

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Celebration of Worship
December 26, 2021 – 10:30 p.m.
Carols and More Carols**

**Meeting ID: 870 8219 2387
Passcode: 567650**

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

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

<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>

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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Deacon Barbara Small

CALL TO WORSHIP: HYMN # 22

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

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!

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King!

Sages, leave your contemplations. Brighter visions beam afar.

Seek the great desire of nations. Ye have seen His natal star.

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!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We bring our prayers to You, Gracious God, sensing that there is more to life than the ways we have known. We are drawn to the Messiah, yet we shrink from following where faith leads. We are afraid of what we might lose if we are guided by the Spirit. Thoughts of sacrifice and servanthood are not appealing to

us. We are reluctant to enter into a close relationship with You. We think we know, better than You, what is best for us. Forgive our arrogance. Help us to see the Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 47

*Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.
The Virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the Child are holding.
Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

MALOTTE

*Our Father, which 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.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 28

*Good Christian Friends, rejoice – with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened Heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With joyous praise, we return to You a portion of what You have given to us, Creator God. What we offer in these moments is a beginning. We will ponder again Your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering the Child Jesus to bring us back to You, and in giving us the name "Christian." Praise be to You, O God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON # 48

Isaiah 11:1

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming by faithful prophets sung.*

*It came a floweret bright
Amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love a-right
She bore for us a Savior when half spent was the night.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON # 59

Luke 2:8-14

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, and glory shone around*

*"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled minds.
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and humankind, to you and humankind."*

*"To you, in David's town this day is born of David's line
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
And this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign."*

*"The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All humbly wrapped in swathing bands,
And in a manger laid, and in a manger laid."*

*Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who this
Addressed their joyful song, addressed their joyful song.*

*"All glory be to God on high, and to the Earth be peace.
Good will to all from highest Heaven
Begin and never cease, begin and never cease."*

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

"The Story of Jingle Bells"

Rev. Dr. Van Cleeef

(Adapted from Stories Behind the Best Loved Songs of Christmas by Ace Collins)

*Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way.
Bells on bob-tail ring, making spirits bright.
What fun it is to ride and sing a sleighing song tonight.*

*A day or two ago I thought I'd take a ride,
And soon Miss Fanny Bright was seated by my side.
The horse was lean and lank. Misfortune seemed his lot.
We got into a drifted bank, and then we got upsot.*

*A day or two ago, the story I must tell.
I went out on the snow, and on my back I fell.
A gent was riding by in a one-horse open sleigh.
He laughed at me as I there laid, and quickly drove away.*

*Now the ground is white. Go it while you're young.
Take the girls tonight and sing a sleighing sone.
Just get a bob-tailed, two-forty as his s peed,
Then hitch him to an open sleigh, and crack! You'll take the lead.*

REFRAIN: *Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride in a one-horse open sleigh (Sing twice)*

OUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

(During this informal part of the Service, we will ask members of the congregation to suggest favorite Christmas carols for everyone to sing together.)

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 29

REFRAIN: *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. REFRAIN*

*The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. REFRAIN*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born.
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. REFRAIN*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND JOYS