

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church  
March 17, 2024  
10 AM

## PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

This Sunday, 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. 119, excerpts)

Elder Chris Hart, Liturgist

With my whole heart I seek you;  
do not let me stray from your commandments.

**I treasure your word in my heart,  
so that I may not sin against you.**

Blessed are you, O Lord;  
teach me your statutes.  
With my lips I declare  
all the ordinances of your mouth.

**I delight in the way of your decrees  
as much as in all riches.**

I will meditate on your precepts,  
and fix my eyes on your ways.

**I will delight in your statutes;  
I will not forget your word.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*"Deep in the Shadows of the Past"*

# 330 vv 1 & 4

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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

**Grant unto us, O God, the fullness of your promises. Where we have been weak, grant us your strength; where we have been confused, grant us your guidance; where we have been sinful, grant us your forgiveness; where we have been dead, grant us your life. Apart from you, O Lord, we are nothing. But in you and with you, we can do all 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 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"

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

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

### "Open Unto Me"

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

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

**Loving God, Source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the Spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened by the hearing and proclamation of your Word this day. We pray this in Jesus' name, and through the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE READING - Jeremiah 31:31-34

OT p. 735

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

### "A New Law"

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

### "There is a Balm in Gilead"

- arr. by Tedd Smith

Bill Cotte - Basso, Barbara Salbego-Cotte, piano

### "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)

**Gracious God, give us new hearts - hearts of flesh, hearts that serve. As your servant people, send now our gifts into the world, through Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

*"Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days"*

# 81

**\*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 17, 2024**, we celebrate the **5<sup>th</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.

**USHER TEAM SCHEDULE:** March 17, Team 4; March 24, Team 1

**OUR SPECIAL MUSIC TODAY** is provided by Bill Cotte and Barbara Salbego-Cotte. Bill 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. 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!** Ready to learn more about what it means to be a member here? Lucky you! OGPC 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](mailto:frinzi3@msn.com) or Pastor Mary Beth at [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com) to learn more.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** - Support the Open Cupboard Food Pantry & Thrift Shop in recovering from a recent fire by donating Shoprite gift cards. This nonprofit organization assists those struggling to afford food for themselves and their families in Hunterdon and Warren County. A basket for the gift cards is in the entryway of the sanctuary. Questions? Contact Sharon Smith at [ssmith@nhweb.net](mailto:ssmith@nhweb.net).

Thank you to those who donated soup in February. We donated 37 quarts of homemade soup to local shut-ins. **Our next outreach** - we will be collecting meat and cheese ziti in 9x6 aluminum containers with cardboard lids through April 7. Please bring your ziti in a labeled container and drop it off in the church freezer.

**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.

**OUR FINAL BREAD FOR THE JOURNEY** will meet here at OGPC Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30. Join us!

**JAZZ GOES TO CHURCH**, Palm Sunday, March 24. Join us for a spirited, joyful 10 AM Jazz Goes to Church service. Hannah Marks will be joining us with her band: Miranda Agnew on trumpet, Mitch Selib on guitar and Vinnie Sperazza on drums. Bring your friends and family! **Note that Children's Sunday School will not meet so that they can be dazzled by the music with the rest of the congregation.**

**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!

**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 let us know if you will be attending by signing up in Memorial Hall.**

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!

**Just want to bang on the drum all day?** Betsy Gaston will be leading our Rejoicing Rhythms drum workshops on April 21, 28 and May 5, from 11:15-11:45 AM. Meet in the choir room with a love of rhythm and a smile. The group hopes to perform with our congregational hymns on Sunday, May 12. All ages and levels of experience are welcome!

**TURN JUNK INTO TREASURE!** Have treasures that need a new home or in search of treasures? Join us **Saturday, May 4 from 9 to 1**. Vendors reserve a table by April 15 for \$10, clean out your attic and basement, doors open at 7:30 AM to set up. Items not taken must be brought home. Shoppers \$5 for admission, take whatever you'd like for free. No limit. Questions? Contact [turnjunkintotreasure@yahoo.com](mailto:turnjunkintotreasure@yahoo.com) or call the church office. Sponsored by the Deacons.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OPEN HOUSE** - The Christian Education Committee will be hosting an open house on Sunday April 28 after worship for anyone that is interested in being a Sunday School Teacher in the 24/25 Sunday School Year. We will present a sample lesson, go over what is expected of teachers, and answer any questions that you may have. Contact Elder Lisa Kolterjahn at [lkolterjahn88@gmail.com](mailto:lkolterjahn88@gmail.com) with questions.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! VBS 2024** will be June 17-20 from 5pm-8pm and will include dinner. Our theme this year is "Start the Party". More info to come.

**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 / [ogpcflowers@gmail.com](mailto:ogpcflowers@gmail.com).

**OGPC is blessed to host a multitude of recovery meetings throughout the week.** Here are the meeting days and times: Monday, Tuesday, Friday 7:30; Women's meeting Thursday 7:30; Sunday 3:00; Friday 7 ACoA.

# Prayers, Thanksgiving and Contemplation

**This week we pray for:** Emily Brown (Al and Lorraine's granddaughter) and her fiancé, Joe Kelly. Joe's grandmother Jayne Kelly died suddenly on March 7; Betsy Gaston's sister-in-law, Edna, facing a long recovery from a recent surgery; the people of Haiti as they face hardship and political unrest; the family of Melissa Lunger, Melissa passed away tragically recently; James, who is struggling with mental health issues; Sandra Moyer, Linda Easterly's sister-in-law in Kentucky has a mass and will be going in for a biopsy; Tom and Kathy Finnegan; Barb Martin, who is having heart surgery and her family; for Patty Tocci; for lifelong OGPC member Phyllis Dietz's family and friends, as we grieve her death; for Jack Wollman, who has been in and out of the hospital, for strength for Jack, and also for his wife Donna; 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; Lisa Gray's husband Ray, whose brother died; prayers also for Lisa Gray, whose sister-in-law died; Sue Dalrymple's partner John, for healing and resting. 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](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

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