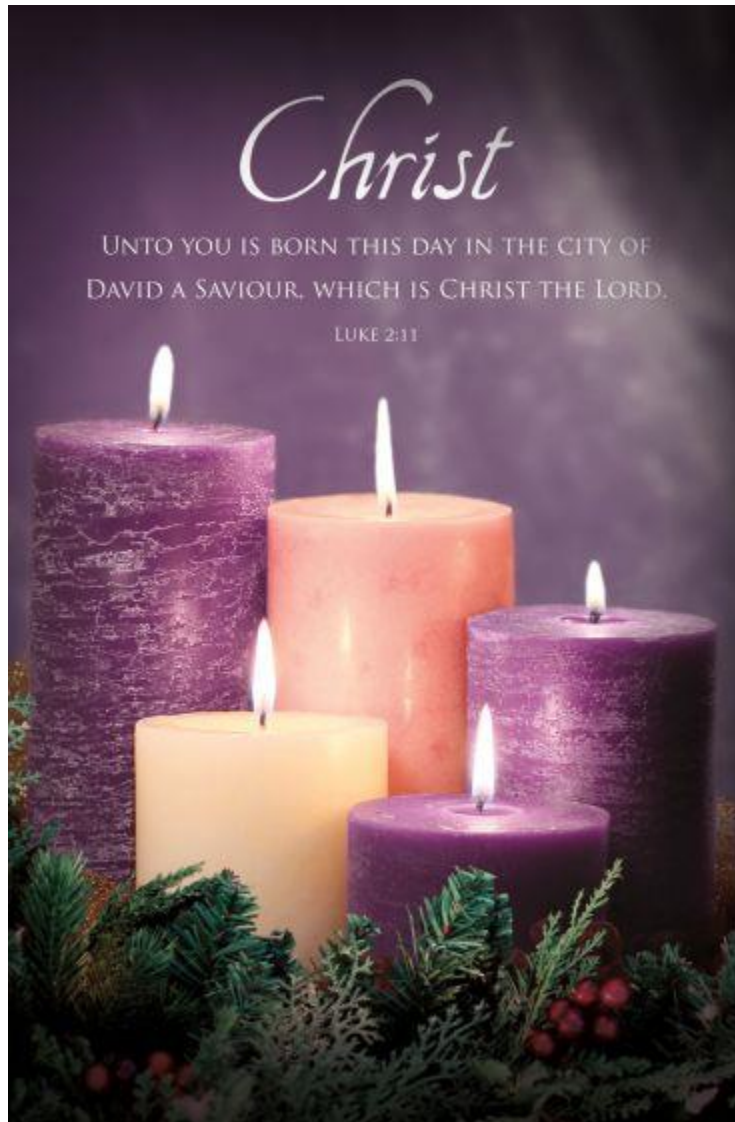


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



Christmas Eve

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION:

*To celebrate the love of
God in all we say and do.*

PRELUDE

"Da Slockit Light" / "Waltz of the White Lilies"- Corey Purcell & Deidre Lockman of *Poor Man's Gambit*

WELCOME

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING - *A Candle is Burning* by Sandra Dean

- Al & Trish Marino and family

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright
 a candle of Hope in the darkest of night,
 Though troubled and worried yet we will not fear.
 Our hearts are now hopeful, for Jesus is near.

A candle is burning, a candle of peace
 a beacon to signal that conflict must cease.
 For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
 A baby, a king is laid in the hay.

A candle is burning a candle of joy
 a warm glow to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
 New life like a fern now being unfurled
 God's promise of joy to an expectant world.

The candle is burning, a flame strong and sure
 reminds us that God's love will always endure.
 Deep love like the ocean, steady as the tide.
 Great love which comes to us with arms open wide.

A candle is burning, for the Christ child has come
 the fullness of God dwells in this precious one.
 A child who is born has good news to tell.
 Jesus Christ, Emmanuel

*PRAYER OF CHRIST (in unison)

O sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord all the earth! We will tell of God's salvation and declare God's glory, for our Savior, Jesus the Christ, is born this night! We welcome you, Holy Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Holy One, come and bring us hope, peace, joy and love. Establish your reign in all the earth! Amen!

*OPENING HYMNS

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" / "What Child is This"

God rest ye merry gentlemen
 Let nothing you dismay
 Remember Christ our Savior
 Was born on Christmas Day
 To save us all from Satan's pow'r
 When we were gone astray
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy
 Comfort and joy
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy

In Bethlehem, in Israel
 This blessed Babe was born
 And laid within a manger
 Upon this blessed morn
 The which His Mother Mary
 Did nothing take in scorn
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy
 Comfort and joy
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy

Fear not then, said the Angel
 Let nothing you affright
 This day is born a Savior
 Of a pure Virgin bright
 To free all those who trust in Him
 From Satan's pow'r and might
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy
 Comfort and joy
 Oh tidings of comfort and joy

What child is this, who, laid to rest
 On Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
 Haste, haste to bring him laud
 The babe, the son of Mary

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come, peasant, king, to own him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone him

This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Al & Cooper Marino, Lay Readers

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Gracious God, come so very near to us this night and cast out our sin. We want to make room for you to be born in our hearts. Rid us of our self-serving goals. Forgive and free us to serve neighbors in need, and to see holiness in every living thing. In Christ Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us, we pray these things.

*SILENT CONFESSION with “Amen” played

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

579

**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!**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

*HYMN

“The First Nowell”

56, vv. 1-4

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Holy God, we try to listen, but it’s hard to hear. We try to be still, but our minds chatter away and our bodies are restless. We try to be open to new ideas, but we like the old ways. Shake us, wake us up, O God! We want to hear your Living Word this night. Come, Holy Spirit! Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Soggy’s / The Snowy Path”

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON
MUSICAL REFLECTION

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy
Tom DiGiovanni

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory

"Wexford Carol"

*Doxology

592

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise God, all creatures here below!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Loving Christ: the One who bends down to earth this very night, Emmanuel, be with us now.

Bless our offerings, and use them to bring light to the dark places in this world. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING – John 1:1-5, 24

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.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*CANDLE-LIGHTING HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

*During this hymn, the light of the Christ Candle will be passed from candle to candle down each pew. Please be sure to **tip the un-lit candle** and keep the lit candle upright, supervising young children.*

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born. Christ, the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth (*repeat verse 1*)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES

*POSTLUDE

"Christmas Eve Reel"

Our **MUSICAL GUESTS** are two of the three members of *Poor Man's Gambit* (sans Federico Betti). Deirdre Lockman and Corey Purcell will be performing the music at tonight's service. Their musical talents are sure to

make it a memorable service and we thank them for being with us and sharing their musical gifts on this holy night.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are given by those listed below.

Given By:

Cooper Marino
Sandy Friedman
Susan & Edward Gardner
Shannon & Steve Bakros
Kurt & Barb Grimm
Ed & Cathy Ahart

Joan & Harry Pursel
Barb & Charlie Frinzi
The Davidson Family
Amy Ahart & Tom DiGiovanni
Folk
Tanya Segal
Linda & John Oakes
Marlin & Sally Quick
Ralph Wolverton
Carl Guthardt
The Reinhard Family
Charlotte Pickell
Robin Glosser
Gardner
Rob & Kristen Todd
Walter & Anita Campbell
Fritz & Sandy Hamlin
Al & Lorraine Brown
Trish & Phil Millon

Given by:

Sandy Friedman
Barb & Charlie Frinzi
The Davidson Family
Amy Ahart & Tom DiGiovanni
Maddie, Ellie, Mia, Lucy, Wyatt,
Scarlett and Esperanza
Robert & Susan Tintle
Trish & Phil Millon

Given By:

Sandy Friedman
Susan & Edward Gardner
Robert & Susan Tintle
Ralph Wolverton

In Memory of:

Rich Matthews and Doris Marino
All those we are missing
Mary Lou Gardner and William & Agnes Nagy
Karen Bakros
Nina & Karl Grimm and Alex Smith
F. Edward & Florence Ahart, Harry S. & Ruth Pursel, Endress Folk Jr. & Sr.,
Freda Scheetz & Frances Ward, and James & Lulu Dieda
Loved Ones
F. Edward & Florence Ahart and Joseph & Minnie Frinzi
Douglass S. Davidson
William Monteverdi, Marco DiGiovanni, Florence & F. Edward Ahart & Endress

Jerome Segal
J. Alvin & Beatrice Oakes and Raymond & Dorothy Voorhees
Homer & Marian Schweppe, Harry & Shirley Quick and Melanie Hrynyk-Quick
Bessie & Paul Wolverton
Loved Ones
Helen G. Reinhard and Edgar A. Miller
George Ingraham
the Voorhees and Rush Families, Sam Bartha, Teri Lea Whitney and Gus

Elizabeth Wiley and Anna Johnson, Bernice Witt and Earl G. Todd
Margaret & Otto Steiner and Dorothy & Walter Campbell, Sr.
Our Parents
Emily Brown, Joseph Brown and Joseph Brown, Jr.
Our Family Members Gone Before Us

In Celebration of:

The Season!
The Frinzi Children and Grandchildren
Leonardo Douglass Davidson (born August 15, 2022)
Kathryn & James DiGiovanni and Catherine & Edward Ahart
Moma & PopPop Ahart

Our 65 Years Together
The Birth of The Christ Child

To the Glory of God
To the Glory of God
To the Glory of God
To the Glory of God