First Presbyterian Church of Dryden

Established 1808

Sunday, January 7, 2024



We proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and love our neighbors as ourselves.

6 North Street / PO Box 42, Dryden, NY 13053 607-844-8321 drydenpresoffice@gmail.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

GATHERING TOGETHER

Welcome & Announcements

Choral Introit "As with Gladness Men of Old," vv. 1, 4

by William C. Dix & Conrad Kocher

Gathering Prayer

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD

♣ Call to Worship from Isaiah 2:3, 5 [nld]

Call: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord.

Response: Let us gather in the house of our God.

Call: So that the Lord may teach us God's ways,

Response: and that we may walk in God's paths.

Call: Come, children of God, come,

Response: let us walk in the light of the Lord!

♣ Hymn of Praise "We Three Kings" #166

Liturgy – Words of the People

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon

"This is the message we have heard from the Lord and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all... if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:5)

Let us come in prayer before the Lord.

Loving Jesus, compassionate friend and gentle guide, you call us in all the seasons of life. In darkness and in light, in joy and in sorrow, you beckon us to follow you. Yet we hold back. We question how we know your voice, we make excuses of things we have to do or skills we lack. We look for the grand task, and you give us the common work of loving and caring for those near at hand. We look for recognition, and you want others to see you more. Loving Jesus, gentle friend and compassionate teacher, take us by the hand and lead us into your future, assured of your presence and encouragement.

Beloved of God, the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. It cannot be contained but must be poured out. Nothing you have done, nothing you will ever do is enough to separate you from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:38-39) I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven, and our lives are made new.

Thanks be to God who gives us mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome Friends at Home

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People

HEARING THE WORD

Children's Message Hide and Go Seek

Children (PreK-5th grade) are invited to Kids' Club for age-appropriate lessons.

Choral "Anthem What Child Is This?"

By William Chatterton Dix, Traditional English Melody, arr. Philip Kern

Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-15 NT p. 2

Message To See: Seek - Faith beyond Fear

RESPONDING TO THE LORD

Song of Response "Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord" #395

Giving our Gifts

♦ Doxology "Old Hundredth" # 625

♣ Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

SENDING WITH THE SPIRIT

♣ Closing Hymn "Higher Ground" #399

₱ Blessing

♣ Choral Benediction "Saw You Never, in the Twilight," vv. 1, 3
by Cecil

Frances Alexander 15th Century French Melody

₽ Postlude

♣ All are invited to stand as they are able.

Welcome to our Church!

Thank you for worshiping with us.

If you are a visitor, we invite you to fill out a Welcome Card, which you will find in the pew rack. You can place the card in the offering plate.

Let us know if we can assist you.

Sunday Servants

Ushering:Gale ConwayAV System:Tim & Dave ParsonsOrganist:Michael SingbuschFlowers:Flower CommitteePreacherNancy DidwayKids Church:Sue Barry

All for the glory of God.

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Credits

Gathering Prayer by Lavon Bayler, *Gathered by Love*. Prayer of Confession and Prayers of the People adapted from Homiletics Online. Assurance of Pardon and Prayer for Illumination from *Feasting on the Word -Worship Companion*.

Bulletin

This week's happenings

Sun. Jan. 7 10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal

11:30 a.m. Joint Committee Meeting

3:00 p.m. Cantata

Mon. Jan. 8 11:00 a.m. Kitchen Cupboard

Tue. Jan. 9 Annual Reports due

10:00-noon Quilters

11:00 a.m. Revelation Study

Wed. Jan. 10 Bulletin Deadline

5:00 p.m. Kitchen Cupboard

Thu. Jan 11 Session Reports due

Fri. Jan. 12 11:00 a.m. Kitchen Cupboard

Sun. Jan. 13 9:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Worship/Epiphany/Installation

11:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal



Christmas Cantata

Dryden Presbyterian & United Methodist Churches

Today at 3:00



Prayer and Praise

Many have been affected by COVID and other viruses in the community lately. We rejoice with those who have recovered and ask for God's protection and healing for those who are still recovering.

Let us continue to pray for peace and safety for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and for our good and gracious Lord to change the hearts and minds of Hamas, Hezbollah and other terrorist groups.

Please also pray for continued safety for **Aleeza Bravershteyn**, who is spending her birthright year in Jerusalem.

Continued prayers are asked for **Cindy Price**, **Jessica's Aunt Kim, Sarah Kulas** and **Rhonda Haftman**, all in treatment for cancer.

Please keep **Dave Gross** in your prayers as he continues to battle long term health issues.

If you would like to list a prayer request, please contact the church office at 607-844-8321 or drydenpresoffice@gmail.com

We Three Kings

Verse 1:

We three kings of Orient are:

Bearing gifts we traverse afar —

Field and fountain, moor and mountain —

Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light.

Verse 2:

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain: Gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never Over us all to reign.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Frankincense to offer have I: Incense owns a Deity nigh; Prayer and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God on high.

Refrain

Verse 4:

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom –
Sorr'wing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

Verse 5:

Glorious now behold Him arise: King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heav'n replies.

Refrain

Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord

Verse 1:

Teach me Thy way, O Lord,
Teach me Thy way!
Thy guiding grace afford —
Teach me Thy way!
Help me to walk aright,
More by faith, less by sight;
Lead me with heav'nly light,
Teach me Thy way!

Verse 2:

When I am sad at heart, Teach me Thy way! When earthly joys depart, Teach me Thy way! In hours of loneliness, In times of dire distress, In failure or success, Teach me Thy way!

Verse 3:

When doubts and fears arise,
Teach me Thy way!
When storms o'erspread the skies,
Teach me Thy way!
Shine thro' the cloud and rain,
Thro' sorrow, toil and pain;
Make Thou my pathway plain,
Teach me Thy way!

Verse 4:

Long as my life shall last,
Teach me Thy way!
Where'er my lot be cast,
Teach me Thy way!
Until the race is run,
Until the journey's done,
Until the crown is won,
Teach me Thy way!
Amen.

Text and Music: Camacha, B. Mansell Ramsey

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken

Music: Old Hundredth, Genevan Psalter, 1551; attributed to Louis Bourgeois

Higher Ground

Verse 1:

I'm pressing on the upward way, New heights I'm gaining ev'ry day – Still praying as I'm onward bound, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

Refrain:

Lord, lift me up and let me stand By faith on heaven's tableland; A higher plane than I have found – Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.

Verse 2:

My heart has no desire to stay Where doubts arise and fears dismay; Tho some may dwell where these abound, My pray'r, my aim, is higher ground.

Refrain

Verse 3:

I want to live above the world, Tho Satan's darts at me are hurled; For faith has caught the joyful sound, The song of saints on higher ground.

Verse 4:

I want to scale the utmost height And catch a gleam of glory bright; But still I'll pray till heav'n I've found, "Lord, lead me on to higher ground."

Text: Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Music: Higher Ground, Charles H. Gabriel