

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENWICH



Second Sunday of Christmas
January 4, 2026
10:00 AM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

“No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.” John 1:18

PRELUDE

Passacaglia in C Minor, BWV 582
Jeb Dennis, organ

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

OPENING CHIMES

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Before the foundation of the world,
All: God destined us for love.
One: Through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
All: God adopted us into God's own family.
One: From the farthest edges of the earth,
All: God shepherds God's family home.
One: Let us worship God!

*HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCE JUBILO

*CALL TO CONFESSON

The Rev. Andre Castillo

*PRAYER OF CONFESSON

All: Gracious God, you have come into the world you made, and yet we confess that we do not always recognize you. You draw near, and we are distracted. You speak in familiar places, and we do not listen. You meet us in vulnerability and mercy, and we look instead for control and certainty. Forgive us for overlooking your presence—in others, in our own lives, and in the ordinary moments you inhabit. Forgive us for trusting our own effort more than your gift of grace. Turn us again toward you. Open our eyes to see, and our hearts to receive the life you freely give.

*MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news: the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have received grace upon grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free.

All: Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carolyn Hahn-Re

All: **O God, through your mighty acts we receive grace upon grace. From your fullness, feed us with your life-giving Word, that our lives, like bread, may feed a hungry world. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:7-14

p. 734 OT

ANTHEM

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

Chancel Choir

Jeb Dennis, organ

SECOND LESSON

John 1:10-18

pp. 91-92 NT

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Grace Upon Grace"

Dr. DeGarmo

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

All: **The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.**

OFFERING

Ritual of Friendship: *Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor.*

ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

Margaret Mack, soprano

Liz Pojanowski-James, mezzo-soprano

Jeb Dennis, piano

*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

We sing a new song to you, Lord. Through this bread and wine we receive your joy. All of creation praises you, joining with glad voices to share the good news of Christ's saving birth. We give thanks for the Word you first sang, Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN 141**

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

PERSONENT HODIE

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Thema fugatum in C Minor, BWV 582

Johann Sebastian Bach

Jeb Dennis, organ

(1685-1750)

*Please stand as you are able

WELCOME!

We are delighted you are joining us in worship! Founded on Easter Sunday in 1881, First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich embraces our mission to nurture and empower people in all stages of life to be Christ's disciples and to actively serve those in need. All children may join the *Time for Young Disciples* during the service and then be dismissed together for Sunday School. **Childcare (Room 350) and Sunday School (Room 343) will remain on the third floor.**

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Dr. Lindley G. DeGarmo; Rev. Andre Castillo; Tara Church, Director of Children's Ministries; Jeb Dennis, organ/piano; Chancel Choir; Margaret Mack, soprano; Liz Pojanowski-James, mezzo-soprano Carolyn Hahn-Re, reader.

Usher Team 1: Hearst Zhang (Captain), Diane Brown, Carol Barber, Peter McWhorter, Kate Minchin, Heidi Novak, Scott Sternberg.

Flowers: The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are in memory of George Hallenbeck by Grace Hellenbeck.

Cover Art: *The Newborn Child*, Georges de la Tour (1593-1652)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our siblings locally and abroad who are living in areas torn by natural disasters and war; Dimitrios Apostolou, John Awdziewicz, Cassandra Fountain, Cadwallader K., Ki Lee, Eric Moy, Adrienne & Don Perry, Nancy Raker, Charlene Roberson and Elly Schafer.

We extend the love and prayers of the congregation to the Nicholas family upon the death of our dear sister in Christ, Phyllis Nicholas. Please address condolences to: Beth Nicholas, 122 Palmers Hill Rd., Stamford, CT 06902.

We also extend love and prayers to the McKelvey family upon the death of their dear brother Bill.

Our congregation extends heartfelt love and prayers to the Campbell family following the passing of our beloved sister in Christ, Ginny Campbell. A memorial service to honor Ginny's life will be scheduled at First Presbyterian Church, with the date to be announced. Please send condolences to her daughter, Susan Siciliano, 5068 Santorini Way, Oceanside, CA 92056.

TODAY - PNC PROCESS DISCUSSION

Please join the Pastor Nominating Committee in Fellowship Hall after worship today, at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, January 4 for a transparent discussion about the committee's search process, the work they accomplished over the past year, and the factors that led to the exciting decision to extend a Call to a new Senior Pastor. *Note: To protect the candidate's privacy, we cannot share his name at this meeting.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A special meeting of the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich has been called by Session, on Sunday, January 11, 2026, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, for the purpose of hearing the final report of the Pastor Nominating Committee, to vote to approve the new Senior Pastor and approve the Terms of Call of the new Pastor.

MUSIC NOTES

Wednesday, January 7 - Community Night

Sunday, February 15 - 11:30 a.m. - Valentine's Concert
Minister

Friday, April 3 - 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Requiem

Wednesday, May 6 - 6:00 p.m. - Dinner Theater Extravaganza

Dr. Caroline Worra - FPCG Music

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Join us for fellowship and book discussion in the Church Library on the 4th Floor. We gather at 9:15 a.m. for coffee and discussion starts at 9:30 a.m. Contact Colleen Giambo at cgiambo@gmail.com for further information. Here is the upcoming Women's Book Group selection.

January 23

Flashlight, by Susan Choi

WINTER NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND RECEPTION

Interested in becoming a member of FPCG? Please join us for our winter new member orientation session on **Sunday, February 1 at 4:00 pm**. We'll gather for light refreshments in the church library (4th floor) at 4:00 pm and begin our one-hour orientation at 4:30pm. (Childcare is provided.) Those attending orientation will be welcomed and received by the congregation during worship on **Sunday, February 8 at 10:00am**.

To rsvp for the orientation session or for any questions, please contact Emily Sternberg at emily@thesternbergs.net or Phil Carrone at pcarrone@icloud.com.

MISSION ENGAGEMENT

Pacific House Cooks: Join the FPCG team to cook and serve meals for men and young male residents of Pacific House on the second Thursday of every month. Cook in the FPCG kitchen from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. or serve at Pacific House from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Contact Carol Barber: cbarber@cyurban.com or at (914) 490-6621.

Drivers Needed for Call-A-Ride: Have a few hours a week to assist elderly members of our community? Drivers are needed! Email or call Terry Lohmeyer: terryhl@aol.com (203) 249-9412.

COMMUNITY NIGHT – WEDNESDAY

Family Style Dinner Begins at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Children's Program: Begins 5:00-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room - Bible crafts, stories, games and fellowship

for ages 4 and up. Childcare for 0-3 years is available in Room 121 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

All-Age Family Choir and Instrumentalists: 5:30 p.m. - 4th floor choir room

Clarion Ringers: 5:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

Holy Ringers: 6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

Steeple Band: 6:30 p.m. - 4th Floor Choir Room
Room

Chancel Choir: 7:15 p.m. - 4th Floor Choir

BURNS SUPPER – JANUARY 24

On Saturday, January 24, 6-9 p.m., celebrate the Scottish roots of the Presbyterian Church at our annual Burns Supper FPCG fundraiser. This lively evening of music and fellowship will feature the Greenwich Pipe Band and the songs of Robert Burns performed by our Scottish choir soloist Lesley Craigie and Minister of Music Dr. Caroline Worra. Join the fun as we carry on this centuries-old tradition of honoring influential poet Robert Burns, most famous for writing “Auld Lang Syne.” Only \$35 for FPCG members including a full dinner, entertainment, and a whisky toast. Bring friends! Non-members are \$65. Reserve your tickets: www.fpcg.org/burns

MESSAGE FROM THE DEACONS

As Deacons, our ministry is one of compassion, witness, and service. It includes services such as hospital visits, meal deliveries, an altar flower to celebrate a birth, arranging rides to worship and generally being available to hear any concerns or questions. We warmly invite you to reach out on your behalf, or perhaps on behalf of another church member who may benefit from a meal, a visit, or just a word of encouragement. Contact the church office at (203) 869-8686 X 110, or one of our pastors, or email our Deacon Moderator, Julie Mather (matherct@msn.com). Your wellbeing is important to us.

FIRST 4 FOOD - Imagine the warmth and comfort of homemade soups delivered right to your door! Our dedicated volunteers are ready to bring love and care to members recovering from physical, emotional, or other challenging situations. Need a meal? Feeling inspired to cook or deliver? Reach out to Renie Blair at (203) 637-1807 and be part of this heartwarming initiative.

FIRST SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION - We are offering rides to and from church on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month so that members can participate in Communion, worship, and fellowship. Call Bob Giambo (914) 434-4832 to arrange transportation. We look forward to having you join us

LEADERSHIP

Session

