



EXTENDED PRELUDE

Jazz Quartet

Hannah Marks, bass; Miranda Agnew, trumpet; Mitch Selib, guitar; Vinnie Sperazza, drums

CONGREGATIONAL PALM PROCESSIONAL

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

Trad. Zulu

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Zechariah 9, excerpts)

Sandy Friedman, Liturgist

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

For lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

He shall command peace to the nations!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

His dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

*OPENING HYMN

"Come Great God of All the Ages"

132 vv 1,2, solos, 4

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God, though we shout our loud *Hosannas* today, the truth is, on most days, we do not love you with all our heart and mind and strength and soul. The truth is, on most days, we do not love our neighbors as we love ourselves. The truth is that we need you, not just today, but every day. Forgive and heal us by your steadfast love, made known to us in your passion, death, and resurrection.

*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

TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Elder Kathleen Gooley

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jazz Quartet

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (in unison)

Come, Holy Spirit, Holy Truth, Holy Life. Light up your Word for us today, so we will hear you speak. And then we will follow you, and we will not be afraid. In Jesus we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 21:1-11 ("The Message" translation)

When Jesus and his disciples neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you." This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

Tell Zion's daughter,
"Look, your king's on his way,
poised and ready, mounted
On a donkey, on a colt,
foal of a pack animal."

The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

As Jesus made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?" The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*LENTEN HYMN

"Open Unto Me"

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

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|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 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 |

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 *"Glory to God"*

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen!

Jazz Quartet

text: Liturgical, music P. Vasile

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Lead us, O God, in the way of Christ. Though we shout our loud Hosannas today, we know that we are headed for Calvary in the days ahead. May these gifts enable us to take up our cross and follow you, to love you above all else, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

"O How He Loves You and Me"

2108

*BENEDICTION

EXTENDED POSTLUDE

Jazz Quartet

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

Today's flowers are in memory of Sharon Bell from her loving husband, Howard.

Announcements

Today, **Sunday, March 24, 2024**, we celebrate **Palm Sunday** 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 24, Team 1; March 31, Team 2

OUR PROCESSIONAL SONG, "We Are Marching in the Light of God" ("Siyahamba ekukhanyeni kwenkos") is a Zulu chorus that emerged in a rural Protestant congregation, possibly in the former Natal province of South Africa. The chorus probably existed in an oral form for years, although the authors of the melody and of the Zulu lyrics are unknown. The lyrics, with their biblical imagery of walking in the divine light, could be inspired by Methodist or Pentecostal hymnody. Although "Siyahamba" has been associated with the anti-apartheid movement, it was not composed originally as a protest song. However, after its introduction to Europe and the US by Anders Nyberg in the 1980s, it has been used in the international effort to end the regime of racial discrimination in South Africa. Nowadays, "Siyahamba" is viewed both locally and internationally as a liberation song.

OUR SPECIAL MUSIC TODAY! Please welcome back Hannah Marks, as she joins us with her Jazz Quartet today. Hannah, on bass, is joined by Miranda Agnew on trumpet, Mitch Selib on guitar, and Vinnie Sperazza on drums! We're so happy to have them here!

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 or Pastor Mary Beth at 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.

ALSO, we are 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.

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 next **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!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN of the HIGHLANDS are hosting their Spring Gathering where they will be exploring the Christian perspective on immigration, April 13, at the Parish House of Morristown Church, 65 South Street, Morristown, NJ. 9:30 Registration, 10:00 Speaker, 12:00 Lunch 1:30 to 2 Worship. Register with Doris Christians at dorischristians64@gmail.com. \$5 collected at the door for lunch.

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 or call the church office. Sponsored by the Deacons.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OPEN HOUSE - The Christian Education Committee is 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 with questions.

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENT - Join us **Saturday, May 11** for a special concert by the **Grace Notes Gospel Big Band**. The Grace Notes Gospel Big Band is a group of musicians and singers from all areas and denominations of the Lehigh Valley dedicated to spreading God's word through music. Enjoy the concert as they combine standard hymn favorites with today's praise and worship music. Potluck at 6 PM, concert begins at 7:30 PM!

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.

BASEBALL SEASON IS HERE! The 8th annual Iron Pigs baseball group outing is **Saturday, July 20 at 6:35 p.m.** We have 50 seats reserved at the upper Club level again this year. Tickets are \$17/person - children 2 years and under are free if they sit on an adult's lap. Giveaway that evening - Lehigh Valley Santa Cap for adults. The Pigs (Phila. Phillies AAA affiliate) will be playing the WooSocks (Red Sox AAA affiliate). Access to air conditioning. Minimum of 20 tickets necessary for group, deadline is Sunday, May 19! Tickets are going fast! Questions? Contact Anita or Walt Campbell at 908-479-4737 (land line) or via email at souptime2222@gmail.com.

Last day 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.

OGPC is blessed to host a multitude of recovery meetings throughout the week. 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: Joan Pursel, whose sister died this week, prayers for Joan and her family; Ernie and Kathy Maso who have been blessed with new great-grand...twins! Summer Louise and Saylor Marie! Prayers for them, for their parents Chelsea and Sean McDonnell, their grandparents Michelle and David Walker, and of course, for Ernie and Kathy; 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; 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; Lizzy and John Columbus' daughter Chloe recovering from a procedure; 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 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.



Old Greenwich
Presbyterian Church

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.

