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 Used by permission



Pilgrim Holiness Church, Rt. 145, Middleburgh, New York Richard W. Owens, Pastor Telephone 518-827-5241 www.nyphc.org www.facebook.com/nyphc 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

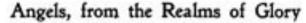
SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Cobleskill 4:00 p.m.— WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 p.m.

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 NT PSA PROV	Zechariah 9:1-17 Revelation 17:1-1 Psalm 145:1-21 Proverbs 30:32	Zechariah 10:1-11: 8 Revelation 18:1-24 Psalm 146:1-10 Proverbs 30:33		Zechariah 14:1-21 Revelation 20:1-15 Psalm 148:1-14 Proverbs 31:8-9
Th	nursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Reve Psaln	chi 1:1-2:17 lation 21:1-27 n 149:1-9 erbs 31:10-24	Malachi 3:1-4:6 Revelation 22:1-21 Psalm 150:1-6 Proverbs 31:25-31	Genesis 1:1-2:25 Matthew 1:1-2:12 Psalm 1:1-6 Proverbs 1:1-6	Genesis 3:1-4:26 Matthew 2:13-3:6 Psalm 2:1-12 Proverbs 1:7-9



O Little Town of Bethlehem

