

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township



**Christmas Eve
Communion Service
11 PM**

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

PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

WELCOME

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

WREATH LIGHTING: **Christ Candle**

Elder Lisa Kolterjahn

On this Christmas Eve we are gathered as God's people to celebrate again what Christ's coming means to the world. Tonight we relight the four Advent candles and recall what the good news means.

Hope, Peace, Joy, Love

And Jesus Christ is the greatest gift, who makes all these other gifts possible. [light the Christ candle]
As we light these candles, we think again about what Christ's coming means to each one of us.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:46-55)

Ellie Mardis-LeCroy, Lay Reader

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, who has looked with favor on the lowliness of this servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name!

God's mercy is for those who fear the Lord from generation to generation.

God has shown strength with the arm, and has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things, and has sent the rich away empty.

God has helped servant Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy,

According to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham, to Sarah, and to God's descendants forever.

*OPENING HYMN

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

36 vv. 1, 4

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Gracious God, come so very near to us this night and cast out our sin. Help us make room for you to be born in our hearts. Rid us of our self-serving goals. Forgive and free us to serve neighbors in need, and to see holiness in every living thing. In Christ Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us, we pray these things.

*SILENT CONFESSION with *"Amen"* played

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GLORIA PATRI

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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

MUSICAL MEDITATION I

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Tom DiGiovanni

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Please join in saying the Prayer for Illumination together:

O God, we long to see you and know you. As we read these holy words, come to us anew, and make our hearts your home. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL MEDITATION II

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

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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:

Loving Christ: the One who bends down to earth this very night, Emmanuel, be with us now.

Bless our offerings, and use them to bring light to the dark places in this world. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

*SCRIPTURE READING – John 1:1-5, 24

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Now they had been sent from the pharisees

***CANDLE-LIGHTING HYMN** *“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

*During this hymn, the light of the Christ Candle will be passed from candle to candle down each pew. Please be sure to **tip the un-lit candle** and keep the lit candle upright.*

Silent night, holy night, All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior is born. Christ, the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

(repeat verse 1)

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES**

POSTLUDE

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME: Wherever you come from, wherever you are going, you are welcome at Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church! We worship at 10am on Sunday mornings both in person and online. For online worship, visit our YouTube page at “Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church” (and go to the “live” video feed), or check out our Facebook account at www.facebook.com/OldGreenwichPC. All are welcome, always. If you'd like more information about our congregation, please email Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com. Check out our website: www.ogpc.org.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS are given by those listed in the below.

2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS DEDICATIONS

Tina Schulman

In Memory Of: ① Nicholas, Olga, Nick Jr., & Paul Stangil

In Memory Of: ② Madeline & Rylan Barsony

Sandy Friedman

In Memory Of: ① All of our loved ones no longer with us!

In Celebration Of: ② Stephen's Birthday (12/26)

Susan & Edward Gardner

In Memory Of: ① Mary Lou Gardner

In Memory Of: ② William & Agnes Nagy

Ed & Cathy Ahart

In Memory Of: ① F. Edward & Florence Ahart

In Memory Of: ② Harry S. & Ruth Pursel

In Memory Of: ③ Endress H. Folk

In Memory Of: ④ Freda Scheetz & Frances Ward

Joan & Harry Pursel

In Memory Of: ① Loved Ones

Barb & Charlie Frinzi

In Memory Of: ① F. Edward & Florence Ahart

In Celebration Of: ② Joseph & Minnie Frinzi
In Memory Of: ③ The Frinzi Children & Grandchildren

Amy Ahart & Tom DiGiovanni

In Celebration Of: ① Kathryn & James DiGiovanni
In Celebration Of: ② Catherine & Edward Ahart
In Memory Of: ③ William Monteverdi & Marco DiGiovanni
In Memory Of: ④ Florence & F. Edward Ahart
In Memory Of: ⑤ Endress Folk

Maddie, Ellie, Mia, Lucy, Wyatt, Scarlett, & Esperanza

In Celebration Of: ⑥ Moma & PopPop Ahart

Tanya Segal

In Memory Of: ① Jerome Segal

Linda & John Oakes

In Memory Of: ① J. Alvin & Beatrice Oakes
In Memory Of: ② Raymond & Dorothy Voorhees

Marlin & Sally Quick

In Memory Of: ① Homer & Marian Schweppe
In Memory Of: ② Harry & Shirley Quick

Ellen & Mike Viscel

In Memory Of: ① Rosalie Viscel, John & Ann Caprio

Susan Tintle

In Celebration Of: ① Robert Tintle

Ralph Wolverton

In Memory Of: ① Bessie & Paul Wolverton

Deborah Smith

In Memory Of: ① My Father, Ralph Seifert

Carl Guthardt

In Memory Of: ① Virginia Guthardt

Robin Glosser

In Memory Of: ① The Voorhees & Rush Families
In Memory Of: ② Teri Lea Whitney & Sam Bartha

Rob & Kristen Todd

In Memory Of: ① Elizabeth Wiley and Anna Johnson
In Memory Of: ② Earl G. Todd & Bernice Todd Witt
In Memory Of: ③ Irvin & Anna Swope
In Memory Of: ③ David & Louis Pickel
In Memory Of: ④ Aunt Rose Leonardo

Walter & Anita Campbell

In Memory Of: ① Margaret & Otto Steiner and Dorothy & Walter Campbell, Sr.

Fritz & Sally Hamlin

In Memory Of: ① Our Parents

Al & Lorraine Brown

In Celebration Of: ① Emily Brown's engagement to Joe Kelly
In Celebration Of: ② Our Grandchildren, Emily, Carolyn, Liam and Ryan
In Memory Of: ③ Jeffrey Alan Brown

Trish & Phil Millon

In Memory Of: ① In Loving Memory of Our Family

John & Lizzy Columbus

In Memory Of: ① Robert Seibert

George & Susan Bradlau

In Celebration Of: ① Christmas at Old Greenwich Presby. Church

Edward Gardner

In Memory Of: ① William & Agnes Nagy

In Memory Of: ② My father, Ralph Seifert

In Honor Of: ③ Mary Lou Gardner

Lori, Jeff and Randy Metz

In Memory Of: ① Our one-of-a-kind Dad, Donald Metz

In Memory Of: ② our grandparents, Preston and Edith Metz and Aunts Erma and Rose

Micha Fell, Michael Cecere and Marissa Winter

In Memory Of: ① Our beloved Poppop, Donald Metz

Bob Luzietti

In Honor Of: ① My wife, Doris

In Honor Of: ② My parents, Giacomo & Augusta Luzietti

In Honor Of: ③ Doris' parents, Emil & Eudora Perini