

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Christmas Eve Celebration of Worship
December 24, 2020
4:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting ID: 918 2349 2891
Passcode: 051914
Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656**

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December 24, 2020 – 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve

ORGAN CHRISTMAS MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Deacon Barbara Small

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

4 p.m. Claire and Paul Proctor
7 p.m. Arlissa and Jim Dean

HYMN # 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on Earth and mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Christ, by highest Heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

*Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the Earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight, old dreams die, and new dreams come to life.
The promise is fulfilled.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

Hope gives way to joy, and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

The candles tell the story. Dawn invades midnight.

The Light of the world has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

This Light is a Light for all, warming us from within, radiating love,
lighting our lives with the presence of God in human flesh,
within us and among us, now and always.

Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.

Good will to all.

HYMN # 56

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*The First Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell. Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked 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.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess our fear to let down our guard, to feel the wonder, to believe the Good News. Why would Love choose to live among us, who are so unloving in our words and deeds? Why would You choose to place Trusting Innocence in the hands of sinners like us? We are afraid to bow down, lest we be accused of sentimental weakness. We hesitate to embrace the joy, lest it turn to disappointment in the cruel realities of this world. Forgive us, O God, and awaken the child within us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 44

*O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.*

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 38

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years, comes round the age of gold.
When peace shall over all the Earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 53

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Thank You, God of Love, for the promise of this season. We are grateful for the generosity aroused in us by Christ's coming into the world. May these gifts represent a new spirit of joyous sharing among us for the sake of all Your children everywhere. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 2:1-14

HYMN # 25

Away In a Manger

MUELLER

*Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But Little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.*

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTMAS

HYMN # 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

REFRAIN: *Glo – ria in excelsis Deo. Glo – ria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your Heavenly song? REFRAIN*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. REFRAIN*

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LIGHTS

CLOSING WORDS

CANDLE LIGHTING

HYMN # 60

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child! Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in Heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from Heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing, "Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!"*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Food Pantry

Do you know of people who might be hungry this season? We have a free food pantry in front of the church that is available 24/7. Please help us spread the word.

Sunday, December 27

We will continue our Christmas celebration with “A Service of Carols and More Carols” on Sunday, December 27. Please join us at 10:30 a.m. To add some fun, we will have a Holiday Sweater Contest immediately following the Service. Prizes will be awarded for the prettiest and ugliest sweaters!

Join Us!

Great things are happening here at The First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join us for worship, Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No matter who you are or where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here.

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef
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Administrative Assistant

Linda J. Siegmann
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Director of Music

Leonora Colletti

Fellowship Director

Debbie Eitel

Custodian

Gary Prentiss

Treasurer

James Dean

Financial Secretary

Betty Chatfield

Benevolence Secretary

Susan Perrotta

OUR SERVING BOARDS

SESSION

Class of 2020

Susan Perrotta
Diane Kirchoff
Ruth Satterlee

Class of 2021

Betty Chatfield
Debbie Eitel

Class of 2022

DEACONS

Class of 2020

Corinne Burdett
Larry Foray – Moderator

Class of 2021

Arlissa Dean
Kathleen Gerlach

Class of 2022

Gary Prentiss
George Santos