

Greenwich Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come - this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude

"Joyful and Triumphant"

Handbell Choir

arr. Wagner

Gathering for Worship

*Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord;
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

People: *We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.*

Leader: The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son,

People: *And he will be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us"*

Leader: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and our salvation.

People: *Let us walk in the light of the Lord.*

Hymn

154

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Morning Prayer

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths. Renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love, as Lord of lords and King of kings, to whom be glory always. Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ and Congregational Life

Offering

"Christmas Night"

Handbell Choir

arr. Helman

Blessing of the Children and The Lord's Prayer

Advent Reflection

"After all this, Lord, will you hold yourself back?"

Isaiah 64:1-12

(p. 1163-1164)

Hymn

156

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Leader: Lift up your hearts

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Leader: Send your Holy Spirit upon us now, we pray,

People: *That these gifts from your creation may be to us the communion of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Communion of God's People

Prayer After Communion

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response

*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!*

Benediction

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Please be in prayer this week for our church family & friends

The family of Helen Basham, Katherine Boyd, Tim Everett, Edmund Lynn, Thad Pinney, Judit Platt, Robert Robison, Anne Thornton, Tom Young, Bob Williamson.

For Continuing Care

Dixie Baker, Donna Bloom, Sam Bunch, Diane Carroll, Artie Coffman, Sterling & Lorraine Cooper, Matt Davis, Judy Dickerson, Audrey Ann Edwards, Bob Edwards, Tim Everett, Tyler & Dana Fry, the Griffin family, Gerry & Abbie Grimes, Kay Hinegardner, Barbara Jackson, Judy Kifer, Cece Marshall, Keith & Linda Maliniak, Kim Palfrey, Jim Pittman, Judit Platt, Lon Quinones, Marilyn Ricketts, Jay Ryan, Elsie Shrewsbury, Stephanie Stallard, Phil Swinford, Barbara Thomas, Richard & Alana Wallace, Pat Wengert, Cecily West, Darryl White, Becky Whitelock, Judy Young, Tom Young.

Praises

Our Sunday morning volunteers who welcome worshippers each week.

Serving our Country

Earl Arnold, Kieran Bateman, Brendan Binniker, Ryan Binniker, Justin Fang, Michelle Fleurat, MD, Ray Franze, Alex Frazier, Lee Loudermilk, JR McMillan, Stirling Martin, Luke Sturges, Carter Walchli, Jason West.

Greenwich Birthdays This Week

Dec 3 Paul House	Dec 6 Al Celmer	Dec 8 Tom Hawkins
Dec 3 Jaan Loger	Dec 6 Tim Everett	Dec 8 Anne Thomas
Dec 3 Duane Mohr	Dec 6 John Harrison	Dec 9 Rand Cummings
Dec 4 Judy Fretts	Dec 7 Brian Smith	Dec 9 Matt Poole
Dec 4 Ashton Miller	Dec 7 Suzie Stonbraker	Dec 9 Alana Wallace
Dec 4 Anna Zwirko		

To request prayer, send a message to prayers@greenwichpres.org

To join our prayer team or learn more about how to pray, visit:

www.greenwichpres.org/prayer

Advent & Christmas at Greenwich

Dec 3, First Sunday of Advent -- Worship (9:00a & 11:00a)
Woodbridge Flute Choir Concert (3:00p)

Dec 10, Second Sunday of Advent -- Worship (9:00a & 11:00a)

Dec 17, Third Sunday of Advent – Choir Led Worship (9:00a & 11:00a)
Service of Remembrance (3:00p)

Dec 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

Worship (10:00a)

Family Friendly Worship Service (5:00p)

Traditional Worship Service (7:00p)

Candlelight Service (11:00p)

Ways to Give & Serve

greenwichpres.org/serve/

Family Shelter Christmas Meal, Thursday, December 21: We will be hosting our annual Christmas party for residents of the shelter in Warrenton and we need help providing food for this memorable evening. If you'd like to prepare food for December 21, sign up here: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/UKFO4792>.

Mitten Tree: During Advent, we invite you to decorate our mitten tree with new hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to be given to help families at the shelter stay warm this winter. The mitten tree is in the children's wing entry near the classrooms.

Christmas Memorials: This advent season, you can honor or remember someone special through a donation to our Deacon's Fund. The cost is \$20 per memorial to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Donation forms will be in the lobby during Advent or visit our website at www.greenwichpres.org.

Meal Ministry: Periodically help provide a meal for members of our church family in a time of need, such as births, deaths, surgeries, and funerals. Contact the church office to learn more about opportunities.

Mission Partner Highlights

www.greenwichpres.org/mission/

Juan & Veronica Linero

The Linero family are long-time mission partners of Greenwich, serving as missionary-pastors at Iglesia Una Luz En El Camino (A Light On the Path) in Tamaulipas, Mexico. We first met and developed a strong partnership with the Linero's through multiple mission projects in the 2000's. The border crisis in recent years has prevented our teams from traveling to Mexico, but the Linero's have adapted their work to care for the community and those most in need in the Matamoros area. From their recent mission report: "We have also gone to the hospital ministry...usually we do it once a month but God has provided to go every week using people who support us to buy the bread rolls to make the chicken and bean sandwiches, the coffee." Through this hospital ministry and other outreach programs, their church shares the gospel with their neighbors. They have also recently established a retirement home for older residents who have lost their homes and don't have the support they need. They ask for prayers, "That God continue using our lives for his service, for Priscilla in the hospital (their daughter is a physician), for residents at Jireh Retirement Home, and for the Church that people would come and hear from God."

2023 Financial Stewardship: Finishing Strong

Thanks to the many hands and hearts that have given generously to support the ministry and mission of the church in this challenging year!

Year-to-Date (through October 31)

\$1,006,437 = Total income

\$1,074,310 = Total expenses

(\$67,873) = Current deficit

Year-End Contributions — December 31st is the final Sunday for offerings in 2023 (online giving through midnight). Thank you!

If you have any questions please contact our Finance Administrator, Joy Yates (joyyates@greenwichpres.org) or 703-754-7933.

Announcements

Benefit Concert for Farthest Corners, TODAY (3:00pm) The Woodbridge Flute Choir invites you to join us in the sanctuary for this free holiday concert. An offering will be taken to benefit Farthest Corners. For more info, visit www.woodbridgeflutechoir.org.

Jingle Jam with the Fam, Wednesday, December 13 (6:00-8:00p) - Join us in the fellowship hall for a fun filled, family-friendly evening that you won't soon forget! We'll be celebrating the holidays and learning about the true reason for our joy at Christmas as we gather for a meal, play games, sing songs, make crafts and enjoy an engaging, contemporary, program.

Service of Remembrance & Wholeness, December 17 (3:00pm) – This worship service is based on the traditional "Longest Night Service." We will gather in our historic Chapel to remember and lift before the Lord our sadness, the loss of loved ones, our need for healing, and our longing for God to come and make all things new in Jesus Christ.

Thursday Women's Bible Study, begins January 4 (9:30-11:30a) – Join us for the next Precept Upon Precept Study: *Matthew*. We meet in the adult classrooms at Greenwich and a Zoom option is also available. Contact Debbie Gilbert at jdgilbert99@gmail.com or 703.402.5046 by December 10 to order a workbook (cost is \$15.75). **New to Precept Bible Study?** This is a great time to start and get to know the other ladies taking the class! The *precept* inductive study method uses a workbook to guide us through homework each week. Our first class will be an introduction to the study method and Susanne Arbogast has volunteered to be a coach for new members. Please consider joining us as we start the new year!

Parking Request – As our church continues to grow (and our parking lots fill up on Sundays!) it is a blessing for worshippers who have mobility issues to find parking spots near the sanctuary. If you are able, please consider using the old parking lot on Vint Hill Road. Both sidewalks leading from that lot lead to the sanctuary with just a few more steps. Thanks for offering this simple act of hospitality!