

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GREENLAWN



**Celebration of Worship
January 5, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.
Celebration of The Epiphany**

**Meeting ID: 813 0261 1379
Passcode: 039859**

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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL Dan Charnews /Tyler Hago/ Glenn Jahier

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted from Isaiah 60:1-6)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

***For darkness shall cover the Earth,
but the Lord will arise upon you.***

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

***Then you shall see and be radiant.
Your heart shall thrill and rejoice.***

A multitude of camels shall cover you.
All those from Sheba shall come.

***They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.***

*HYMN # 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold.
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright.
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.*

*As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before Him whom Heaven and Earth adore.
So may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.*

*As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our Heavenly King.*

*Holy Jesus, every day, keep us in the narrow way.
And, when Earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.*

*Those who are willing and able are invited to stand.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretention and exclusion. How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down on others who differ from us. It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own. We judge the poor and join their oppressors, while You call us to identify with those in need, that all may prosper together. We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of Your grace, while You welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our earthbound judgments, that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to Yourself. Awed by Your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship You. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 68 (verse 1)

*What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn King, glad tidings of our God to bring.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 68 (verse 2)

*'Tis now fulfilled, that God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed."
And lo! The Eastern sages stand to read in Heaven the Lord's command.*

INVITATION TO OFFERING

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 68 (verse 3)

*O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek Your face.
Let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of Your light to use.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the joy of giving, we offer the products of our labor for the ministry of this church, in outreach to the world. With concern for those who are poor, oppressed, and needy, we rededicate ourselves as helpers and advocates. Out of devotion to Christ, we commit our best, that the church may bear witness among the principalities and powers of this world. Help us all, O God, to be faithful stewards. Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6
Matthew 2:1-12

HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Van Cleef

“What You May Not Have Known about the Wise Men”

COMMUNION HYMN

HOLY MANNA

All Who Hunger; Gather Gladly

*All who hunger, gather gladly, holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

*All who hunger, sing together: Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God, we thank You that when the star in the sky is gone, the kings and princes are home, the shepherds are back with their flocks, and we are tempted to pack the story away. This very Bread and Cup gives us the hope and courage to begin the true work of Christmas. Help us to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, and to bring peace among all. Amen.

*HYMN # 66

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

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

*Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.*

*Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshiping God Most High.*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the Earth and skies.*

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

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *Give Thanks*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.*

*And now let the weak say "I am strong."
Let the poor say "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. Give thanks.*

POSTLUDE

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Session Meeting Sunday, January 12

The Session will hold an in-person luncheon meeting on Sunday, January 12, from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Session members are asked to clear their calendars for this important meeting.

Annual Reports

It's time to start thinking about Annual Reports. If you are responsible for submitting an Annual Report, please submit it by January 19. Reports should be submitted in Word format and e-mailed to: pastorannsutton@yahoo.com.

God's Creation Calendars

God's Creation 2025 Wall Calendars are still available at a bargain price of \$7. Please see Debbie Eitel.

Poinsettias

If you dedicated a poinsettia and forgot to take it home on Christmas Eve, please do so today.

The Little Food Pantry

Please remember our Little Food Pantry when you go shopping. We are encouraging folks to donate packaged foods, as canned food tends to explode in the freezing weather. Thank you.

Is God Calling You to Become a Church Officer?

There are three people whose terms are ending on Session this year, and we still have an unfilled spot in the Class of 2026. Please prayerfully consider becoming a Ruling Elder. There are eleven meetings per year, nine of them on Zoom. Susan Perrotta will be happy to give you more information.



You May Now Donate On Line

Simply put your cell phone into camera mode, hold it up to the funny little square thing (no need to take a photo), and the link to our church website will pop up. The “Donate” button is on the opening page.

STAFF

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Susan Perrotta, Recording Clerk

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Larry Foray
Susan Perrotta

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Marian Adams
Bill Becker
Gary Prentiss

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Arlissa Dean
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