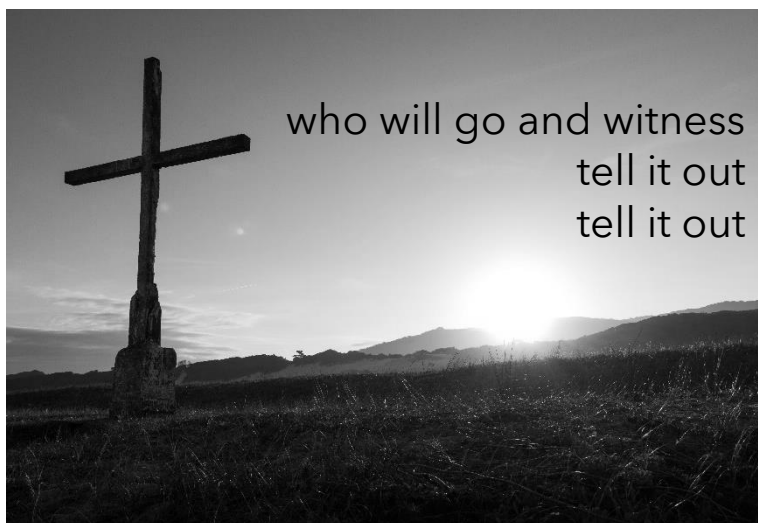


# *Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church*

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are new or visiting, we welcome you to Old Greenwich! If you would like the pastor to contact you, please fill out the Welcome card found in the pew holders. If anyone has a prayer request, there is room on the reverse of the card for you to enter your requests. Please place the cards in the offering plate.

## INTROIT

*"Shout to the Lord"*

# 2074

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 46, excerpts)

Elder Charlie Frinzi

Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from your birth, carried from the womb;

**Even to your old age I am he, even when you turn gray I will carry you.**

I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

**To whom will you liken me and make me equal, and compare me, as though we were alike?**

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like me,

**Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, "My purpose shall stand, and I will fulfill my intention."**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*"Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun"*

# 456

## \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your Way. We are misled. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to the paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior, Amen.**

\*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

## TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Jennifer Miller

## \*HYMN

*"Our God, to Whom We Turn"*

# 278, vv. 1,4

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**O God, you are our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble. In trouble, you stand fast. In trouble, your Word stands fast. Through your Spirit, open yourself, and your holy Word, to us now. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING – John 14:1-4

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*"Across the Lands You're the Word of God"*

- Getty/Townend, Arr. by Brad Nix

SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 6:8-7:2, 44-60

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, "Are these things so?" And Stephen replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me. The God of glory appeared to our ancestor Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, who found favor with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says, 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?' You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it."

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"I Wanna Be a Witness!"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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

*"The Prayer of Saint Francis"*

Mike Viscel

\*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)

**Gracious God, we thank you for the witness of Stephen, and for all the faithful who have come before us. We pray that you would teach us all how to be a witness. Bless now these gifts we give back to you; may they witness, too, to your love in our lives. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

# 276

\*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"He Is Exalted"*

# 2010

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to join for fellowship (coffee, tea, juice) in Memorial Hall following the worship service.



On **Sunday, May 14**, we celebrate **6th Sunday of Easter** at a 10 am worship service with **The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy**. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." (You need a Facebook account to access the 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 by visiting our website at [www.ogpc.org](http://www.ogpc.org), and scrolling down on the home page to

"Watch a Service." To find prior live streams, click on the "Live" tab in YouTube.

**OGPC IS GUN FREE:** On January 16, 2023, the Session (leadership board) of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church voted unanimously to establish our church's land and facilities to be a gun free zone. For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.ogpc.org/we-are-a-gun-free-church/>.

**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:** May 14 – Team 4, May 21 – Team 1

**COME SEE BEAUTIFUL ART... right down the hall!** Did you know that we have an art group that meets every Tuesday? (Anyone can join!) And did you know that they have begun displaying some of their breathtaking work in Trinity Wing (right next to the pastor's office)? Come check it out! It's our mini art gallery!



Join us to share the evening with friends and enjoy interesting and in-depth discussions of Maya Angelou's, *"I Know Why the Caged Bird"*

*Sings.*" This candid and poetic memoir is an American classic, banned in places for its honest depiction of a black women's childhood in 1930s-40s America, but beloved by millions of readers. Together, let's find out why the caged bird sings. We meet at **6 pm to 7:25 pm** on Thursdays through May 25. Come on in and see what the buzz is all about. All are welcome. See Pastor Mary Beth or Elder George Bradlau if you have any questions.

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!** Upcoming chimes rehearsals in Memorial Hall from 9:30 to 9:50 May 21 and June 4. Performance in worship on June 4. See Tom DiGiovanni for more information!

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN** meet monthly on the third Tuesday at the church in the room next to the pastor's office at **NOON**. The study is for beginners who want to know more about the bible and those of us seeking a better understanding in the company of other women. We will be using Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments, written by The Rev. Eugenia Gamble. The study can be ordered at Presbyterianwomen.org or call/text Lisa Gray to get it - 973-476-4720 or email her at [Lisa\\_A\\_Gray@outlook.com](mailto:Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com)

**COME SUPPORT COMMUNITY MUSIC!** The Lehigh Valley Chorale presents "*Of Steel, Fire, and Sky*" on **Friday, May 19, at 7:30 pm** and **Saturday, May 20, at 2 pm**. This event will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, 3231 Tilghman St, Allentown PA. \$10 suggested donation at the door. For more information, go to [www.LVChorale.org](http://www.LVChorale.org) or talk to Elder Abbie Conlon.

**THE 34TH RARITAN RIVER MUSIC FESTIVAL** Tributes: The Legacy of Musical Traditions presents The Mohawk Trail Piano Trio (violin, cello, piano) featuring "Musical Monuments: Masterpieces by Arensky and Price" here at Old Greenwich on **Saturday, May 20, at 7:30 pm** In-Person and Online Recorded Broadcast Family Viewing (YouTube Premiere link will be provided to view Sunday through Wednesday following each concert). Tickets available through the web site: [www.RaritanRiverMusic.org](http://www.RaritanRiverMusic.org). For more information: 908-213-1100 or [info@RaritanRiverMusic.org](mailto:info@RaritanRiverMusic.org). If you purchase a ticket for the venue and decide for any reason to stay home, the festival will exchange that ticket for the link to the online recorded broadcast for that concert.

**Are you ready to make it official and learn more about what it means to be a member here?** Lucky you! Old Greenwich is offering a NEW MEMBER CLASS on Sunday, May 28 from 11:15 am to 12:30 pm . Please contact Barb Frinzi at [frinzi3@msn.com](mailto:frinzi3@msn.com) or Pastor Mary Beth at [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com) if you'd like to learn more. Zooming into the class is also an option if need be...

**SUMMER CAMP REGISTERING NOW!** Johnsonburg is a place where all may gather and all are welcomed in God's beautiful creation...and registration is now open! As New Jersey's only Presbyterian summer camp, Johnsonburg has been the highlight of summer for thousands of kids for 63 years. There are six one-week overnight sessions for kids in 1st-12th grades from June to August. J'burg programs have tons of activities, and camp counselors are carefully hired, screened, and trained to be great role models for campers. Summer camp has been shown to increase social and emotional wellness in children and youth, as well as teaching them to be more independent and helping them to make friends. Compliment the faith-building you are doing in church and at home with what will be your child's favorite week of the summer. For more information, visit [www.campjburg.org/summer-camp](http://www.campjburg.org/summer-camp)

**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](mailto: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.

**HOME COMMUNION:** Want to receive home communion or know of someone who would? Please contact Deacon Moderator, Mike Lemons, at [ML12504@gmail.com](mailto:ML12504@gmail.com) or Pastor Mary Beth at [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com)

**SIGN UP ONLINE TO BE A LAY READER:** Great news! You can now use our website to sign up to be a Sunday morning lay reader! Go to [ogpc.org](http://ogpc.org), click on the "Music & Worship" tab, and on the drop-down menu, click on "Sign up to be a Lay Reader." It will bring up Sunday dates and you enter your name for the week you'd like to be lay reader. You will receive a Lay Reader Bulletin via email on the Thursday prior to the Sunday you are scheduled, so you will be able to go over everything in advance. Questions? Please see Lisa Kolterjahn or email her at [lkolterjahn88@gmail.com](mailto:lkolterjahn88@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 or call the church office.

**Please pray for:** healing for Melissa Hixon's family, Melissa's cousin Karen died of cancer on Friday, April 28; healing prayers for Fritz Hamlin; prayers of healing for Carol Lee Doeringer, who has been in the hospital with heart issues; Lane who was critically injured in a motorcycle accident, and prayers for his family; Fritz and Sandy's daughter-in-law, Robin Schnell, prayers for healing and comfort; friend of Kathleen Scala, David Kokinda, recovering from spinal surgery; Cynthia Healy's goddaughter, MaryBeth & her daughter, Melanie, for healing; friend of Carol Doeringer, Millie Miller, who is recovering from eye surgery and facing a second eye surgery; Gail, Diane and Josie, all who died recently, and their families; friends of Dottie Davidson, Anna, whose brother died on 4/8, and Sami, who recently lost her husband; Howard Bell's wife, Sharon, who is in Abington Manor; Tricia Marino's mother, Margaret Matthews, as she recovers from surgery; *the family of Jeff Brown, Al & Lorraine Brown's son, who died on 4/2 - especially for Jeff's sons, Liam and Ryan, for comfort and a peace beyond understanding*; Carl & Ginny Guthardt; brother-in-law of Kathleen Scala, Marc Cottone, who continues to have multiple surgeries on his ankle and foot; Bob & Trudy Frey; Stephen Toman, Skip Adams' son, Zachary; the citizens of Ukraine; 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; all experiencing the effects of extreme weather conditions around the world

**Visit our Church's Web Site at: [www.ogpc.org](http://www.ogpc.org)**

Church Office e-mail address: [oldgreenwich@ogpc.org](mailto:oldgreenwich@ogpc.org)

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DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist    Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.    Jennifer Miller,  
Clerk of Session    Katie Rienzo, Treasurer and Fin. Secy    Francis Rienzo, Media/Comm. Dir.