

# Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2026

10 AM

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Welcome to worship at Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Children of ALL ages are welcome to stay for the entire service, but, if you choose, we offer nursery care on Sundays during worship for kids age 4 and under (downstairs, Room 14 - ask an usher if you are unsure where to go! Please arrive before 10:20am). We also offer Sunday School during worship, after the Time with the Young Church (except on 1st Sundays), for PreK-5th grade. Also! There are little bags in the back of the sanctuary filled with all sorts of fun crafts for kids of all ages! Feel free to grab one and be creative!

## PRELUDE

Tom DiGiovanni

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder George Bradlau

## MINUTE FOR MISSION: COMMUNITY MISSION

Elder Sharon Smith

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (Ps. 145, excerpts)

Rev. Bill Cotte, Liturgist

We extol you, Our God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

**Everyday we will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; His greatness is unsearchable.

All: **On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, we will meditate.**

### \*OPENING HYMN

*"In the Garden"*

See music and lyrics on the last page

### \*INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, whose love and patience we do not earn. We know we extol you in words but not in our lives. We confess that we do not truly praise you as the Giver of Life whose power is beyond our understanding. We are distracted by false gods--money, possessions, personal power, self-satisfaction, and the desire for prestige among our peers. We strive for recognition and achievement in a world that turns away from you. We seek to please others rather than you. We are lost. Help us, Lord. Help us to see your hand at work in this broken world, to know your peace, and to grow in your way. Help us to live in harmony with the Words of Praise we proclaim to you this day. We pray this in Jesus' 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 OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## TIME WITH THE YOUNG CHURCH

Tom DiGiovanni

## \*HYMN

*"God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength"*

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 191

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Lord, we open our hearts and minds to Your Word this morning. We pray that You fill us with your Spirit that we may know and live fully as you intend us to do.**

## SCRIPTURE READING - Matthew 4:1-11

New Testament, p. 3

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*"El Shaddai"*

- Susan Bradlau, voice  
Tom DiGiovanni, piano

## SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 46:1-10

Old Testament, p. 517

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

*"BE STILL"*

Elder George Bradlau

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*"Be Still and Know"*

- Amy Grant  
Susan Bradlau, voice; Tom DiGiovanni, piano

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Many Presbyterians (though not all!) pray the following prayer saying "debts and debtors," but you are invited to pray the Lord's Prayer/Our Father any way you know it and love it best! (debts/ trespasses/ sins/ etc!)*

**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

Call to Offering

Offering

*God loves us so much. As a response to God's love, we are invited to give back. If you'd like to give to God through the mission of this church here and in the world, use the QR code to donate, or use the Welcome Envelopes in the pews.*

\*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

**Saving God, we give these gifts to our troubled world in your name. May they bless those in need, bring comfort to the many, and remind all that you are at work among us. Amen**

## \*CLOSING HYMN

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"*

The Presbyterian Hymnal # 403 vv. 1 & 3

## \*BENEDICTION

### BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"God Be With You Til We Meet Again"*

William Tomer

God be with you till we meet again,  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.

### POSTLUDE

*All are welcome to join us for refreshments! Follow the crowds and the smell of coffee!!  
The flowers are dedicated by Rob Todd in remembrance of his mother, Noi Todd.*

## Announcements

Today, **Sunday, May 17, 2026**, we celebrate the seventh Sunday of Easter at our 10 AM online worship service with guest preacher Elder George Bradlau. The service will be streamed on our Facebook Live feed at "Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church." You can also find live streams, past services and other content on our YouTube channel (search Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church).

**USHER TEAM SCHEDULE:** May 17, Team 3; May 24, Team 4

**JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS IN MEMORIAL HALL!** This week hosted by: Bruce and Sandy Frey, next week hosted by Sue Beacht. If you'd like to host, sign up in Memorial Hall or contact Barb Grimm at 908 578 1273. Barb will happily answer questions about hosting fellowship!

**PENTECOST/JAZZ GOES TO CHURCH!** Jazz Goes to Church with NYC-based musicians Hannah Marks and her band! Join us for joyful worship! **All are welcome!** Next Sunday, May 24 2026, 10 AM.

**COLLECTING SUPPLIES FOR A SELFLESS SERVICE PROJECT FOR YOUTH** - We are collecting supplies for "Summer Fun" sling bags to be distributed to the Firth Youth Center. We will be collecting the following, May 10 through June 7, to be dropped off in the green room: youth sunglasses, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, jump ropes, beach balls, water balloons, and glow sticks. Questions? Contact Melissa Hixon at melissahixon24@gmail.com.

### COMMUNITY MISSION

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to last month's Pack the Purse collection.** In May, we'll be collecting menstrual supplies. Access to these essential items isn't always guaranteed, and for many people they can be difficult to afford or obtain—creating real barriers to daily life. Thursday, May 28 is International Menstrual Hygiene Day, and we plan to deliver our donations to a local organization on that date. Please drop off your items in the Green Room anytime before **Wednesday, May 27**. Contact Sharon Smith (sharonwsmith.08@gmail.com) with any questions.

**This summer we are partnering with the Firth Youth Center to help transport lunch and dinner meals from local restaurants to locations throughout the Phillipsburg area.** We are looking for volunteers to pick up pre-ordered, prepaid meals from designated restaurants and deliver them to assigned locations. Slots are available for Thursday lunch and Tuesday and Thursday dinners. Contact Sharon Smith for details: sharonwsmith.08@gmail.com. Or sign up using the QR code. Thank you for supporting this important summer outreach effort!



**Second training for visiting ministries to be offered at OGPC!** Back by popular demand... College Hill Presbyterian Church and Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church are joining forces once again to provide a training for anyone who might be interested in becoming a part of a community that visits members and friends of the church, including shut-ins. All are welcome to join Pastor Mary Beth and Pastor Matt at OGPC (Prayer Room) on **Wednesday May 27 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm** (You can come even if you're not sure you want to be involved in the ministry!) Questions? Email [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com).

**Poet, preacher and songwriter Donovan McAbee is preaching at OGPC!** You won't want to miss it! **Sunday June 21 at 10AM**, followed by a discussion/poetry reading of his new book in Memorial Hall. Donovan's work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *TIME magazine*, *The Hudson Review*, etc. Donovan grew up in a small town in South Carolina, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary (where he and Pastor MB lived on the same hall their first year!), and a PhD in Creative Writing and Contemporary Poetry from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee with his wife and their two children. His poetry collection *Holy the Body* was published by Texas Review Press in March 2026. Invite your friends and neighbors!!

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS.** Invite your furry (scaly and feathered) friends and neighbors to this short service in Memorial Hall on **Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Bring your animals, large and small or a picture or relic to be blessed. All are welcome!**

**Greenwich Cemetery Remembrance Services** All are welcome to join us for an afternoon of reflection, prayer, and comfort as we remember loved ones laid to rest at Greenwich Cemetery. **Saturday, June 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM and Saturday, December 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM** led by our very own **Pastor Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy** Location: Greenwich Cemetery, 15 Greenwich Church Rd., Stewartsville, NJ 08886. Come as you are and join us in remembrance.

**WILDFLOWER WELLNESS** is offering Spring classes for children ages 1 - 8 and their caregivers. These welcoming, nature-inspired classes encourage children of all abilities and ages to explore, learn, and play in an immersive outdoor setting. Pop up classes available! See their website for more information: [wildflowersflourish.com](http://wildflowersflourish.com).

**SAVE THE DATE for our annual CHURCH PICNIC Sunday AUGUST 30!** More details to come!

**Bags for kids in the back!** Feel free to grab a bag in the back of the sanctuary! For kids of all ages... coloring, etc! Be creative! (Ask an usher to help you locate one if need be).

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - the Presbytery of Highlands is offering some Spring Events:**

- May 23 @ 10:30 AM at Well-Swept Herb Farm Port Murray NJ "A Morning of Learning" PW will cover the fee. Bring your own lunch for a picnic.
- May 30 @ 9 AM (program begins 9:30 AM) "The PWP Spring Gathering "Dimensions of Women's Wellness" Contact Lisa Gray for details to carpool.
- June 18-20 @ 4PM Stony Point Conference Center Thursday - Saturday, New PW Bible Study Training (retreat) for Leaders (or anyone) "United through Christ, Bound to Each Other." Scholarships are available, more info on church bulletin board. Email [jkmac3536@gmail.com](mailto:jkmac3536@gmail.com) for room info, registration \$400-\$600

Contact Lisa Gray for more info or carpooling 973-476-4720 [Lisa\\_A\\_Gray@outlook.com](mailto:Lisa_A_Gray@outlook.com)

**DEACON SCHOLARSHIPS** - The Reverend Richard B. Gibbins Scholarships provide financial assistance to members of Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church. Scholarships are available to members who have been

accepted to a college, university, trade school, or other post-secondary institution, as well as to members/youth wishing to attend Johnsonburg as campers or counselors.

Paper applications are available at the back of church. Online applications can be found on our website under Who We Are > Deacons. Applications are due **May 18<sup>th</sup>**.

**The CCK Committee (church care and kinship committee) is reorganizing and looking for volunteers** who enjoy planning and implementing fun events and entertainment for church members. This group traditionally has planned the church picnic, potlucks, and outings to promote fellowship through fun activities. If this sounds like something you would enjoy being a part of, please contact Sue Schisler @ 908-763-0886. (Previous CCK members and new members are all welcome!)

**ANNUAL BASEBALL GAME OUTING!** Some tickets remain for the Iron Pigs game on **Saturday, August 15, 2026** in Allentown, PA. Contact Anita/Walt Campbell at 908-479-4737 or souptime2222@gmail.com for details. Order and pay by **Sunday, May 24, 2026**.

**Sign up to be a lay reader on our website at [ogpc.org](http://ogpc.org) >> Worship and Music >> Sign up to be a Lay Reader.** It's easy, we tell you exactly what to say! Questions? Call or text Lisa Gray 973-476-4720

**"Wee" Connect Playgroup Tuesdays from 9 AM to 10 AM!** Our church has joined forces with Greenwich Nursery School to offer a weekly playgroup for families with kids PreK and under! "Wee" Connect is **held Tuesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 am**. Tell your friends and family! Questions? Please contact Joan Holloway at [jhollow@ptd.net](mailto:jhollow@ptd.net) or Sue Zarelli at [sjzarrelli@gmail.com](mailto:sjzarrelli@gmail.com).

**"Fit Where You Sit" Chair Yoga! For 60+, - in partnership with the Warren County Division of Aging. Meets Mondays from 1:30 to 2:30 PM in Memorial Hall.** Suggested donation is \$1 a class (feel free to give more. Donations help the church support the community). ALL 60+ folks are welcome! Tell your friends and neighbors... this is a community offering! **Please note that there is no yoga May 18 or May 25 (Memorial Day).**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**PreK-5th Grade Sunday School.** All 5th graders and under, meet during worship for fun activities, prayer, Bible, and games! PreK-5th Grade Sunday School is held every Sunday, during worship (except for the first Sundays of each month). We have great teachers, great kids, and are having another great year together! Questions? Please email Elder Lisa at [lkolterjahn88@gmail.com](mailto:lkolterjahn88@gmail.com) or Elder Samantha at [samanthajhillier@gmail.com](mailto:samanthajhillier@gmail.com).

**6th-12th Grade Youth Sunday School** meets from 9:00am to 9:40am, every 2nd and 4th Sundays, in Room 22 (right next to the pastor's office). Our youth Sunday School teachers are Pastor Mary Beth and Elder Hope Duncan. Questions? Email Hope at [hoped5@yahoo.com](mailto:hoped5@yahoo.com).

**Fish 'n Chyps Joint Youth Group with College Hill** 6th-12th graders (and their friends and neighbors) are all invited to join with the youth of College Hill Presbyterian Church (501 Brodhead St, Easton PA) every first and third Sunday from 6:00 to 7:30pm for fellowship, prayer, and games/activities!! Please contact Mary Beth at [pastormarybeth@gmail.com](mailto:pastormarybeth@gmail.com) for more information, or to carpool.

**DON'T FORGET TO WEAR YOUR NAMETAGS!** Don't have a nametag? See Katie Rienzo or email [oldgreenwich@ogpc.org](mailto:oldgreenwich@ogpc.org). Anyone can request a nametag!

**OGPC is blessed to host a multitude of recovery meetings throughout the week:** AA Monday, Tuesday, Friday 7:30; Sunday 3:00; Tuesday and Friday 7:00 ACoA.

# Prayers, Thanksgiving and Contemplation

**This week we pray for:** the Rienzo family, as they grieve Justin's father, Ignatius Rienzo; Sally Reinhard's mother who is recovering after a stroke; Shirley C., Audra Frank's sister; for 4-year-old Rylee, healing from surgery, and prayers for Rylee's family and for Donna; Katie Rienzo's niece, Emma Bazylewicz, as they determine next steps for her medical treatment; Tim and Sue Gardner; Al Marino, recovering from surgery; Patty, friend and colleague of the Freys, whose mother died suddenly; Sue Beacht's friends Bill and Joyce, and their whole family, as Bill has been fighting cancer and is now in hospice care.; Adrienne and Debbie Carbin, who are also praying for our church; for Poppy Brown, Grammy, Bodmi and Joe Kelly's Uncle Jeff; Gretchen Alencewicz's brother, Brad Keller, struggling with health issues related to diabetes; Gwen and Lou Johnson, facing health issues; for David Jones, and his sons Rob and Evan as they grieve Susan Jones' death; the people of Lebanon, displaced and afraid; for all the Gulf Countries; the citizens of Iran and surrounding countries; for decision-makers everywhere; prayers for peace; for Sharon and Craig Smith and their whole family, as Craig faces health challenges; prayers for strength and healing for Barb Frinzi; for Karen and Jim Savacool; the people of Venezuela, for God's justice, mercy, and sustaining presence for those who are suffering and afraid; for Sudan; for Ukraine; for those struggling with mental illness and those who struggle with addictions and their families; continue to pray for our homebound members; those serving in our Armed Forces.



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

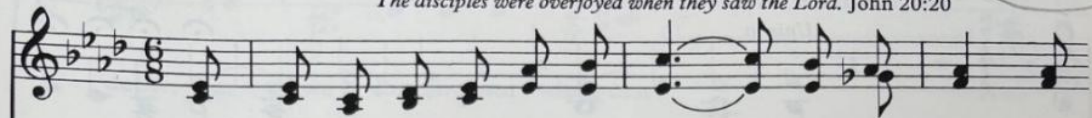
The Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy  
Katie Rienzo, Office Manager & Dir. of Communication  
Harry & Joan Pursel, Sextons  
Tom DiGiovanni, Music Director/Organist  
Betsy Gaston, Assistant Music Director/Choir Director  
Julie Raffety, Bookkeeper

[pastor@ogpc.org](mailto:pastor@ogpc.org)/515-979-9681  
[oldgreenwich@ogpc.org](mailto:oldgreenwich@ogpc.org)/908-479-4449  
Leslie Strozski, Financial Secretary  
Melissa Hixon, Clerk of Session  
Joshua Miller, Media/Communication Assistant

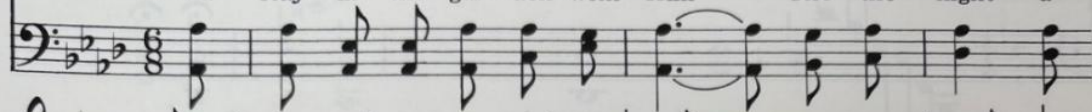
Use the QR code to donate to Old Greenwich if you have the PayPal app. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant difference. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our community.



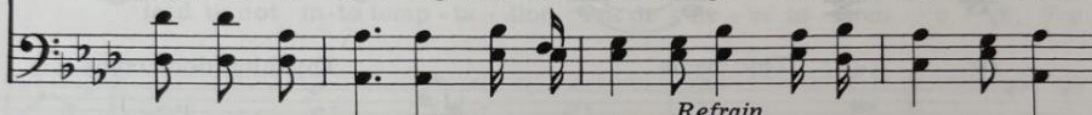
## In the Garden 425

*The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. John 20:20*

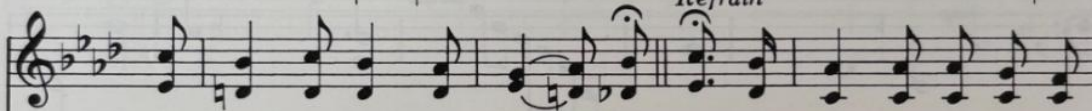
1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the dew is  
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the  
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Tho the night a -



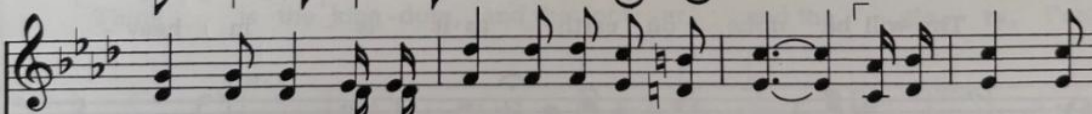
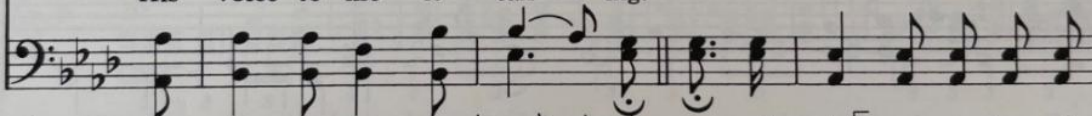
still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear,  
 birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that He gave to me  
 round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go - thru the voice of woe,



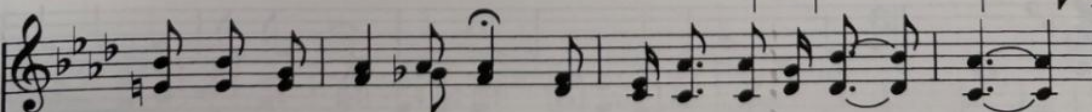
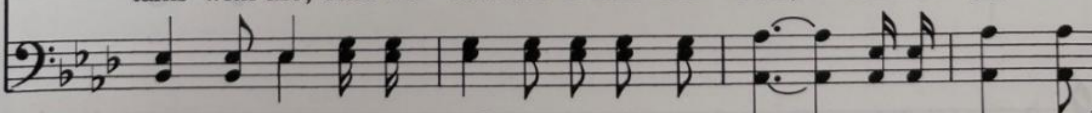
## Refrain



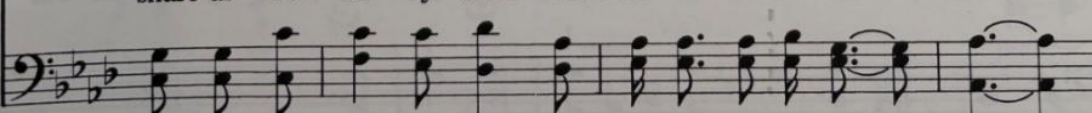
The Son of God dis - clos - es.  
 With - in my heart is ring - ing. And He walks with me, and He  
 His voice to me is call - ing.



talks with me, And He tells me I am His own; And the joy we



share as we tar - ry there None oth - er has ev - er known.



TEXT and MUSIC: C. Austin Miles

GARDEN  
Irregular meter

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