

*Old Greenwich*  
*Presbyterian Church*

**The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township**



**Last Sunday after Pentecost:  
Christ the King**

**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.

## PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RECOGNIZING THE GIFTS OF ELDER LISA GRAY

## INTROIT

*"Give Thanks"*

# 2036, vs 1, 2, 4

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

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 46, excerpts)

Deacon Joan Holloway, Lay Reader

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

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;**

Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; God's voice resounds and the earth melts.

**The God of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

"Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth."

**The God of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*"Jesus, Lover of My Soul"*

# 303, vs. 1, 4

## \*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. It is in his name 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

Christ is among us and is our peace. But we cannot keep this 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

Pastor Mary Beth

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**Come, Holy Spirit. Come, gentle breath. Silence in us any voice but your own. As we hear your Living Word, give us the courage not only to hear, but to act. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING – Ezekiel 34:11-16

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*"Every Good and Perfect Gift"*

- H. Sorenson

SCRIPTURE READING – Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers - all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Both"

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

\*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)

**Lord Jesus Christ, Ruler of the Universe, God-Come-Down, Emmanuel: born in a humble stable, we give you thanks that you rule our hearts and our lives. Help us to trust in you. Take now these gifts we give back, that they may bless this whole world in the wideness of your mercy. In your sovereign name we pray, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*"The Lily of the Valley"*

# 2062, vs. 1, 3

\*THE SENDING

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"Go Ye, Go Ye Into the World"*

# 2239

*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, November 26, 2023**, we celebrate the **Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King** 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:** Nov. 26 – Team 4; Dec. 2 – Team 1

**GIVING TREE 2023:** Greenwich Nursery School and Old Greenwich Church are co-sponsoring a Giving Tree event for Christmas this year! **Today, November 26**, you can take a tag off the tree in the Green Room and follow the instructions on how to purchase a gift. (Elder Melissa Hixon will explain how it all works). There is an event on **Friday, December 8**, which will include a hot cocoa bar with Santa himself in attendance, where you will be able to drop off your gifts. Questions? See Elder Melissa or Pastor Mary Beth.

Tickets for the **SIGHT & SOUND MIRACLE of CHRISTMAS SHOW** on Saturday, December 2, are available for **pick-up today, November 26**, after worship. See Barb Frinzi for tickets or with any questions.

**ADVENT BOOK STUDY:** Join us in the Prayer Room **each Wednesday in Advent, starting November 29, 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. See Lisa Kolterjahn or Lisa Gray if you are interested and to receive a copy of the book.



**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 **next on 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, on **Friday, December 8, at 7 pm**. Come one, come all to the

**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 on **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.wreathsacrossamerica.org/NJ0234P](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/NJ0234P). **Cutoff date for ordering is November 30.**

**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](mailto:nijmillers@msn.com) with any questions you may have.

**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 the **December 10** worship service.

**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. Chapter one “INVITE” will be on November 30, just before Advent begins. Copies available at church. Think of something special you set your Christmas table with! Can’t make it? Read Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Luke 21:25-36 and be there in spirit.

**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 [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.

**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: **Don Reinhard, 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; Al Brown, who was in hospital recently, and for his wife, Lorraine; Walt Campbell's grand-niece, Caleigh Loveless, who had surgery for a broken tibia and fibula and is recovering at home; Edna Gaston, Betsy Gaston's sister-in-law, who was in a car crash; Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin, who has cancer; Carol Lee Doeringer; Dottie Davidson and her brother, Lee, diagnosed with Stage IV cancer; 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](http://www.ogpc.org)**

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

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers

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Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Josh Miller, Media/Comm. Ass't.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*