

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Christmas Eve Celebration of Worship
December 24, 2024
4:00 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 813 0261 1379
Passcode: 039859**

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

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

<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN

GATHERING MUSIC
Franck

Panis Angelicus

César

Leonora Knight (Piano), Jack Knight ('Cello), Ann Van Cleef (Soprano)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Dan Charnews /Tyler Hago/ Glenn Jahier

THE LIGHTING OF
THE CHRIST CANDLE

Claire and Paul Proctor

CANDLELIGHTING

PRAYERFUL WORDS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

***Guide our path through gloom of night;
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;
Come to us, O Christ the Light.
Glory be to God and peace on earth
Christ is born! Alleluia!***

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

Break forth into singing, all God's people.

Hear the good tidings of salvation and peace!

God has done marvelous things among us.

Let us make a joyful noise together.

There is a new song in the air.

The whole universe responds to the child in our midst.

The winds lift up the songs of angels.

Flames of fire proclaim the Spirit's presence.

A light shines amid our gloom.

The word comes to make a difference in our lives.

As children of God, we bear witness to the light.

As followers of Christ, we proclaim the wonder of rebirth.

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, You reign over all Creation. You have come to enlighten us, and we have shielded ourselves from the brightness of Your revelation. You have a plan for us, but we have not been paying attention. Only in Jesus Christ do we see what You have intended for us. 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

No offering is adequate to express our thanks, loving God, but what we give, we bring with joy. May the good tidings of salvation live in these gifts and in our lives. May the ends of the Earth know the steadfast love of God. Grant comfort to those who mourn, peace to those who face the world's turmoil, and joy to all who serve in Christ's name. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-14

HYMN # 25

Away In a Manger

MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But Little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,*

And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

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

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Pantry

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

Sunday, December 29

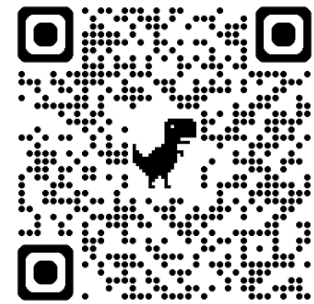
We will continue our Christmas celebration with “A Service of Carols and More Carols” on Sunday, December 26. Please join us at 10:30 a.m. To add some fun, we will have a Holiday Sweater Contest immediately following the Service. Prizes will be awarded for the prettiest and ugliest sweaters!

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.

You May Now Donate On Line

Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website will pop up. The “Donate” button is on the opening page.



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