

Silence: Another Way

For this season of Lent, we are entering into the Psalms – the ancient prayer book of chants and songs that Jesus and our ancestors prayed.

On Sundays during our traditional 10 am service, I will preach on a particular Psalm. On Wednesdays (6:30 pm on Facebook Live), we will experience the Psalm a bit differently: with more singing, with more music. And, perhaps most importantly, with more silence.

Silence is so hard to come by, so hard to find! But in a culture that so often blares and blasts, I feel the Holy Spirit summoning us into the practice of silence during this season.

The Taizé community – a monastic group in Southern France – has this to say about silence: “When we try to express communion with God in words, we rapidly reach the end of our capacities. But in the depths of our being Christ, through the Holy Spirit, is praying, far more than we imagine.” (For more information on the Taizé community, go to <https://www.taize.fr/en>).

Silence is scary, especially for those of us for whom noise, or words, are the norm (and, I very much count myself among those ranks!). How do we *do* silence? How do we *get* there? Well, there’s no magic formula, no special five-step-program to follow. I have found that a childlike attitude of trust helps – trusting that one day, I will fully and firmly know that deep and abiding peace that Christ is praying deep within us, even if I don’t fully “get” it now.

Silence is a discipline. And it’s certainly not only for us to do by ourselves (thanks be to God!). As a Lenten discipline, please consider joining our Contemplative Prayer Services on Wednesday nights on Facebook Live at 6:30 pm. I invite you to approach this worship like a child, knowing that God works in mysterious ways. You may not “feel” God at first, but give it time. And then I invite you to that silent place again. And again. Eventually, some of the noise, some of the words, will begin to subside.

Be still;
and slowly,
we will begin to know.

I’ll meet you there!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary Beth

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ *Children and Youth-Friendly Prayer / Worship Services*
- ◆ *Giving Statements and Offering Envelopes*



WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship services will be held via Facebook Live only as long as there is snow on the ground where the hay wagon is located.

You can access the Facebook live-stream from our website at www.ogpc.org at the top of the homepage.

To access the service via *Facebook Live*, you must have a Facebook account and go to our Facebook page, which is titled **Old Greenwich Presbyterian Church**.

If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact: Tim Newbrough tnewbro@yahoo.com or Melody Leeper melody@leeper.us

Children and Youth-Friendly Prayer/Worship Services! Wednesday, March 10 (Contemplative Prayer at 6:30 pm on FB Live) & March 28 (Palm Sunday at 10 am, Pre-Recorded)

We hope all of our services are family-friendly, but we are going to focus on prayer and worship that is especially children and youth-friendly during two upcoming services: on **Wednesday, March 10, and on Sunday, March 28** (Palm Sunday).

Wednesday, March 10, is part of our contemplative Lenten practice (Facebook Live, 6:30 pm). The prayer service will retain much of the same format as other Wednesdays, but the music and focus will be more family-focused. Please tune in!

And then, for Palm Sunday, March 28, we are going to pre-record a Sunday service which will feature our children and youth of all ages! We are still shaping exactly what it will look like, but please let Jen Miller (njmillers@msn.com), Melissa Hixon (mhixon868@yahoo.com) or Pastor Mary Beth (pastormarybeth@gmail.com) know if someone from your family would like to be part of the March 28, Palm Sunday pre-recorded service.

Thanks be to God for our children of all ages!

2020 GIVING STATEMENTS AND 2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Giving Statement mailings went out the first two weeks of February. If you did not receive yours or have any questions, please email Kim Mrotek at kmrotek@ptd.net and a statement can be emailed to you.

All Offering Envelopes which had not been picked up were also mailed. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to, they are available. Please email Kim or the church office.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS

The ministry of connecting the congregation with words, insights, pictures, music, loved scripture verses, prayers and just plain human connection during this Covid-sheltered time is open to anyone, including our children.

Email it to Anita Campbell at souptime2222@gmail.com or snail mail it to the church.

PASTOR'S HOURS AND WHEREABOUTS...

Dear OGPC families and friends,

The Peace of Christ be with you!!

I wanted to share with you my work schedule for the foreseeable future:

Mondays -- Pastor's day off/ Sabbath

Tuesdays -- Work at home in the am / Work in the church office in the afternoon

Wednesdays -- Work in the church office in the am / Work at home in the afternoon

Thursdays -- Work in the church office in the am / Work at home in the afternoon

Fridays -- Work in the church office in the am / Work at home in the afternoon

("am" is defined roughly as 9 to 1; "afternoon" roughly as 1 to 5)

A shorter way to remember it is: Mondays off; Tuesday afternoons in the office; Wednesday-Friday mornings in the office. (Of course, funerals, pastoral emergencies, etc., are exceptions and I might be working days off in those cases).

Also! **Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 am to 5 pm** or so, no matter where I am, **you can always reach me by cell (my "traveling office"): 515-979-9681**. If you want a quicker reply, please call me rather than text (old fashioned, I know!), as I don't always hear the text "bing."

Also! Once COVID dies down (it will! it will!), I will be doing more pastoral care in person (right now, it's mostly zoom and phone), so I will be out in the community more later in the year. I will let Kathleen know when I'm out on a pastoral care visit during her work hours*, so she can let you know where I am when she is working. (And, as always, you can call my cell and I'll pick it up if I'm traveling to/from the appointment, etc.).

*Kathleen's normal work hours are Mon. - Thur., 9 am - 1 pm. She will be working from home on Mon., Tue & Thur. She will be in the office each Wednesday, from 9 am - 1 pm. (This could change due to workflow.)

Don't hesitate to call (515-979-9681) or email me (pastor@ogpc.org) with any questions...

So looking forward to our shared ministry....!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Mary Beth



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH:

02	Barbara Frinzi Donald Mrotek	23	Andrea Csiszlak Maria Viscel
04	Jennifer Cichone		John MacKinnon III
07	Francis Rienzo Mimi Rienzo	24	Micha Fell Joan Pozsonyi
09	Susann Dalrymple	25	Emma Jagiello
11	John Oakes, Jr. Marsha Proehl	26	Carol Lee Doeringer Eleanor Cawley
14	Patricia Marino	29	Jacob Epstein
16	Rebecca Sulla		Gretchen Alencewicz
18	Nathaniel Brown-Campello		Emily Mauricio
19	John Menzak	30	Bianca Buckwalter
20	BettyAnn Stetler	31	Penny Torcivia



***Children are in bold.**

**CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES
IN MARCH:**

03/01/1996	Eric & Jill Lee
03/04/1989	Gail & Greg Sulla
03/09/1985	William & Marsha Proehl
03/21/2008	Henry Riewerts & Diane Trib-



Please hold in prayer: the family of Larry Grube, friend of the Rutans; the family of Lotus Marcus Bradlau, George Bradlau's step-mother; Bruce Gaston's brother and sister-in-law, Doug & Edna Gaston; Kellie M., friend and Jessica Drennan, cousin of Kathleen Scala; Anita Campbell; the Campbell's daughter, Heather Waterman, and her mother-in-law, Gerri Waterman; Trish & Phil Millon; Pastor Rebecca Segers; Stephanie Welwood; Mike Viscel; Carol Doeringer's sister, Cathy Collett and friend, Cynthia; Jack Keiderling, friend of Ernie Maso; John Repko; Holly Sharrai, Betsy Gaston's cousin; Diana Cole; Nancy Hummer, friend of the Freys; Phyllis Raskin, Dwain & Debbie Swanson, and Sue Stock, friends of the Campbells; Patty Caldari and family, Kathleen Scala's cousin; our nation and the world; Barbara Cappelletti; Debbie Mowery; Carol Lee Doeringer; those affected by the Corona virus and their families, especially health-care workers; Cecelia Lemons; Tony Procita; Harry Pursel; Jim & Heather Todd; Sandy Stutzman; Sharon Smith; Doris Luziatti; Bob Heater; Deb Wilson; Sue Snyder; Geraldine Ihrie; Jack Reinhard; Phyllis Dietz; Shelly Papp & family; those serving in our Armed Forces: Will Rimmler

*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*



Good news! The pharmacy that Maria Hannis works at, located at the Walmart Supercenter, 1300 US Highway 22, P'burg, NJ, will be receiving the Moderna vaccine shortly. They will start vaccinating as soon as the week of March 7, beginning with people age 75 and older.

Maria would like to take care of the parishioners that haven't received the vaccine. (And we are so grateful!!)

If you are 75+ and have not received the vaccination yet, or know of a church member/friend who is 75+ and has not received it, please call Maria Hannis at the Walmart pharmacy, (908) 454-4047, as soon as possible to ensure a spot.

Please ask for Maria Hannis.

During the season of Lent there are no flowers in the sanctuary. Congregants may still sign up for dedicated flower arrangements on Sundays, beginning on Easter Sunday.

Please contact Trish Millon via cell: 908-319-5061 or email: trishbrad00@aol.com to place an order and arrange dedication. Orders should be placed two weeks or more prior to the service date which you would like the dedication to appear in the bulletin.



GREENWICH NURSERY SCHOOL will be enrolling students for the 2021-2022 school year in the 2+, 3, and 4-5 year old programs starting in February. Please contact Diana Mallory at 908-479-6886 or email gnsdirector@gmail.com for information.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW plans to meet on **the third Tuesday of the month at 11:30 am** live in the Trinity Wing. We will not eat (or take off masks) until we've all been vaccinated. We will meet in the room behind the pastor's office and socially distance. We will be on Lesson Three in March: "Lamenting Together" of Into the Light, finding hope through prayers of lament by Lynn Miller. We will hear the introductory words on a DVD by the author, review the Psalm, look at the art from the lesson which contains a "carrier vessel" and teardrops, and listen to some "sad songs." Come join us for some in-person conversations!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY

Session passed the 2021 Budget which was reviewed at the Congregational Meeting 2/7.

IF YOU WERE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE ZOOM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING and would like a copy of the 2020 Committee Reports please call the office, it can be mailed out to you or you could pick one up.

Kathleen is IN the office on Wednesdays and available by email Monday-Thursdays 9-1.

- ◆ Session approved Treasurer, Lisa MacKinnon's, term of office for 2021. Kim Mrotek was voted for by the congregation at the Annual Meeting - Part II - 2/7 as Financial Secretary for 2021.
- ◆ Pledging members from 2020 overwhelmingly fulfilled their commitment to the church in 2020. Thanks! About sixty pledging units committed to 2021. There's still time to pledge-online at the church website for 2021 or call Elder Paul Stahlecker.
- ◆ Government PPP Loan had paperwork filed for it to become a grant.
- ◆ Manse updates were completed before Pastor Mary Beth and her family moved in.
- ◆ Gutters on the church were cleaned and guards will be installed.
- ◆ Souper Bowl Sunday "came back" to life this year.
- ◆ There's a drive for toiletries for international students at Lafayette College along with many other opportunities to help those in need.
- ◆ Thanks to OGPC volunteers who faithfully did "Meals on Wheels"- it has been discontinued; a new group has taken this over and is looking for volunteers.
- ◆ The membership rolls of this congregation will be reviewed shortly and those who haven't participated by attendance, shared ministry or donation in the last three years will be contacted about their intent to remain as members.
- ◆ Enhancing communications, which includes updated the church website, were discussed. A job description will be prepared and reviewed at the March Session meeting.
- ◆ The Pastor will be having her Sabbath day as Monday. Her IN office times are Tuesday morning and Wednesday-Friday afternoons. She's available on her cell phone for emergencies.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS PCUSA

“The Special Offerings are celebrations of specific ways God has been made known to us. Each is connected to a season of the church year and mandated by the General Assembly (ruling body of the denomination) to help the whole church join together in response to God’s grace. They represent the largest, collective way Presbyterians come together to work for a BETTER WORLD.”

One Great Hour of Sharing is the focus during Lent. It supports: HUNGER, DISASTER, DEVELOPMENT.

32% is for rebuilding hope through the PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

It works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation or human-caused disasters.

36% is for growing food security the PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

It takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

32% is partnering in progress the SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

It invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Watch for more information about this and how we will participate as a congregation. There is also online giving on PCUSA.org. I know this is a difficult year for many during this Covid time. May I suggest those of us who continue to work or have a pension that has kept our income stable TITHE 10% of your government Covid help check you received to One Great Hour of Sharing in thanksgiving!

SESSION LEADERSHIP AND THEIR ASSIGNMENTS:

Class of 2021

Melissa Hixon

Chair of Christian Education

Sharon Smith

Chair of Community Outreach

Dave Slack

Chair of Buildings & Grounds

Paul Stahlecker

Chair of Discipleship

Class of 2022

Lisa Gray

Clerk of Session

Don Hannis

Chair of Personnel, B & F, Endowment, Audit

Jennifer Miller

Chair of Worship, Music & Spirituality, Membership, Nominating

Lori Metz

Community Outreach, Endowment

Class of 2023

Ed Ahart

Chair of Budget & Finance, Endowment and Nominating

*Barb Frinzi

Chair of Congregational Life, Personnel

Tim Newbrough

Chair of Technology

*Jim Savacool

Buildings & Grounds; Audit

*NEW ON SESSION 2021

MARCH, 2021

	1 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	2 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	3	4	5 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	6
7 Communion Worship Svc. - 10 am Via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	8 AA Meeting 7:30 pm Deacon Meeting 7:30 pm via Zoom	5 Personnel 7 pm via Zoom AA Meeting 7:30 pm	10	11 Worsh., Music & Spirituality 7:30 pm Zoom	12 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	13
14 Worship Svc. - 10 am Via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	15 AA Meeting 7:30 pm Session Meeting 7:30 pm via Zoom	16 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	17	18	19 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	20
21 Worship Svc. - 10 am Via Facebook AA Meeting - 3 pm	22 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	23 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	24	25 April Breezeway articles due	26 ACOA Mtg. 6 pm	27
28 Palm Sunday Worship Svc. - 10 am Via Facebook Live AA Meeting - 3 pm	29 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	30 AA Meeting 7:30 pm	31			

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Dated Material

Address Service Requested

The Breezeway



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