

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



2nd 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.

CAROL SING-ALONG

- see insert

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: **Peace**

On this Second Sunday of Advent, we relight the candle of Hope, and we light for the first time the candle of PEACE.

In an age when people so seldom know peace within themselves, and when there are so many who are sick, hungry and lonely, we yearn for the peace that is the fullness of blessing for all.

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into the world. With the coming of this light there is PEACE, for Christ is called the "Prince of Peace." Christ's name is also "Emmanuel," "God with us." The presence of Christ gives us peace, day by day.

[light two candles]

INTROIT

"People, Look East"

12, v. 2

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Is. 40, excerpts)

Elder Sharon Jiorle, Lay Reader

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term.

Tell her that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

*OPENING HYMNS

"Still, Still, Still"

47

"Once in Royal David's City"

49, vv. 1, 4

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Jennifer Miller

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Christ! As you dwell among us, dwell in your Word, that we may hear only your voice, full of grace and truth. In your Name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“Holy Spirit Gifts”

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

UNITING WITH THE CONGREGATION

We joyfully welcome our newest members: **Elizabeth Kane, Susan Schisler, William Schisler, Lisa Zukowski, Samantha Hillier, Gary Hillier, Elizabeth Columbus, John Columbus**

Through baptism, we enter the covenant God has established. In that covenant God gives us new life; in that covenant, we are guarded from evil and nurtured by the love of God and God’s people!

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do, with God’s help.**

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God’s help.**

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, share in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God’s help.

*THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*WELCOME

As your new family, we welcome you to the ministry and mission of this part of the body of Christ! From this day forward, may the bonds of Christian love between us be strengthened and deepened, and may we stir one another up to love and good works, that together we may fulfill the purposes to which God has called us.

*HYMN

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

9

O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light. Refrain

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please remain standing for the passing of the peace which you may share with handshakes or hugs, or whatever you are comfortable with. The Peace of Christ be with you!

ANTHEM

“Prepare the Way O Zion”

Bruce Gaston, violin

SAYING GOODBYE TO KATHLEEN SCALA

“Hello, Goodbye”

- Paul McCartney

Deacon Mike Viscel, Pastor Mary Beth, Tom DiGiovanni

MUSICAL REFLECTION: GREENWICH RINGERS

“Christmas Bell Rejoicing”

- arr. Michael Ryan

RINGERS: Cathy Ahart, Betsy Gaston, Kathleen Gooley, Mia DiGiovanni, Joan Holloway, Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, Gwen Johnson, Katie Rienzo, Walt Campbell, Justin Rienzo, Ed Ahart

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

"There's a Song in the Air"

Bruce & Betsy Gaston

*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)

O Holy Spirit, as we give thanks, and make room, for the gift of one another, 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. In Christ we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMNS

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

48, v. 1

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

38, vv. 1, 4

*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 to continue to celebrate and say goodbye to Kathleen Scala and welcome our new members!



Today, **Sunday, December 10, 2023**, we celebrate the **2nd Sunday of Advent** and **New Member Sunday** at a 10 am worship service with preacher, **The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy**. We also say "Good-bye" to our beloved Administrative Ass't., Kathleen Scala. 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. 10 – Team 2; Dec. 17 – Team 3

EACH SUNDAY DURING ADVENT, 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!!

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.

THE GREENWICH RINGERS: Westminster Presbyterian Church in P'burg gifted us with their beautiful set of handbells and we'll enjoy their music during today's worship service.

TODAY'S FLOWERS are in loving remembrance of Alan Hartzell, beloved husband, father and grandpa by Abbie Conlon.

AN OLD GREENWICH GOODBYE: Right after today's service, we will have a send-off celebration in Memorial Hall for Kathleen Scala, who is retiring as of Dec. 28. ALL are welcome!

2024 PER CAPITA: The Presbytery of the Highlands Per Capita for 2024 is **\$42.50 per active member**, which represents *no change* from 2023. This amount includes the Office of General Assembly assessment of \$9.80, Synod of the Northeast assessment of \$4.10 and \$28.60 for the work of the Presbytery.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA: The General William A. Maxwell Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will be honoring veterans who are buried in Greenwich Cemetery **next Saturday, December 16**. All are invited to attend a ceremony at **10:30 am** and may then stay and help place wreaths on veteran's graves.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY: OGPC is partnering with River of Life Church to help 25 families in need during the holidays. Please prayerfully consider signing up to donate using the link below. All donations should be **dropped off by next Sunday, December 17**, in the Green Room. **AND...** "Thank you!" to the wonderful folks from AA who donated \$350 in gift cards to this ministry from monies collected at their Thanksgiving Day Gratitude Meeting! If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Smith at 908-875-6784. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA9AD23A46-46396615-river>

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**. Next meeting is on **Sunday, Dec. 17, 6 - 7:30 pm**. This group meets at College Hill PC, 501 Brodhead St, Easton, PA. If you need a ride, let Pastor Mary Beth know, and we can carpool.

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.

2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDER FORM: Poinsettias are purchased by the congregation to decorate the church at the price of \$12 each. They are then taken to our Special People, members who are ill or homebound. Once that need is met, you may take the ones you purchased.

LAST DAY TO ORDER – Sunday, December 20

A list will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins, noting the purchaser and who is being remembered, honored, etc. Please make checks payable to "OGPC Deacons." **Dedications should be emailed** to Rob Todd at ogpcflowers@gmail.com, **or call Rob** at 908-235-9322 if you do not have internet access. You can scan the QR Code to electronically send dedication. (Payment may be placed in Offering Plate or mailed, with "Poinsettia" as notation.) Forms with payment may be placed in the box outside the sanctuary, in Offering Plate, or mailed to: OGPC, Att; Flower Coordinator, 17 Greenwich Church Road, Stewartsville, NJ 08886

of plants _____ x \$12 = _____

Purchased by: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____



To the Glory of God: _____

Please give ____ plants to our Special People.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE:

Inter-generational Pageant	Sunday, December 24	10 am
Readings and Carols	Sunday, December 24	8 pm
Candlelight Communion Service	Sunday, December 24	11 pm

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 njjmillers@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: **Lori Metz, scheduled for hip surgery on 12/13; Sharon Dachisen, who had surgery on 12/ 4, and her husband, Peter, as he cares for her;** 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; John Oakes, who has been in the hospital with Covid and RSV; Don Reinhard, at home from 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 form cataract and glaucoma surgery on 11/16; Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter- in-law, Robin, who has cancer; Carol Lee Doeringer; 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*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers

pastor@ogpc.org/515-979-9681

oldgreenwich@ogpc.org/908-479-4449

Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist

Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session

Cole Hosbach, Media/Comm. Ass't.

Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*