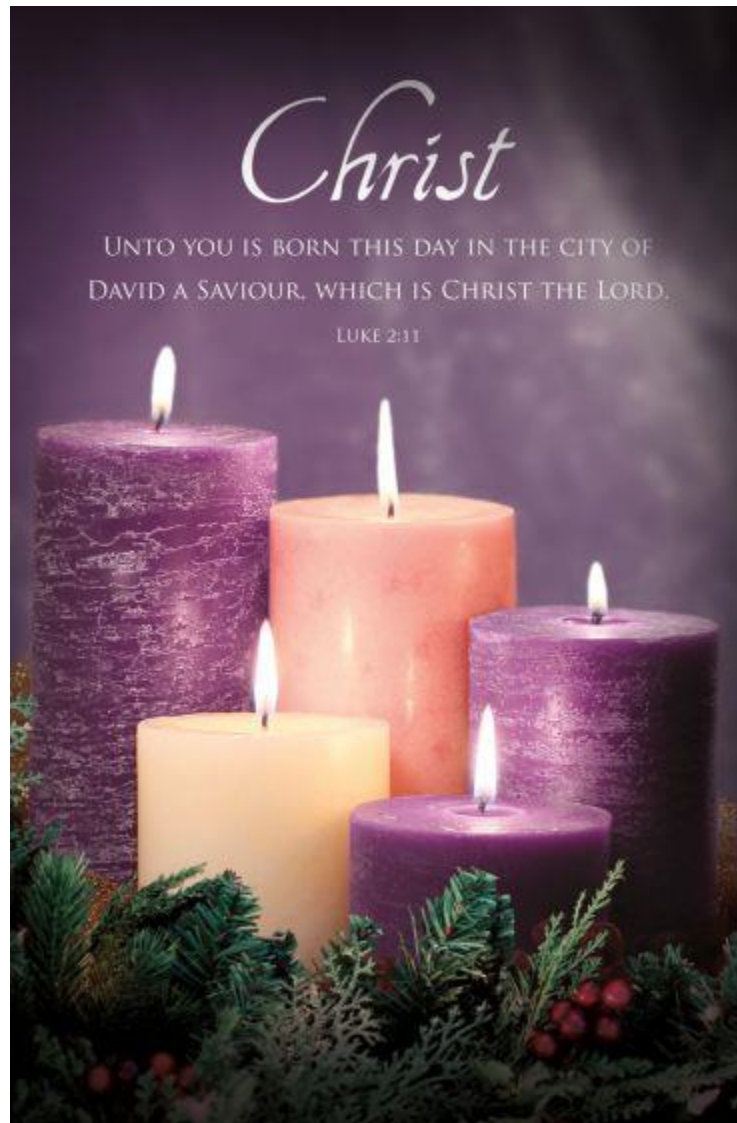


Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas
A Joint Service with College Hill Presbyterian Church
of Easton, Pennsylvania**

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION:
*To celebrate the love of
God in all we say and do.*

College Hill Presbyterian Church and Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church are joined together in many ways. Today we celebrate our special relationship with a joint service celebrating the birth of Our Lord. Welcome to all members of College Hill PC. We are so glad you are here worshiping with us today.

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Is.9:2,6, selected verses) and OPENING PRAYER

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy and The Rev. Dr. Matt Mardis-LeCroy

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,

A son given to us;

Authority rests on his shoulder, and he is named: Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

Together, let us pray:

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people.

Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever! Amen!

*OPENING HYMN

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

29

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the 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 us, O God, 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 with *"Amen"* played

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI *"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Jennifer Miller

*HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

44, vv. 1-3

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

O Christ, light of the world, light up your holy word to us this day. We are listening. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – John 1:1-14 ("The Message" translation)

The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God

from day one. Everything was created through him; nothing - not one thing! - came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light. The Life-Light was the real thing. Every person entering Life, he brings into Light. He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him. But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

SERMON

"The Meaning"

The Rev. Dr. Matt Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with the Lord's Prayer)

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

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

*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)

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, and rejoice! Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may show forth your love, breaking into our lives. In Christ's name we pray, Emmanuel! Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

31

*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

There will be no Fellowship following worship today.

Please continue scrolling for announcements.

Announcements

On **Sunday, December 25, 2022**, we celebrate **The Nativity of the Lord / Christmas** at a 10 am joint worship service with College Hill Presbyterian Church with **OGPC Pastor, The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy and CHPC Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Matt Mardis-LeCroy**. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." (You need a Facebook account to access our Facebook Live feed.)

To view past worship services, please visit our YouTube page at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." You can also find our YouTube page services by visiting our website at www.ogpc.org, and scrolling down on the home page to "Watch a Service."

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: The Pastor or the Administrative Ass't, or both, will be in the church Monday through Thursday, 9 am – 1 pm. Offices are closed on Fridays.

USHER TEAM SCHEDULE: December 25 - Team 4; January 1 - Team 1

CLOSING OF THE BOOKS: The financial books for the year 2022 will be closed as of Sunday, January 8, 2023. All offerings towards church pledges for 2022 must be received by this date. Please be sure notation on check states that it is for your 2022 offering and the envelopes are clearly marked as a 2022 offering. All offerings received after Sunday, January 8, 2023 will be credited to 2023. Giving statements for the year 2022 will be mailed some time in February. Questions? Please contact Katie Rienzo at treasurer@ogpc.org

ALL-CHURCH POTLUCK: All are welcome to come to an all-church potluck dinner on **Saturday, February 11, from 5 – 7 pm** (snow date, Sunday, February 12, after worship, from 11:15 am to 1 pm). What a wonderful way to fellowship, eat and laugh together! Tell everyone! Stay tuned for sign-ups, etc. Questions? Email Barb Frinzi at frinzi3@msn.com

"FISH 'N CHYPS" YOUTH ACTIVITIES (middle and high school)! Our youth ministry partnership with College Hill Presbyterian Church will resume on **Sunday, January 15, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm**, and will continue every first and third Sunday until May 7. We meet at College Hill Presbyterian (501 Brodhead St, Easton PA). Note that in 2023, there will be no dinner provided (except for February 5). Questions? Please see Pastor MB or email her at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

The last day to sign up for the **SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE** for the **2023 CHRISTMAS SHOW** will be **Sunday, January 8**. Reservations will be made and information on the exact ticket payment totals will be in the bulletin by January 15. Please make checks payable to Barbara Frinzi or Venmo her (@Barbara-Frinzi) by January 31. Please give checks to Cathy Ahart or Jen Miller who will forward to Barb.

Transportation details will follow later in the year. We will try to carpool, but if we can't get enough vehicles, we will rent a bus and that will be an added expense. If you have a van or large SUV and can drive and take a few people, please contact Barb Frinzi at frinzi3@msn.com or 908-343-1144.

The Church Care & Kinship Committee is so excited to organize this trip to Lancaster! It's going to be a great show! Special thanks to everyone on this committee and to Pastor Mary Beth for all of her help!

SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS: The cost to purchase arrangements for the communion table is **\$20 each**. You may sign up for dedicated flower arrangements to honor or remember loved ones. Please contact Robert Todd at Robert_Todd@icloud.com / 908-235-9322 to place an order and arrange dedication. Please place order *only one to two weeks prior* to the date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin. (Orders placed months ahead leaves too much chance they will get lost or forgotten!)

HOME COMMUNION: If you would like to receive home communion or know of someone who would, please contact Deacon Moderator, Walt Campbell, at Campbellw47@yahoo.com or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: The Worship/Music/Spirituality Committee continues to coordinate daily devotionals as

they have become such a positive message to us during this pandemic. We invite anyone from the congregation to share their own inspiring devotional. Please send directly to Anita Campbell at souptime2222@gmail.com

NAMES ON THE PRAYER LIST will remain for four weeks. The first week, the names will be **bolded**. The last week, the names will be italicized. If you would like a name to remain longer or would like a name added, please email the church office. If you do not have internet access, please call the office with your request.

Please pray for: **Bob Tintle, who is receiving hospice care & his wife, Sue; Carl & Virginia Guthardt; Lori Metz's Aunt Rose and her family;** Charlie & Barb Frinzi, who have Covid; the family of Alan Hartzell, Kathleen Gooley's father, who died on 12/7; the family of Marie "Joella" Rush, who died on 12/9; the Frinzi's granddaughter, Giada Ippoldo, recovering from shoulder surgery; *George Bradlau, who had hip replacement surgery on 12/6; friend of the Guthardts, brother-in-law of their daughter Katie, Kevin Boyle, who suffered a stroke;* Debbie Mowrey's sister, Brenda, who has a wide range of health issues; brother-in-law of Kathleen Scala, Marc Cottone, who continues to have multiple surgeries on his ankle and foot; Bob & Trudy Frey; Stephen Toman, Christine Lee's boyfriend's uncle, and his sister, Nancy Hetman; Skip Adams' son, Zachary; the citizens of Ukraine; Pastor Mary Beth's parents and family; Bob and Trudy Frey's friends, Nancy Hummer and Ian Arnot; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; those affected by the Corona virus and their families around the world; all experiencing the effects of extreme weather conditions around the world

Visit our Church's Web Site at: www.ogpc.org

Church Office e-mail address: oldgreenwich@ogpc.org

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Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons	Tom DiGiovanni, Music Director /Organist
Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Director	Lisa Gray, Clerk of Session
Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Financial Secretary	Francis Rienzo, Media/Comm. Dir
Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, <i>Sonshine Singers</i>	