

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Christmas Eve Celebration of Worship
December 24, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve**

**Meeting ID: 820 9580 8348
Passcode: 128114**

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

**497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740
Phone: 631-261-2150**

<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>
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CHRISTMAS MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Dan Charnews

THE LIGHTING OF
THE CHRIST CANDLE

Priscilla and Glenn Jahier

One Candle Is Lit

*Come, listen, the sounds of God-With-Us ring clear,
And signs of a cross in the distance appear.
The Word once made Flesh, yet the Word ever near,
One candle is lit for the Christ birthday here.*

HYMN # 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on Earth and mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest Heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the Earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight, old dreams die and new dreams come to life.
The promise is fulfilled.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

Hope gives way to joy, and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight.

The Light of the world has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

This light is a light for all, warming us from within, radiating love,

Lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh,

Within and among us, now and always.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

HYMN # 56

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*The First Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far.
And to the Earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born is the King of Israel.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, teach us what salvation is all about. Heal the emptiness that gives rise to our misplaced loyalties and distorted dreams. We want to be whole people, experiencing healthy relationships, giving ourselves to worthy causes. Forgive us, and help us to sing a new song. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 44

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 38

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the Earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 53

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of Light, we want to invest in Your promise of endless peace when the authority of Your Holy Child is established. Let Your peace come here and now as we dedicate ourselves and our offerings for the purpose of upholding justice and extending the gift of salvation to all people. May our offerings and our lives be a blessing to others, proclaiming Good News of great joy in ways that all of us can understand. Amen.

A GIFT OF MUSIC

Mary, Did You Know?

Leonora Knight

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS

HYMN # 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

REFRAIN: *Glo – ria in excelsis Deo. Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your Heavenly song? REFRAIN*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. REFRAIN*

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LIGHTS

CLOSING WORDS

CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN # 60

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in Heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from Heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christmas Offering

We have been asked by the Presbytery to take up a special offering to help needy retired ministers and missionaries with their bills. (Many of them have very low pensions.) There are envelopes in today's bulletin. Even a few dollars will help. Thank you!

New Year's Eve Celebration

They say that for those of us "of a certain age," 9 p.m. is the new midnight. Most of us will *not* be staying up to watch the festivities in Times Square.

But New Year's Eve must be celebrated! So, please join us after our Service next Sunday, December 31, for a special celebration welcoming in 2024. We'll have hors d'oeuvres, some non-alcoholic "bubbly," and a few surprises. We will also have our annual Holiday Sweater Contest, with a prize for the prettiest and the ugliest.

Don't miss the fun!

Food Pantry

Do you know of people who might be hungry this season? Remember that we have a free food pantry in front of the church that is available 24/7. Please help us spread the word.

Join Us!

Great things are happening here at The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us for worship, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No matter who you are or where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

“God’s Creation” Wall Calendars

The beautiful “God’s Creation” wall calendars have arrived. Every month features a full-color picture and a Scripture verse. Each Sunday has a Scripture verse notated as well. The price is \$8 / calendar; please see Debbie Eitel.

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef
pastorannsutton@yahoo.com

Worship Accompanist

Leonora Knight

Custodian

Gary Prentiss

Financial Secretary

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Fellowship Director

Debbie Eitel

Treasurer

James Dean

Benevolence Secretary

Susan Perrotta

Building Use Manager

Larry Foray

THE SESSION

Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

Class of 2023

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach
Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024

Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

Class of 2025

Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss



Christmas Poinsettias

Given by:

In Memory of:

Marian Adams	Husband, Bob and Daughter, Debbie Adams Hobgood
Marian Adams	My Parents and My Brother
Mildred Bachmann	My Beloved Husband, Charles J. Bachmann
Mildred Bachmann	My Beloved Parents
Bill Becker	Wife, Carol Her Parents, Brother, Bob
Bill Becker	My Parents, William & Marie Becker
Barbara & Dan Charnews	Our Parents, Becky & Rennie Terry
Barbara & Dan Charnews	Our Parents, Stephe & Dan Charnews
Bill & Betty Chatfield	Faith of Our Fathers
Arlissa & Jim Dean	Ramona and Salvatore Salamone
Debbie Eitel	My Grandparents, Julia & Leo Eitel; Kathleen & Charles Pape
Debbie Eitel	Carol Ann Eitel, James Robert Eitel, Kenneth Pape
Kathy Fitzgerald	Friends and the Fitzgerald Family
Kathy Fitzgerald	Peter and Gertrude "Trudy" Fitzgerald
Kathleen Gerlach	My Parents, Arlene & Ottomar Gerlach
Priscilla & Glenn Jahier	Our Parents
Leonora & Jack Knight	John, Eleanora, Robert, and Melissa
Jane Longstreet	Kenneth Longstreet
Nancy MacIntyre	My Mother, Henrietta Honneger
Susan Perrotta and Family	Patricia M. Kershaw
Susan Perrotta and Family	Robert Van Cleef
Claire & Paul Proctor	Our Parents
Liz and Bob Schrenker	Kenneth Longstreet
Rosalie & Emery Schweighardt	Loved Ones
Rory & Glenn Shotwell	Our Parents, Sherwood & Ruth Shotwell;
	Our Grandfather, Charles Tilden; Our Aunt, Edith Tilden;
	Our Uncle & Aunt, Stuart & Jean Shotwell;
	Our Uncle and Aunt, William & Ethel Wyckoff;
	Our Uncle & Aunt, C. Edward & Helen Tilden;
	Our Uncle & Aunt, Arnold & Elaine Tilden;

Our "Aunt Flo" Tilden; Our Cousin, Rich Miltner;
 Our Friends, Becky & Everet Dodge

Ann Van Cleef My Husband, Robert Van Cleef
 Ann Van Cleef My Parents, Arthur & Mary (Lolly) Abbate
 Robert Van Cleef My Parents, Clifford & Cecelia Van Cleef
 Robert Van Cleef My Late Wife, Lettie L. Van Cleef
 Rosalie L. Wilson Loved Ones

Given by:

In Honor of:

Bill & Betty Chatfield Service Men & Women, and
 Veterans
 Ann Van Cleef My Wonderful
 Church
 Ann Van Cleef..... My "Support Team:" Norma, Todd, Kathy, Philip, and
 Don

*We would like to acknowledge the following members and friends of our Church
 who entered Life Eternal this past year.
 They will be celebrating Christmas with their Lord and Savior.*

*Carol Ann Pape Eitel – April 23, 2023
 Carol Ann Becker – August 4, 2022, Buried May 22, 2023
 Kenneth Longstreet – August 16, 2023
 Ronald Ulrich – December 3, 2023
 Robert Van Cleef – November 21, 2023*