

I met so many people yesterday who had a very sad look of resignation on their faces about Christmas. Some were homeless, some had known better days with a wife and family now far removed from them, and some had no family left at all. One man told me with sadness in his voice that his kids were grown and Christmas is just another day.

It reminded me of the year my parents weren't home for Christmas for the very first time in my life. I was an adult and married but the pain I felt was deep. My parents were growing old and I wondered if I had spent my last Christmas with them the year before. As I sat there in front of the Christmas tree alone that Christmas Eve, with a sense of overwhelming sadness, I heard the Holy Spirit speaking to me in my heart, and He told me that he had a very special gift he wanted to give me. My focus turned to the one whose birth had impacted the entire course of history and I began to offer words of thanksgiving and praise for His greatness and for all He had done in my life. Suddenly the atmosphere changed and the presence of the living Christ filled the room and filled my heart with joy. I realized at that moment that though there will always be a sadness this time of year from memories of family now gone, that there could always be a Christmas if my focus remained on the Christ of Christmas and no one could ever take that away. What an amazing gift!

I so long to share the reality of this Prince of Peace with those who have no peace this Christmas time, and when they hear the words of "Joy to the World the Lord IS Come" they will understand what that means.. the Son of God becoming flesh so that we might have our sins forgiven, and be reconciled to the Father, and be able to see life through his eyes as he empowers us to make the right choices; and to experience that unspeakable joy that nothing in this world has to offer. So as you celebrate Christmas this week with family, friends or by yourself, remember Who it is you're celebrating and may your ultimate joy come from knowing the Christ of Christmas.

—Kathleen Berg Spencer
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 DECEMBER 26, 2021
 CHRISTMASTIDE

Grace to you and peace from God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome friends! May the good tidings of great joy resonate with us as we share our hearts with God and our friendship with one another.

Announcements

- **January 2** - Communion Sunday
- **January 6** - Epiphany
- **January 9** - Epiphany Sunday
- **January 23** - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Call To Worship

At sundry times and in diverse manners God spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

But he has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name; for to us has come a saviour, Christ the new born king..

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of .Israel.

Let your praise of God sound to the heavens!

We shout the good news of God's mighty love!

Let all the stars, the sun, the moon sing praise to God!

All that God created sings His praise!

Praise the Lord!

Hallelujah! AMEN.

God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.—BCP

SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Cobleskill 4:00 p.m.— WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Requests

- **This** week we are praying especially for our sister church in Massena, NY. Timothy Montgomery is the pastor.
- Pray for **comfort** and healing for the Mills family members who are mourning the death last Sunday of David Mills.
- **Pray** for our nation during this uncertain time. **Pray** for the pulling down of the strongholds of evil in our land. (II Corinthians 10:4)
- **Pray** for the persecuted church, and Christians in danger all over the world.
- **Continue** to pray for:
 - Special requests for those on our hearts, especially Byron S., Ethan, Rowan S., Bernie, and Steven H.
 - The village of **Middleburgh**, that we will reach people with hungry hearts and have fruitful results in our ministry.
 - **Missionaries:** Nichole Barr, the Davises, the Easleys, B. Fay. the Himelicks, the Millses, R. Moulton, the Samborskis, Jack Sherman, Judy Sherman, and the T. Shermans.
 - **Bible Colleges** - GBSC, PVBI, AWC, UBC, HSBC
 - **Safety** and protection for our Armed Forces.
 - **Our President, Congress, and Supreme Court**, that they may make righteous choices.
- **Pray** for these physical need requests:
 - Barry E., Mary Braun (Victory Trio), Pastor Gary Mills, Betty Case, Tiffany Colton, Kendall Straight, Paul Easley, Stephen Cassady, Janet Albertson, Joanna Howell, Rollin Mitchell, Lois Schenck.
- **Online** and phone requests:
 - Jennifer Howell, Cliff
- **From** Early Woodland:
 - Doris, Joanne, Pat, Maureen, Betty R., Ronald

Suggested Daily Scripture Reading

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
OT	Zechariah 9:1-17	Zechariah 10:1-11:17	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Zechariah 14:1-21
NT	Revelation 17:1-18	Revelation 18:1-24	Revelation 19:1-21	Revelation 20:1-15
PSA	Psalm 145:1-21	Psalm 146:1-10	Psalm 147:1-20	Psalm 148:1-14
PROV	Proverbs 30:32	Proverbs 30:33	Proverbs 31:1-7	Proverbs 31:8-9
	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Malachi 1:1-2:17	Malachi 3:1-4:6	Genesis 1:1-2:25	Genesis 3:1-4:26
	Revelation 21:1-27	Revelation 22:1-21	Matthew 1:1-2:12	Matthew 2:13-3:6
	Psalm 149:1-9	Psalm 150:1-6	Psalm 1:1-6	Psalm 2:1-12
	Proverbs 31:10-24	Proverbs 31:25-31	Proverbs 1:1-6	Proverbs 1:7-9

Congratulations on reading the Bible all the way through this year!

Angels, from the Realms of Glory 31

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

REGENT SQUARE

Henry Smart, 1813-1879

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your sight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
 Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen his na - tal star:
 Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear:

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Worship Christ, the new - born King. A - MEN.

29 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

ST. LOUIS

Lewis H. Redon, 1851-1908

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gathered all a - bove, While mortals sleep, the
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The wondrous gift is given! So God im - parts to
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and

dreamless sleep The si - lent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth The ev - er -
 an - gels keep Their watch of wonder - ing love. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Proclaim the
 human hearts The mess - ges of His heav - en, No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day. We hear the Christmas an - gels The great glad

last - ing Light; The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 ho - ly birth! And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth,
 world of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, The dear Christ enters in.
 ti - dings tell; O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el. A - MEN.