

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Service of Worship
December 22, 2024 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent
“A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols”
10:30 a.m.**

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

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BIDDING PRAYER (Adapted from The King's Chapel)

Beloved in Christ, it is our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Sanctuary glad with our hymns of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace and good will over all the Earth and for unity and love within the Church, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice God's heart, let us remember the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children, those who have lost faith, and those who by sin have grieved God's heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater Light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made Flesh, and with Whom in the Lord Jesus, we are one forevermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

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 now and forever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with grace. Christ, give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

HYMN # 42

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold Him, born the king of angels.

REFRAIN: *O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.

Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. REFRAIN

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!

*Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! REFRAIN*

THE FIRST LESSON

Rev. Mark Applewhite

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise, and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

ANTHEM
Choir

Peace Carol

The Women's

Christina Tomek,

Flute

*Peace, peace, come down from above,
warming each heart with goodness and love.
Peace we are wishing to all this night.
Shine down from the heavens your wondrous light.*

Dona nobis pacem

THE SECOND LESSON

Christine Krass

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the Earth be blessed.

HYMN # 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(Verses 1 and 4)

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the Earth.
Ye, who sang Creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.*

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.*

THE THIRD LESSON

Julie Hago

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

MUSICAL SELECTION

Messiah

Debbie Eitel

THE FOURTH LESSON

Dr. David Bennardo

Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

HYMN # 38

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
(Verses 1 and 4)

CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old.
From angels bending near the Earth, to touch their harps of gold.
"Peace on the Earth, good will to all, from Heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.*

*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.*

OFFERING SENTENCES

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 OF DEDICATION

Our best we give to You, loving God, for You have given Your best to us in the mystery of the Incarnation. May our offerings proclaim the Good News in ways that will be received with joy. Thank You for all the ways You have provided for us. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 53

GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This?

*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.*

THE FIFTH LESSON

Michelle Perrotta

Luke 1:25-35, 38

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Mother, Mary

ANTHEM

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

The Women's Choir

Jack Knight, 'Cello

THE SIXTH LESSON

Craig Satterlee

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

HYMN # 60

Silent Night, Holy Night
(Verses 1 and 2)

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!"*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Linda Dickman

Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds Go to the Manger

HYMN # 25

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay 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.*

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Are Led by the Star to Jesus

Kathleen Gerlach

*HYMN # 66

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.*

*Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High.*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the Earth and skies.*

*O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

A STORY: “No Room for You, Either” Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef
(By Dorothy L. Bussemer, from *Classic Christmas*, Edited by Helen Symanski)

THE NINTH LESSON

Charlaine Apsel

John 1:1-12

John Unfolds the Mystery of the Incarnation

ANTHEM

Tell Us ‘Bout a Baby

The Choir

BENEDICTION

*HYMN # 40

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let Earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! The Savior reigns. Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.*

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE *Ding Dong Merrily on High* Woodward

Participants in Today's Service

Reader 1: Rev. Mark Applewhite Chaplain, Huntington Hospital
Reader 2: Christine Krass Owner, Klutter Free Me
Reader 3: Julie Hago College Student
Reader 4: Dr. David Bennardo Retired Educator; Huntington Town Council
Reader 5: Michelle Perrotta Educator, 4th Grade
Reader 6: Craig Satterlee Electrician
Reader 7: Linda Dickman Librarian and Published Poet
Reader 8: Katheen Gerlach Retired Educator; Artist
Reader 9: Charlaine Apsel Treasurer, Presbytery of Long Island

Pastor The Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef
Worship Accompanist Leonora Knight
Choir Director Ann Van Cleef
Prayer Concerns Betty Chatfield
Greeter at the Door Arlissa Dean
Candle Lighters and Coffee Hour Hosts Janice, Tyler, and Julie Hago

Musicians

Piano Leonora Knight
Soprano (O Come All Ye Faithful) Ann Van Cleef
Soprano (Peace Carol) Marian Adams
Flute Christina Tomek
'Cello Jack Knight
Alto Soloist Debbie Eitel

The Women's Choir:

Sopranos Marian Adams, Charlaine Apsel*,
Barbara Charnews, Kathie Gerlach,
Priscilla Jahier, Meg Lawrence**, Susan Perrotta,
Altos Arlissa Dean, Debbie Eitel,
Claire Proctor, Christina Tomek*, Jill Wilson

*Charlaine and Christina are guest singers. We thank them.

**Meg is on leave of absence for the fall. We look forward to her return in the spring.