

# *Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church*

**The First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich Township**



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**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 card in an Offering Plate later in the service.

## PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 148, excerpts) Deacon Susann Dalrymple, Lay Reader

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

Praise God! Praise God from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

**Praise God, all you angels of God; praise God, all you host of heaven!**

Praise God, you sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

**Rulers of the earth and all peoples, nobles and all leaders of the earth!**

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

**Let them praise the name of the Sovereign, whose name alone is exalted; whose glory is above earth and heaven.**

God has raised up a horn for the people, and praise for all the faithful,

**For the people of Israel who are close to God. Praise be to God!**

## \*OPENING HYMN

*"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"*

# 46, vv. 1, 4

## \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Loving God, You have heard our complaints, our impatience. Sometimes we become frightened, and we move away from you. Forgive our wandering. Guide our hearts back to you. Help us to think beyond our own wants, and to desire only to do your will. Heal and forgive us, good and gracious Savior. We pray this in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

\*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

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!

## TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**Holy God, we try to listen, but it's hard to hear. We try to be still, but our minds chatter away and our bodies are restless. We try to be open to new things, but we like the old ways. Shake us, wake us up, O God! We want to hear your Living Word this day. Come, Holy Spirit! Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING – Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a

garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

# 48

SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 2:41-52

Now every year, Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Life after Christmas"

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)

**Gracious and loving God, God of all life, God of new beginnings: help us to go boldly into the world, knowing you call us Precious, Chosen, Beloved. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless this whole world, and make everything new. In Christ we pray, Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

*"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"*

# 50

\*THE SENDING

POSTLUDE

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

# Announcements

Today, **Sunday, December 31, 2023**, we celebrate the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas** 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.)

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](http://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.

**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.

**The church office will be closed Monday, January 1.**

**USHER TEAM SCHEDULE:** Dec. 31 – Team 1; January 7 – Team 2

**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.

**LET'S GO BOWLING!** All children and their families (Pre-K age, more or less) are welcome to join the Greenwich Nursery School and Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church for a bowling outing!!

Date: **Monday, January 15.**

Location: Oakwood Lanes (Washington, NJ).

Time: **10 am-12 pm.**

Cost: \$12/child

Please RSVP by emailing Amy Anderson at [director@greenwichnursery.com](mailto:director@greenwichnursery.com). You may also register by grabbing a form from the table in the back of the church and turning it in to Pastor Mary Beth. Hope to see you there!

**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.

**MIDDLE AND HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - "WELCOME ALL"** Elder Jennifer Miller and Pastor Mary Beth are thrilled to be co-teaching a Sunday School class this year aimed at middle and high schoolers!! The class will be held on the **2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, before worship from 9 - 9:40 am. We will meet next on January 14.** All lessons will be centered around the deep spiritual practice of welcome. See you there!

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY:** Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, "*Sacred Encounters*," will be meeting on **Tuesday, January 16**, (the **THIRD** Tuesday) at **noon**, in the Prayer Room. We'll be looking at "A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ," chapter three. No book? Join us anyway, the sessions stand alone, you won't be lost to jump in now.

And the **PW WEEKLY ZOOM LUNCH STUDY** will resume **Thursday, January 18**, at **noon**. We are beginning a NEW BOOK - "*A is for Alabaster*," 52 reflections on the stories of scripture. It contains Old and New

Testament with some names you've never heard of, like B is for Balaam, R is for Rhoda. It also does words like M is for memory and P is for poet. It can be ordered on (PCUSA.org) Presbyterian Store, or other online sites. For an invitation, call or text Lisa Gray 973-476-4720.

The **LEHIGH VALLEY PHANTOMS** Ice Hockey Organization in Allentown would like to have members of our congregation out to a game for a group night. They pride themselves on being a family friendly environment for bonding and a place to connect outside of the typical church setting.

They are planning a Faith Night on **Sunday, March 3**. It will be possible to connect with other churches in the area, as well as having one of the players meet with the churches in attendance to talk about their faith. Ticket prices are \$20-\$30. Transportation will be on your own. If anyone is interested, please sign up in Memorial Hall by the end of January.

More information to follow if there is any interest. Please contact Barb Frinzi if you have any questions! Call or text 908-343-1144 or email-frinzi3@msn.com

**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](mailto: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](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: **friends of Dottie Davidson, Jack Adams, who is in the hospital, and his family; those struggling with mental illness, and their families; those who struggle with addictions, and their families; Anita Campbell, having foot surgery on 1/9; Walt & Anita Campbell's son-in-law's mother, Geraldine Waterman;** Lori Metz, Sharon Dachisen and Marcia Taylor, all recovering from surgeries; the family of Robin Glosser's friend, Douglas Risley, who died 12/19 after years of battling heart disease; John Oakes, who had surgery on his knee the week of 12/15; Susan Jones, and her husband, David; Jennifer Miller, who was in a car accident and thankfully was not injured; 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 Prayers

“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  
Katie Rienzo, Office Mgr. & Dir. Of Communications  
Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons  
Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.  
Katie Rienzo, Treasurer; Comm. & Marketing Dir.  
Tom DiGiovanni, Leader, *Gr'wich Ringers*

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Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session  
Joshua Miller, Media/Comm. Ass't  
Bruce & Sandy Frey, Leaders, *Sonshine Singers*

Betsy Gaston, Leader, *Rejoicing Rhythms* drummers

