

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Celebration of Worship  
December 15, 2024 – The Third Sunday of Advent  
“Joy”  
10:30 a.m.**

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

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**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**“Joy”**

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL                      Dan Charnews /Tyler Hago/ Glenn Jahier

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE                      Lisa and Richard Huntley

CANDLELIGHTING

PRAYERFUL WORDS

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

*Shine on us, O God of Joy.  
Guide our path through gloom of night;  
Bear within us Wisdom's glory;  
Come to us, O Christ the Light.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The joy of the season is upon us. The time is almost here.

*We have come to worship and praise the Lord.*

We will sing praises to God, in Whom we place our trust.

*God opens our eyes and lifts us up.*

Let us praise God,

*Who reigns forever.*

HYMN # 9

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease. Fill the whole world with Heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve Your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of Your love for us. We have embraced ugliness and oppression, rather than loveliness and grace. We have distorted Your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have given less than our best to others and to You. Forgive 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

... All this we pray in Jesus' name, 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

*We present our gifts to You, O God. May they be used to make a difference in the lives of people where joy is scarce. May our gifts be a reminder of Your love to those who receive them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 12:2-6  
Luke 3:7 – 18

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON “ A Light in the Darkness” Rev. Dr. Ann Van Cleef

HYMN # 12 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

*People, look east, the time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able. Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch when night is dim. One more light the bowl shall brim.  
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ, who brings new life to Earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look ease and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: PLEADING SAVIOR

*Christians all, your Lord is coming, He will rise up from the dead.  
Lift the cup of sin forgiven. Bless the host and eat His bread.  
Mend the ways where peace is broken. Give yourselves to true Shalom.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dwell as one in church and home.*

## **JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Wedding Bells for Stephanie and John**

Do plan to stay this morning to attend the wedding of Stephanie Horne and John Van Dyke. The Wedding Service will take place immediately following our Service of Worship, and should take about 15 minutes.

Afterward, we will go upstairs to CE Hall for a reception, coordinated by Debbie Eitel. Gifts are not necessary, a card or a hug will do!

### **Outdoor Christmas Tree Lighting Postponed – Until Next Year.**

We came to the realization that it was not practical to do the Christmas Tree Lighting this year; there is just too much going on. Next year we will schedule it for early December so the tree can stay lit all month.

### **God's Creation Calendars**

God's Creation 2025 Wall Calendars are still available at a bargain price of \$7. Please see Debbie Eitel.

### **Christmas Fair**

Thank you to everyone who helped with yesterday's Christmas Fair. This is one of the ways that we reach out to the community to share the joy that we know as members and friends of Greenlawn Presbyterian Church.

We'll keep our little Christmas shop downstairs open until the end of the month.

### **Christmas Eve Service at 4 p.m.**

By informal vote of the congregation, we have decided to move our Christmas Eve Service to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24. This earlier hour will ensure that people won't have to drive home in complete darkness.

### **Lessons and Carols – December 22**

Once again, we will be holding our Lessons and Carols Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 22, 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 already have several community leaders who have agreed to read. We also have some soloists from our congregation.

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

### **Church Membership**

Are you a friend of our church who has faithfully been attending worship? Would you like to become a member of The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn? Please see Pastor Ann about joining; we would like to have a "New Members Sunday" sometime soon.

### **The Little Food Pantry**

Please remember our Little Food Pantry when you go shopping. We seem to have plenty of canned vegetables; we are in need of instant mashed potatoes.

### **Poinsettias for Christmas**

We went ahead and ordered 40 poinsettias from our wholesaler. The poinsettias will be on the Communion Table on Sunday, December 22, and Christmas Eve. So, keep turning those order forms in; we'll let you know when we reach 40.

### **Is God Calling You to Become a Church Officer?**

There are three people whose terms are ending on Session this year, and we still have an unfilled spot in the Class of 2026. Please prayerfully consider becoming a Ruling Elder. There are eleven meetings per year, nine of them on Zoom. Susan Perrotta will be happy to give you more information.

### **You May Now Donate On Line**

Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website will pop up. The "Donate" button is on the opening page.



### **STAFF**

#### **Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef  
[pastorannsutton@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorannsutton@yahoo.com)

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Leonora Colletti  
[fpcgoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fpcgoffice@gmail.com)

#### **Treasurer**

James Dean

#### **Worship Accompanist**

Leonora Knight

#### **Fellowship Director**

Debbie Eitel

#### **Custodian**

Gary Prentiss

#### **Financial Secretary**

Betty Chatfield

#### **Benevolence Secretary**

Susan Perrotta

#### **Webmaster**

Irene Lang

#### **Building Use Manager**

Larry Foray

### **THE SESSION**

#### **Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk**

#### **Class of 2024**

Debbie Eitel  
Larry Foray  
Susan Perrotta

#### **Class of 2025**

Marian Adams  
Bill Becker  
Gary Prentiss

#### **Class of 2026**

Arlissa Dean  
Kathleen Gerlach