

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Celebration of Worship
December 31, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.
Carols and More Carols**

**Meeting ID: 890 3017 6533
Passcode: 380295**

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

**497 Pulaski Road
Greenlawn, NY 11740
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<http://greenlawnpresbyterian.com/>

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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

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.*

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR CHURCH

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 Do You Hear What I Hear?" Rev. Dr. Van Cleef
(Adapted from Stories Behind the Best Loved Songs of Christmas by Ace Collins)

*Said the night wind to the little lamb, "Do you see what I see?
Way up in the sky, little lamb, do you see what I see?
A star, a star, dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite. With a tail as big as a kite."*

*Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, "Do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, do you hear what I hear?
A song, a song, high above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea. With a voice as big as the sea."*

*Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, "Do you know what I know?
In your palace warm, mighty king, do you know what I know?
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold
Let us bring Him silver and gold. Let us bring Him silver and gold."*

*Said the king to the people everywhere, "Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people everywhere! Listen to what I say!
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light. He will bring – us – goodness - and light."*

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: *Auld Lang Syne*

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
and auld lang syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, FOLLOWED BY POSTLUDE

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn will take place on Sunday, January 21, immediately following the Service of Worship.

The meeting is called to receive the Annual Report, to receive the 2024 budget, elect officers, and to conduct other business as necessary.

Annual Reports

If you are responsible for submitting something to our Annual Report packet, please do so by *next Sunday, January 7*.

As you know, our church secretary is very part-time, and needs several days to get the report together.

With the exception of Jim Dean's report, all other reports need to be submitted as a **WORD document**. (No PDFs!) Please submit them to Leonora Colletti at fpcgoffice@gmail.com with a copy to Pastor Ann at pastorannsutton@yahoo.com.

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 this morning 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.

Some Trivia Regarding Auld Lang Syne

Auld Lang Syne is a Scottish song with words attributed to the national poet of Scotland, Robert Burns. The composer is not definitely known. In English-speaking countries, the first verse and chorus are now closely associated with the New Year festival.

The lyrics of "Auld Lang Syne" are in the Scots language. The title, translated literally into standard English, is *Old Long Since*. Lyrics are about old friends having a drink and recalling adventures they had long ago. Ironically, there is no specific reference to the new year.

Burns first wrote down "Auld Lang Syne" in 1788, but the poem did not appear in print until shortly after his death in 1796.

The Canadian-born bandleader Guy Lombardo helped make "Auld Lang Syne" a New Year's Eve tradition in North America. His band, the Royal Canadians, played the song at the turn of the new year in a series of popular radio (and later television) broadcasts that began on December 31, 1929, and continued for more than 30 years.

Session Will Meet in Person Next Sunday

The Session will meet in person in the Parlor next Sunday, January 7, following Coffee Hour. This is our annual Visioning meeting, where we will simply talk about our church, where we are, and where we want to be a year from now.

Pastor Ann will treat the Session to lunch.

STAFF

Pastor

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

Worship Accompanist

Leonora Knight

Custodian

Gary Prentiss

Financial Secretary

Betty Chatfield

Webmaster

Irene Lang

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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