

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



5th Sunday of Easter

Communion Sunday

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

Welcome, all! If you are new or visiting, we especially welcome you to Old Greenwich! If you would like the pastor to contact you, please fill out the Welcome Card with your contact info. If anyone has a prayer request, there is room on the reverse of the Welcome Card (found in the pew holders) for you to write your requests. You may place the cards in the offering plate later in the service.

EXTENDED PRELUDE

- Jazz Quartet

Hannah Marks, bass; Alden Hellmuth, alto sax; Max Light, guitar; Henry Mermer, drums

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 150)

Bridget Beacht, Lay Reader

Praise the LORD! Praise God in the sanctuary; praise God in the mighty firmament!

Praise God for mighty deeds; praise God according to such surpassing greatness!

Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with lute and harp!

Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe!

Praise God with clanging cymbals; praise God with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

*OPENING HYMN

"Down by the Riverside"

(traditional spiritual)

Gonna lay down my sword and shield

Down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside,

And study war no more.

Refrain:

I ain't gonna study war no more (6x)

I'm gonna put on my long white robe, down by the riverside...

I'm gonna lay down my burdens, down by the riverside...

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Compassionate God, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way. We have sinned against you, and against our neighbor. Forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, help us to live for you, and to trust in you, so that we can be bearers of your peace wherever you may lead us. In Christ we pray, 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

*HYMN

"Hush, Hush"

(traditional spiritual)

Hush, hush somebody's calling my name. (3x)
O my Lord, O my Lord, what shall I do, what shall I do?

Sounds like Jesus, somebody's calling my name...

I'm so glad troubles don't last always...

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION(in unison)

Come Holy Spirit, Holy Wisdom, Holy Song. Open up your Word to us today through music and speech and silence, that we may know you, and love you, and love this world. In Jesus we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Exodus 20:1-5a

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a zealous God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"O Sing to the Lord/ Cantad al Senor"

-Brazilian Folk Melody

SCRIPTURE READING – Acts 17:22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Homemade Gods"

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Tom DiGiovanni

GATHERING AT THE TABLE OF OUR LORD

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (with 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.

BLESSING THE BREAD AND THE CUP & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

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)

Please join in saying the Prayer of Dedication together:

Healing Christ, loving you and you alone, we pray that we would become ever more attuned to how you sing and speak to us every day of our lives. Take these gifts we give to you now, that they may bless this whole world as you call us all back to find our truest home in you. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"It Is Well with My Soul"

(H. Spafford)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain:

*It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

*THE SENDING

EXTENDED POSTLUDE

- Jazz Quartet

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

Announcements

On **Sunday, April 30, 2023**, we celebrate **5th 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, 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: April 30 – Team 2; May 7 - Team 3

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!

ULTIMATE YOUTH NIGHT: April 30, from 3 – 5 pm. Bring your 5th-8th grade child to this time of faith, fun, and fellowship! This event is open to all churches, and even friends who don't belong to any church. Leadership is provided by the trained staff of Camp Johnsonburg. And it's FREE! Come to the First Presbyterian Church of Hackettstown's Chapel, 291 Main Street, Hackettstown NJ 07840, where deepening faith will be fun! Questions? Call 908-852-2349 or email office@campjburg.org

Our church and Greenwich Nursery School are Celebrating Moms with Ice Cream and Music! This co-hosted event will be held on Friday, May 12 5:30-7:30, drop in anytime. All are welcome!! There will be bubbles, games, music, ICE CREAM! Registration is helpful, but optional. Kids \$5, adults, \$8. See more details at www.greenwichnursery.com.

"FISH 'N CHYPS" YOUTH ACTIVITIES (middle and high school) Our youth ministry partnership with College Hill Presbyterian Church will have its **last meeting on Sunday, May 7, 6 – 7:30 pm**, and **what we will be**

doing is a “mystery!” At College Hill Presbyterian (501 Brodhead St, Easton PA). Questions? Please see Pastor Mary Beth or email her at pastormarybeth@gmail.com.

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

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 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. For more information: 908-213-1100 or 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 or Pastor Mary Beth at 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

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.

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

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; friend of Kathleen Scala, David Kokinda, recovering from spinal surgery; Cynthia Healy's goddaughter, MaryBeth & her daughter, Melanie, for healing; Fritz & Sandy Hamlin's grandchildren, Crystal & Greg, on the passing of their grandmother, Ann Stone; 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

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

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy pastor@ogpc.org / 515-979-9681 Kathleen Scala,
Admin. Asst. oldgreenwich@ogpc.org / 908-479-4449 Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons Tom
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.