

*Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church*

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



1st Sunday of Advent

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

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 to enter it. Please place the cards in the Offering Plate later in the service.

ADVENT SING-ALONG

- see insert

PRELUDE

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Hope

Fritz & Sandy Hamlin & friends

INTROIT

"People, Look East"

12, v. 1

Congregation is welcome to join in singing with the Choir, if so moved.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 25, excerpts)

Deacon Philip Millon, Lay Reader

Please stand, as you are able, and join in the Call to Worship which is prayed responsively.

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

*OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

1, vv. 1, 2

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

2, v. 2

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, repent, and turn to you; that we may receive forgiveness, through Jesus our Lord we pray.

*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

We cannot keep Christ's forgiveness and Christ's peace to ourselves! With joy, let us pass the Peace of Christ to one another. May the Peace of Christ be with you!

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Lisa Kolterjahn

*HYMN

"Veni veni, Emmanuel"

9

Veni, veni Emanuel!

Captivum solve Israel!

Qui gemit in exilio,

Privatus Dei Filio.

Refrain: Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel,

Nascetur pro te Israel!

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, and quiet our hearts and minds, so we hear only you, and your Word. We pray in your name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

"Chosen Mary, Gentle One"

- J. Martin

SERMON

"Look, Be Alert, Pray"

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

"Messiah Come, Medley"

- Bruce & Betsy Gaston

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)

Gracious God, as we wait, as we watch, and as we hope, we pray that you would prepare us for your coming. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may do your work of love in the whole world. Through Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

20, v. 2
8 vv. 1, 2

*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Congregation is welcome to join in singing with the Choir, if so moved.

POSTLUDE All are welcome to join for fellowship in Memorial Hall following the worship service.

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, December 3, 2023**, we celebrate the **1st Sunday of Advent** at a 10 am worship service with preacher, **The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy**. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." (Facebook account is needed to access the Facebook Live feed.)

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: Dec. 3 – Team 1; Dec. 10 – Team 2

TODAY'S FLOWERS are in loving memory of Sharon Bell for her birthday today by her husband, Howard.

EACH SUNDAY DURING ADVENT, which begins today, December 3, Tom DiGiovanni will play familiar songs of the season before worship begins, and all are invited to sing along! Come a few minutes early to be part of the fun!!

GIVING TREE 2023: Greenwich Nursery School and Old Greenwich Church are co-sponsoring a Giving Tree event for Christmas this year! Thank you to all who have taken a tag.

There is an event **this Friday, December 8, 4 – 6 pm**, which will include a hot cocoa bar, with Santa himself in attendance, and you can drop off your gifts. (Gifts can be dropped off any time between 4 and 6 pm.) Questions? See Elder Melissa or Pastor Mary Beth.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY: Join us in the Prayer Room **each Wednesday in Advent, at 7 pm**, as we explore the book *"Stay A While - Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality,"* written by Kara Eidson. Think of something special you set your Christmas table with and bring it along if it is not too big. Books available in Prayer Room.



CALLING ALL YOUTH!! (Middle and High Schoolers!) Our church is once again partnering with College Hill Presbyterian Church in Easton for the **"Fish 'n Chyps"** evening youth program, and we'd love to see you there! We meet **every 1st and 3rd Sunday evening**. We meet **this evening, Dec. 3, 6 - 7:30 pm**. This group meets at College Hill Presbyterian Church, 501 Brodhead St, Easton, PA. If you need a ride, let Pastor Mary Beth know, and we can carpool. (Dec 3, and Dec 17).

NIGHTS OF PRAISE, MUSIC, FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP at Simply Grace Church, 61 Church St, Bloomsbury, **this Friday, December 8, at 7 pm**.

CHRISTMAS HAPPENING AT THE CHAPEL AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY! This Saturday, December 9, there will be a FREE screening of Sight and Sound Films' *"I Heard the Bells"*, with an introduction from the movie's lead actor! Cookies and coffee will be served at 5:30 pm, and the movie will begin at 6:30 pm. Open to all. Contact the HFH Chapel office at 908-689-9085 with any questions.

THE GREENWICH RINGERS: Westminster Presbyterian Church in P'burg gifted us with their beautiful set of handbells and we can't wait to share their music with you at a performance during next week's **(Dec. 10)** worship service.

AN OLD GREENWICH GOODBYE: After a little over 17 years of serving our church in her role as Administrative Assistant, Kathleen Scala is retiring at the end of this calendar year. Kathleen will be at the service **next Sunday, December 10**, and right after the service, we will have a send-off celebration for her in Memorial Hall. ALL are welcome!

The General William A. Maxwell Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be honoring veterans who are buried in Greenwich Cemetery by participating in the nationwide **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** event on **December 16**. If you are interested in sponsoring a wreath for a veteran's grave, go to: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/NJ0234P. **Cutoff date for ordering is November 30.**

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE - Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 pm. Not all of us feel happy-clappy this time of year. All are welcome to this service, where we will honestly acknowledge our grief during this time of the year, all the while pointing to the hope we have in God. Please invite anyone you know who might be struggling with grief or loss.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: We have two different age-group Sunday Schools: (1) Pre-K / Elementary School, (2) Middle / High School. The Pre-K / Elem group, Sunday School is held **every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month)**. Families should bring their children to worship in the sanctuary at **10 am**, and right after Time with the Young Church (10:15ish), the children will be dismissed to their classrooms. For the Middle / High School group, Elder Jen Miller and Pastor Mary Beth are co-teaching a class on "welcome" the **2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, from 9 - 9:40 am**, in Room 22, next door to the Pastor's office. Please see Pastor Mary Beth or Elder Jen Miller nijmillers@msn.com with any questions you may have.

OLD GREENWICH CHANCEL CHOIR: Come sing with us for the joyous Advent and Christmas seasons! You owe it to yourself to have a great time by diving a little deeper into the music that makes this season so special. No prior choir experience needed. Training wheels are installed for any new members who needs them! We meet on **Thursday nights, 7:30 - 9 pm**, in the sanctuary.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY: The group meets **the third Tuesday of the month, at noon**, in the Prayer Room (behind Memorial Hall) at the church. See Advent study announcement below.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S WEEKLY ZOOM BOOK GROUP: If you cannot make the in-person Advent Study on Wednesday evenings at the church, using "*Stay Awhile - Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality*" by Kara Eidson, you can attend a **Thursday Zoom study from noon - 1 pm** on this book by asking Lisa Gray (973-476-4720) for an invite. Copies available at church.

COME SEE BEAUTIFUL ART... right down the hall! Our wonderful community of artists that meet every Tuesday for watercolor and fellowship are displaying some of their work in Trinity Wing (right next to the pastor's office). The works that are displayed change regularly and some pieces are for sale. Check out our mini art gallery!

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 ogpcflowers@gmail.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.

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: **Betsy Gaston's dear friend Charles (Chip) Custer, who has had a stroke; Dottie Davidson and family, mourning the loss of her brother, Lee, who died on 11/24;** Don Reinhard, recently in the hospital with cardiac issues, and his family, Sally, Andrew and Jack; Marcia Taylor's sister and B-I-L, Patty & Lex and family as they grieve the loss of Lex's mother, Carol Wilkinson, on 11/15; Leni Voorhees, as she heals from cataract and glaucoma surgery on 11/16; Ernie Maso's mom, Clara, who had Covid last week in Country Arch Care Ctr.; *Fritz Hamlin, as he continues to recover from heart valve surgery, and his wife, Sandy;* Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin, who has cancer; Carol Lee Doering; Stephen Toman; Debbie Mowrey; our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine; the citizens of Israel and Palestine

"BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

WE ARE A GUN-FREE CHURCH – BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

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

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

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

Kathleen Scala, Admin. Ass't

Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons

Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.

Katie Rienzo, Treasurer; Comm. & Marketing Dir.

Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*

pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681

[oldgreenwich@ogpc.org/908-479-4449](tel:908-479-4449)

Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Josh Miller, Media/Comm. Ass't.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers