

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Celebration of Worship
December 4, 2022
10:30 a.m.
The Second Sunday of Advent - Peace**

**Meeting ID: 890 3017 6533
Passcode: 380295
Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656**

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Greenlawn, NY 11740
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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Dan Charnews

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Bill Becker

Isaiah 11:9-10

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice together, people of God.

Let all the Earth praise our Creator.

We have gathered to honor our God.

In awe and reverence, we seek God's Word.

Welcome one another as Christ welcomes you.

Let each other know of Christ's presence.

Surely Christ has come to change us.

Christ is coming still to redirect us.

This is a time to take delight in the Spirit.

This is the hour to seek knowledge and counsel.

We are ready to learn what the Spirit teaches.

We are awakening to the Spirit's gifts.

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

Eternal God, we have disregarded Your Word, failing to inquire after Your will for us. We have ignored the needy, defended our advantages, and neglected our prayers. We have not appreciated or witnessed to Your sustaining love. Instead, we destroy the resources of the Earth with little regard for those who follow us. We value our prosperity more than the harmony You envision for Your people. O God, we do not like ourselves this way. Deliver 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

Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

... Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray by saying: *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 forever. Amen.*

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

What a delight to join our efforts to Your purposes, O God! You inspire us to oppose wickedness, to stand up for the oppressed, to work for harmony among all Your children. Lead us to Your holy mountain where all are valued and no one is excluded. May our offerings spread the knowledge of Your ways across this Earth, widening the circle of inclusion to embrace all Your children. Amen.

A MUSICAL GIFT

Kaylee

DiGregorio

A Simple Song (from "Mass" - Leonard Bernstein)

Sing God a simple song: Lau-da, Lau-de.

Make it up as you go along: Lau-da, Lau-de.

*Sing like you like to sing. God loves all simple things,
For God is the simplest of all; For God is the simplest of all.*

I will sing the Lord a new song to praise Him, to bless Him. To bless the Lord.

I will sing His praises while I live all of my days.

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord.

*Blessed is the man who praises Him. Lau-da, Lau-de,
And walks in His ways.*

I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help.

I will lift up my voice to the Lord, singing Lau-da, Lau-de.

*For the Lord is my shade, is the shade upon my right hand,
And the sun shall not smite me by day, nor the moon by night.*

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord, Lau-da, Lau-da, Lau-de.

And walks in His ways.

*Lau-da, Lau-da, Lau-de. Lau-da, Lau-da- di da di day,
All of my days.*

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 3:1-

12

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

"A Strange New Religion"

Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef

COMMUNION HYMN

In Remembrance of Me

RED

In remembrance of me, eat this bread. In remembrance of me, drink this cup.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

*In remembrance of me, heal the sick. In remembrance of me, feed the poor.
Open the door and let your neighbors in. Let them in.*

*Take, eat, and be comforted. Drink, and remember, too.
That this is my body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.*

*In remembrance of me, search for truth. In remembrance of me, always love.
In remembrance of me, don't look above but in your heart – look for God.
Do this in remembrance of me.*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for faith that we begin to see,
and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God.
Encourage us in these shortened days. And, through the long nights of this
season, may our faith in You carry us until the dawn arrives again. Amen.***

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: # 56
NOWELL

THE FIRST

*They look-ed 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.*

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Guest Soloist

This morning, we welcome Kaylee DiGregorio, a private student of Leonora Knight. Kaylee is a sophomore at Commack High School. In addition to studying voice, she is studying piano and music theory. She loves singing karaoke on her cruise ship family vacations. Thank you for sharing your music with us, Kaylee!

Christmas Tea

Thank you to everyone who attended yesterday's Christmas Tea. A special thanks goes to Jill Wilson, who chaired the event, as well as her team of workers.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair will take place in CE Hall on Saturday, December 10, from 9 to 3. As part of our Christmas Fair, we will be selling gently used Christmas decorations. Most of us have boxes of Christmas "stuff" in our attics and basements that we haven't used in years, and probably will never use. If that's the case with you, please gather them up and give them to Pastor Ann.

Lessons and Carols

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Service will be held on Sunday, December 18, the Fourth 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 Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service will take place on Saturday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. It will be simulcast on Zoom, using the same log-on numbers that we use for our regular Sunday Services.

The Service will end with the traditional lighting of individual candles held by the congregation, while “Silent Night” is sung by those in attendance. We welcome everyone to this Service.

Worship on Christmas Day

We will have a short Zoom-only Prayer Service on Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. Log-in information is the same as the rest of December: **Meeting ID: 890 3017 6533**
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“Jackets for Jesus”

Once again, Debbie Eitel is spearheading a collection of gently used winter jackets and coats which will be given to the less fortunate in our community. Hats, scarves, and gloves are welcome as well. There is a large box in the hall where these items may be deposited. Thank you for your generosity.

“God’s Creation” Wall Calendars

The beautiful “God’s Creation” wall calendars have arrived. Every month features a full-color picture and a Scripture verse. Each Sunday has a Scripture verse notated as well. The price is \$8 / calendar; please see Debbie Eitel.

STAFF

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Susan Perrotta

Webmaster

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Building Use Manager

Larry Foray

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Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

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Gary Prentiss

Class of 2023
Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach
Craig Satterlee

Class of 2024
Debbie Eitel
Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta