

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Christmas Day

11:00 am

December 25, 2016

CHIMES

Bill D'Andrea

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Julie Hago

As we find our kneeling places around the Christ child, the God we did not expect, we praise your name. We expected your rule to begin with mighty displays of power, but You came instead in a vulnerable baby, in a feeding bin in a back barn stable. Fleshing yourself out for our sake, You broke the hold of darkness in our lives and in our world.

Come to us this day and illumine us with the vision of your new world in which hate yields to love, the Other is welcomed, and enemies become friends. Gospel us away from all the fake news in our life, and from the weaponization of fear. Protect us this Christmas morning if, for any of us, a cloud of exhaustion has begun to settle over questions of truth.

PRELUDE

Joy to the World

George Frederick Handel

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Julie Hago and Alex Kirchhoff

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fred Woodward

Please fill out "Ritual of Friendship & "Concerns of Our Church Family"

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 56**

The First Nowell

CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Psalm 98)

Julie Hago

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: **The LORD has made his salvation known, and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

Leader: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song and music. For the LORD comes to judge the world in righteousness and the people with equity.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

SONGS OF PRAISE

Give Thanks (see insert)

This Is the Day (see insert)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Fred Woodward

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious Savior, we come to You this Christmas morning with our tinsel in a tangle. It is Christmas Day and we are out of breath. We have tried so hard to make everything about Christmas right rather than letting You make all things right for us. Save us from our anxious faith.

We get so much wrong. We ask for a sign when we shouldn't. We don't ask for a sign when we should. When a sign is given, we don't follow it faithfully in fear that You will completely rearrange our lives.

Yet even in our misunderstanding, willfulness, and trepidation, the Christ child enters in. He restores our true selves through his divine indwelling, the Holy Spirit living within us. And so we thank You for all of it, our weakness and your strength, made manifest in the One we least expected, the Christ child, in whom are met the hopes and fears of all our years.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor Fred Woodward

*RESPONSE

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Isaiah 52: 7-10

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Elder Meg Lawrence

*HYMN No. 29

Go Tell It on the Mountain

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

As It Fell Upon A Night

Katherine K. Davis

*RESPONSE

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

Elder Meg Lawrence

GOSPEL READING: John 1: 1-14

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Pastor Fred Woodward

SERMON “More Than a Birthday: The Three R’s of the Incarnation”
Pastor Fred Woodward

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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, the power, and the glory—forever. Amen

***CLOSING HYMN No. 25**

Away in a Manger (verses 1-2)

***CHALLENGE AND BLESSING**

***SINGING OUR HOPE**

Hymn No. 25 (verse 3)

***POSTLUDE**

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Tune: Waltham
Arr. Mark Hayes



***All who are able, please stand**

WEEKLY MESSENGER

Sunday, December 25, 2016

www.greenlawnpresbyterianchurch.org

Pastor Fred Woodward may be reached by cell phone at 631-626-3702

- **The flowers on the Lord's table** this week are given to the glory of God.
- **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS** (ages 3-6 and 7-12) are available each Sunday. Please ask the ushers for a bulletin for your child
- **GREETERS:** Greeting us today before the service are Susan Perrotta and Family.
- **ASSISTING IN THE PULPIT** this morning are Elder Meg Lawrence and Julie Hago.
- **COFFEE HOUR:** There is no coffee hour after worship this morning.
- **ACOLYTES:** Serving as acolytes today are Julie Hago and Alex Kirchhoff.
- **SOUNDBOARD:** Assisting with the Soundboard today is Bill D'Andrea.
- **USHERING TEAM NO. 5**, led by Craig Satterlee, assists us in worship today.
- **ELDER ON CALL:** If you have a concern about the church or the life of the congregation, please speak with our "Elder On Call". Our Elder On Call for the week of December 25th is Margaret Negrelli.
- **DEACONS ON CALL** for the month of December are Arlissa Dean (631-266-3497) and Corinne Burdett (631-266-3497). If you or someone you know has a spiritual, physical, or financial need, the Deacon on Call will try to help you! Just call the Deacon or call the church office. All information will be kept confidential.
- **NEEDS REQUESTS:** If you know of someone in need, please fill out the blue form & place in the box located by the food pantry.
- The Board of Deacons is grateful to all of our church members who have helped to keep our pantry shelves stocked. **Currently there is a need for pasta sauce, canned peas, and cereal.** Cash donations can also be used by the Deacons to fill in items that need to be purchased. Thanks to all of you who remember our pantry each week as you shop for your family.
- **FLOWERS FOR THE CHANCEL** Each Sunday flowers beautify the Chancel of our church. We would encourage any and all to donate flowers for birthdays, anniversaries, "in memory of", etc. A check for \$35 should be made to Greenlawn Presbyterian Church. To order flowers, please call Corinne Burdett (631-261-4636), our flower coordinator, or the church office (631-261-2150)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New **Consumer Action Handbooks** and **2017 Calendars** are available on the table outside the Church Office.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

On January 29, 2017, we are having our annual meeting of the congregation when we will be receiving the Annual Report and electing new church officers for 2017.

The annual meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after worship.

Reports for the annual meeting are due in the church office on Monday, January 16, 2017.

Our office administrator asks that all reports be submitted to fpcgoffice@gmail.com in Microsoft Word

From the Moderator of Session

WEEKLY CALENDAR

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Today, December 25th | Christmas Day Worship | 11:00 am |
| Monday | Church Office Closed | |
| Tuesday | Church Office Closed | |
| Wednesday | Church Office Closed No Bible Study | 2:00 pm |
| Thursday | Church Office Closed | |
| Friday | Church Office Closed No Bible Study | 10:30 am |
| Saturday | | |

Next Sunday,
January 1, 2017

**New Year's Day
Worship**

10:30 am

*Please lift up the
following in prayer:*

Our church members and their individual struggles: the Family of Rich Heiligenstadt; Alan L.; Pastor Tim H D; Cassell; Cousin David; Maggie; Mike P.; Tom M.; please pray for God's comforting and healing presence; our church and its mission; our Pastor; our Church; our Staff; our Armed Forces and their families; our nation and its leaders; all in harms way of terrorists; and please pray for all who need His help.

