

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church  
February 18, 2024  
10 AM

## PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

Every Sunday during Lent from 9:40am to a little before 10:00am, everyone is welcome to join us in the Prayer Room (right next to the choir room) for a short prayer service. The participants from this service will process into the sanctuary at 10:00am, singing. Folks in the pews, please sing with us!

## PROCESSIONAL, WELCOME & OPENING SILENCE

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 50)

Sue Schisler, Liturgist

God speaks, summoning the earth,

**Summoning the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Our God comes and does not keep silence.

**God calls to the heavens above the earth,**

God brings justice to all the people.

**Come, let us worship God!**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*"The Glory of These Forty Days"*

# 87 vv. 1, 2 & 4

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

#### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your way, to the glory of your Holy Name.**

\*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

### \*LENTEN HYMN

*"Open Unto Me"*

- words: H. Thurman, tune: R. Bruxvoort  
arr.: Tom DiGiovanni

Open unto me joy for my sorrow  
Joy for my sorrow, open unto me  
Open unto me joy for my sorrow  
Open unto me, O God

Open unto me strength for my weakness  
Strength for my weakness, open unto me  
Open unto me strength for my weakness  
Open unto me, O God

Open unto me light for my darkness  
Light for my darkness, open unto me  
Open unto me light for my darkness  
Open unto me, O God

## TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Lisa Kolterjahn

## ANTHEM

*"Touch Me with Ashes"*

- J. Martin and S. Nordmeyer

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**God of all light, show us your Word as we read the words of Scripture today, so that your way will illumine our paths. In Jesus we pray, and through the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING - Mark 1:9-15

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*"Wilderness"*

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

*"He Was Despised"*

- from *"Messiah"*

Bill Cotte, Basso

\*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)

**God, you are with us in our wilderness places: speaking peace, presence and comfort. Open our hearts to hear you, to know you are near. Now take what we give back, that our offerings may help heal this world, so in need of your love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*"I Danced in the Morning"*

# 302 vv. 3, 4 & 5

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*CHORAL RESPONSE

*"Healer of Our Every Ill"*

# 2213 v. 1

*Congregation is invited to sing along, if you feel so led!*

## POSTLUDE

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

# Announcements

Today, **Sunday, February 18, 2024**, we celebrate the **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent** at a 10 am worship service with Pastor 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, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm. Offices are closed on Fridays.

**OUR SOLOIST Bill Cotte** is a retired professor of music from Lyndon State College in Vermont (1990-2017) and a retired pastor (1975-2020), serving various congregations in New Jersey and Vermont.

**USHER TEAM SCHEDULE:** Feb 18, Team 4; Feb 25, Team 1

**2024 PER CAPITA:** If you have paid your (or yours and others) Per Capita, thank you! Don't forget to color in your person on the poster in the entry way. Our goal is to fully color in the graphic representing each of our members. Together, and with God's help, nothing is impossible for OGPC!

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!** Musicians wanted! Would you like to sing or play an instrument during our Sunday service? Send Tom DiGiovanni an email to start the conversation. [digtom@hotmail.com](mailto:digtom@hotmail.com)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES:** We have two different age group Sunday Schools: Pre-K / Elementary School, and Middle / High School.

**Pre-K/Elementary** meets every Sunday (except the first Sunday of the month) Children will worship with their families until after Time with the Young Church when they will be dismissed to their classrooms.

**Middle/High School** meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 9 to 9:40 in Room 22. Elder Jen Miller and Pastor Mary Beth are co-teaching a class on Welcome. Please see Pastor Mary Beth or Elder Jen Miller [njmillers@msn.com](mailto:njmillers@msn.com) with any questions.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY:** The group will meet next on Tuesday, February 20, 12 to 1 in the Prayer Room (behind Memorial Hall) at the church.

**SOUPERBOWL IN FEBRUARY** - The Community Outreach Committee has organized a homemade soup drive for 27 shut-in families. One-quart containers are available in the church kitchen. Please make your favorite homemade soup, label the container, freeze it and bring it to the church by Sun. Feb. 25. Soups will be delivered during the first week of March.

**THE GREENWICH NURSERY SCHOOL** is celebrating serving the community for 50 years with a Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday, March 2 at Mainline Catering & Events (formerly Flynn's on the Hill) from 5 to 8 PM, \$60 per person. Enjoy a fun night out while you help GNS raise money for new playground equipment. ALSO, Save the date of May 3rd for the 50th anniversary Family Fun Carnival.

**BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY STARTS** Wednesday, Feb 21 in OGPC's Memorial Hall. Don't miss this special intergenerational potluck fellowship co-hosted by OGPC and College Hill Presbyterian. Each session will include fellowship, an exploration of the Gospel of Mark, music and prayer. Kids activities included. Bring a dish to share (optional!) 5:30 to 7 PM.

**THE OGPC BOOK CLUB** begins its Spring session on Thursday, April 11. This session we're reading "*The Alchemist*" by Paulo Coelho. The book club meets in the Resource Room on Thursdays from 6 PM to 7:30. For more information, see Pastor Mary Beth or Elder George Bradlau.

**CARD MINISTRY** Did you know the Deacons have a card ministry to celebrate birthdays, special occasions and to send get well messages? They need your help to celebrate the birthday of one of our special people: **Phyllis Dietz** is turning 99 on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Let's shower her with birthday cards. Address: Bradley Pk Center, 290 Red School Lane, Phillipsburg NJ 08865.

**BRIDGES OF HOPE** with NAMI of Warren County is presenting a seminar hosted by Pilgrim Presbyterian Church, Saturday, March 9, 10 AM - 12:30 PM. Bridges of Hope is a program designed to bring awareness about mental illness to people of faith; to equip them with tools to become strong safety nets of welcoming communities for persons affected by a mental disorder(s), and their families. See Pastor Mary Beth for more details.

**THE CHURCH CARE AND KINSHIP** committee is already planning how to make next Christmas special by reserving seats for the Christmas Show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, NJ (4 miles west of Clinton, NJ). The date is Sunday Dec 8, 2024. Doors open at 2:30 pm. Cost is \$82 for a meal and the show.

Children's tickets are \$72. Transportation is on your own. Contact Barb Frinzi with questions. 908-343-1144 or [frinzi3@msn.com](mailto:frinzi3@msn.com). Sign up in Memorial Hall with a \$10 deposit given to Cathy Ahart.

Due to a lack of sign-ups, we will not be participating in the Faith Night with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms.

**SUNDAY FLORAL DEDICATIONS:** Sign up for communion table flower arrangements dedicated to a loved one. The cost to purchase arrangements **is \$20 each**. Contact Robert Todd at [ogpcflowers@gmail.com](mailto:ogpcflowers@gmail.com) or 908-235-9322 to place an order and arrange a dedication. Please place order *only one to two weeks prior* to the date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin. (Orders placed months ahead leaves too much chance they will get lost or forgotten!)

**HOME COMMUNION:** If you would like to receive home communion or know of someone who would, please contact Deacon Moderator, Robert Todd at [robert\\_todd@icloud.com](mailto:robert_todd@icloud.com) or Pastor Mary Beth at [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com).

**TRANSPORTATION:** If you know of someone who needs transportation to and from church (other trips possible as well), please let Deacon Ernie Maso 908-619-8517 or Pastor Mary Beth know.

## Prayers, Thanksgiving and Contemplation

**This week we pray for:** Lizzy and John Columbus' daughter Chloe who will be having a procedure; Sandy Friedman's mother, Jeanne Cole, who is facing some health concerns; Lisa Gray's husband Ray, whose brother died; prayers also for Lisa Gray, whose sister-in-law died; Sue Dalrymple's partner John receiving test results in the next few weeks. Carol Lee Doeringer gives thanks that an EMT was close by and able to help when she fell recently; prayers for Wendy Theurer as she grieves the death of her sister, Elaine, and prayers for Elaine's loved ones. Continue to pray for Debbie Mowrey's sister Brenda, who has suffered a second stroke, as well as her sister Kathy. Prayers for Joan Pursel and her sister Karen, who is in hospice care in Arizona. Prayers for Tammy and Mike Ludwig, friends of Barb and Charlie Frinzi, whose son Zach was killed on New Year's Eve. Pray for those struggling with mental illness and those who struggle with addictions and their families. Please pray for Anita Campbell, healing from foot surgery on 1/9; Pray for Sandy & Fritz Hamlin's daughter-in-law, Robin, who has cancer; prayers for Stephen Toman. Continue to pray for our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces; the citizens of Ukraine and the citizens of Israel and Palestine.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers"*

We are a gun-free church - buildings and grounds

**[www.ogpc.org](http://www.ogpc.org)**

The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy  
Katie Rienzo, Office Mgr. & Dir. of Comm.  
Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons  
Tom DiGiovanni, Music Dir./Organist  
Joshua Miller Media/Comm. Ass't.

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**Old Greenwich**  
Presbyterian Church

