

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Service of Worship
December 10, 2023 – The Second Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m.**

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

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN
December 10, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.
The Second Sunday of Advent
“Peace”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Arlissa and Jim Dean

One Candle Is Lit

*Come quickly, sha-lom, teach us – how to prepare
For a gift that compels us with – justice to care.
Our spirits are – restless till – sin and war cease.
One – candle is lit for the – reign of God’s peace.*

GATHERING MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

***We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God
from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.***

Like a shepherd, God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

“Comfort, comfort O my people,” says our God of Love.

The grass withers and the flower fades.

But the word of our God will stand forever!

HYMN # 5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand.
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to Earth descend-eth, our full homage to demand.*

*King of Kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on Earth He stood,
Lord of Lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faith-ful His own self for Heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the Host of Heaven spreads its vanguard on the way.
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may van-ish as the darkness clears away.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Glory, we confess that we have not recognized You in our midst, nor listened to Your voice. Our faith is fragile, and our iniquity goes unrecognized amid our massive self-concern. We have lived as if we have no need to account for the life we have been given. We come to You today with sincere repentance for our neglect. We have failed to prepare the way for Christ's entry into our everyday environment. Pardon and change us, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

GLORIA PATRI

*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.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Congregational Response:

*Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew.
That I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May these gifts indeed give light to those in darkness, hope to those in despair, and justice to the oppressed, as we bring them to You as an act of sharing Your love with the world, O God. Here, the proud are brought low, and the poor and broken are lifted up. May it be so in all Your Kingdom, we pray, as we dedicate ourselves to You. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

“Water in the Desert”

Rev. Dr. Van Cleef

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

HYMN # 15

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

*Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear.
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising and soon He will draw nigh.
Up, watch with expectation, at midnight comes the cry.*

*See that your lamps are burning. Replenish them with oil.
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
The marriage feast is waiting. The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand.*

*Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear.
Arise, Thou sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of Earth’s redemption, and ever be with Thee.*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

*Christians all, your Lord is coming. Calling you to serve indeed.
See the ones who hurt ad suffer, hear their cry and act with speed.
Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.*

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, FOLLOWED BY POSTLUDE

Arrangements for Bob Van Cleef

Pastor Ann would like to thank everyone for your expressions of kindness and sympathy on the passing of our dear “Bob # 3.” Arrangements are as follows:

Visitation: Monday *and* Tuesday, December 11 *and* 12, 2-4 *and* 7-9 both days, Horton Mathie Funeral Home, 735 First Street, Greenport, NY. (631) 477-0054

Burial: Wednesday, December 13, 9:00 a.m., Orient Central Cemetery, Tabor Road, Orient, NY. (Take Main Road, make a right on Tabor Road just before the firehouse. Cemetery is a few hundred feet on the left, behind the firehouse.)

Memorial Service: Wednesday, December 13, 12:00 noon, First Presbyterian Church, Greenlawn

Repast: Immediately following Service, CE Hall.

Lessons and Carols

Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Service will be held next Sunday, December 17, the Third Sunday of Advent, at 10:30 a.m.

This Service tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. It is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the Prophetic Books, and the Gospels, and is interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and other music.

The original format was based on an Order of Worship for Christmas Eve, 1880, in Cornwall, England. It is said that a key purpose of the Service at that time was to keep men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve!

The Service at FPC Greenlawn will be based on the one at *The King's College* in Cambridge, England, where the nine lessons are read by representatives of the congregation and of the local community. We are looking for community members who are willing to read; please see Pastor Ann if you have suggestions.

This will be a very inspiring Service of worship. Please plan to attend, and invite a friend!

Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 17, is a big day at our church. In addition to our Lessons and Carols Service, we will have a special community event at 5:00 p.m.: the lighting of our outdoor Christmas tree, followed by a party in the CE Hall, where we will sing carols and enjoy some Christmas goodies. Please plan to attend, and do invite a friend!

Pledge Cards

If you have not had an opportunity to turn in your pledge card, there is still time. Please see Betty Chatfield. And, thank you for supporting our church.

Christmas Fair

We had a wonderful Christmas Fair yesterday. Many thanks to everyone who participated for all of the hard work that went into this event.

We do need help moving boxes back to room # 1 downstairs after coffee hour. Thank you in advance for your help.

Looking Forward:

There are a lot of good things happening here at First Presbyterian.

- Sunday, December 24: Our Advent IV Service will take place at 10:30 a.m. Our lovely Candlelight Christmas Eve Service is scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

Volunteering at Northport Veteran's Hospital

The Veteran's Hospital in Northport is looking for volunteers, particularly for people who are willing to drive one of their vans. (No special license required.) Information may be found on the church bulletin board.

The Little Food Pantry

The Little Food pantry is being used heavily by our community. We are grateful to God that we are able to be of help.

As we enter the colder months, we remember that there will be times that we cannot put canned food out, as it will freeze and explode.

We are in need of canned chicken, meats, and canned vegetables such as spinach, carrots, mixed vegetables, potatoes, asparagus, green beans and peas. We are also in need of assorted varieties of canned beans. The Little Food Pantry, which is available to our community 24 / 7. Thank you for your generosity. And thank you, Kathy Gerlach, assisted by Louise Miller, for spearheading this project.

STAFF

Pastor

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James Dean

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Susan Perrotta

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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



Order Your
Poinsettias

It's that time of year again.
Orders are now being taken for the Christmas Flower Memorials.
If you wish to place an order, please fill in the order form below.

Given By:

In Loving Memory Of:

In Honor Of:

Cost: \$12 each

Number of flowers ordered: _____

Deadline: Sunday, December 10 - **Today**

Please make checks payable to the Church and specify for "Flower Fund."

This form may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays, or mailed to the church office:

FPC Greenlawn / 497 Pulaski Road / Greenlawn, NY 11740 Thank you