

3rd Sunday in Lent

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

March 3, 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:

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.

PROCESSIONAL, WELCOME & OPENING SILENCE

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 99, excerpts)

Sunday School Children and Youth, Liturgists

The LORD is sovereign; let the peoples tremble! God sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

The LORD is great in Zion; God is exalted over all the peoples.

Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is God!

Moses and Aaron were among God's priests; Samuel also was among those who called on the name.

They cried to the LORD, and God answered them.

God spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept the decrees, and the statutes that God gave them.

Extol the LORD our God, and worship at the holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.

*OPENING HYMN

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

363

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Compassionate God, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have gone our own way. We have sinned against you, and against our neighbor. Forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, help us to live for you, and to trust that in you, we can be courageous disciples wherever you may lead us. In Christ we pray all of 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

*LENTEN HYMN

"Open Unto Me"

- words: H. Thurman, tune: R. Bruxvoort

Open unto me joy for my sorrow

Open unto me strength for my weakness

Open unto me light for my darkness

Joy for my sorrow, open unto me

Strength for my weakness, open unto me

Light for my darkness, open unto me

Open unto me joy for my sorrow

Open unto me strength for my weakness

Open unto me light for my darkness

Open unto me, O God

Open unto me, O God

Open unto me, O God

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Lisa Kolterjahn

ANTHEM

"There Is a Fountain"

- by Patti Drennan

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, and bring light to your Holy Word. Help us to hear; and help us to do. In Christ we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Exodus 20:1-17

OT p. 66

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Toward Human Flourishing"

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

MUSICAL REFLECTION

"Seasons of Life"

- by Mark Hayes

Barbara Salbego-Cotte, piano

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

You may stay in your pews, where you will be served bread and a cup of grape juice. You may eat the bread and drink the cup once you receive them, or you may wait - either way is just fine. All ages (including children and tots and babies) are welcome to eat the bread and drink the cup if the family chooses.

OFFERING

Offertory

"Lenten Doxology"

- words: R.G. Huff, tune: J. Sibelius

O suf-f'ring Je - sus, in these for - ty days. We view your sor - row,
share in your dis - tress. Our Len - ten songs are filled with mu - ted praise;
Yet by your pas - sion, we are tru - ly blessed. We praise the Fa - ther!
We praise you, the Son! — We praise the Spir - it, our God, Three in One.

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Loving God, thank you for the Sinai Covenant. Thank you that you give us your commandments to free us and to help us flourish. Shape us into the people you would have us to be: loving, gracious, giving. Take now these gifts we give back to you, that they may bless this whole wide world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

504

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

"Kyrie"

2275

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

POSTLUDE

All are welcome to join us in Fellowship Hall (follow the crowd! And the coffee smell!) for refreshments and fellowship!

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, March 3, 2024**, we celebrate the **3rd 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.

USHER TEAM SCHEDULE: Mar 3, Team 2; Mar 10, Team 3

OUR GUEST MUSICIAN TODAY is Barbara Salbego-Cotte. Barbara is a retired NJ public school music teacher/performing arts director on the high school and middle school levels for 40 years...and she loved every minute of it!

UPCOMING NEW MEMBER CLASS!

Are you ready to learn more about what it means to be a member here? Lucky you! Old Greenwich is offering a new member class on Sunday, April 21 from 11:15 am to 12:30 pm. All are welcome, even if you just want to learn more (joining the church is not obligatory!) Please contact Elder Barb Frinzi at frinzi3@msn.com or Pastor Mary Beth at pastormarybeth@gmail.com if you'd like to learn more.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Support the Open Cupboard Food Pantry & Thrift Shop in recovering from a recent fire by donating gift cards. This nonprofit organization assists those struggling to afford food for themselves and their families in Hunterdon and Warren County. Due to damage from the fire, they are only accepting Shoprite gift cards now. Please consider purchasing a Shoprite gift card and bringing it to church to assist our neighbors facing food insecurity. For inquiries, reach out to Sharon Smith at ssmith@nhweb.net.

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.

BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY will meet at OGPC, Wednesday, Mar 6. 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. Book club is for members and non-

members alike, so invite your friends and neighbors!

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 community 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 hosting an Easter Sunday breakfast at **8 AM** in Memorial Hall on **Easter Sunday, March 31st**. Homemade egg casseroles will be served. Please join us!

CCK will also have an Old Bible display in Memorial Hall along with a potluck luncheon on **Sunday April 14th**. Please contact Barb Frinzi (908-343-1144 or frinzi3@msn.com) if you have an old Bible that we can display! We will take very good care of them! Bring something delicious to share with others at the luncheon too!

Get your order in for EASTER FLOWERS! Easter flowers 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. You can also take them home after the service. The order form is in the entryway. Please make checks payable to "OGPC Deacons" and include payment with order form. Forms may be put in the collection plates during the service or mailed to the church office. Questions? Contact Rob Todd at 908-235-9322 / ogpclfowers@gmail.com.

Prayers, Thanksgiving and Contemplation

This week we pray for: Sandy Frey's father, Glen, who is having health problems; Sue Beacht's sister, Betsy, who is facing an upcoming surgery; Edith Slamp, recovering from a recent hospital stay; Lizzy and John Columbus' daughter Chloe who will be having a procedure March 20; 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; 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. 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.



Our Church's Mission
To celebrate the love of God in all we say and do.

"Blessed are the peacemakers"
We are a gun-free church - buildings and grounds

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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Jennifer Miller, Clerk of Session
Betsy Gaston, Ass't Music Dir./Choir Dir.

