

Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we contemplate the great joy of the coming of Christ, may we remember that it is the most personal way God could express his love for us. He delivered his message of love through the loving Christ. Let us express our love with sincerity of heart and offer a warm welcome to all.

CALL TO WORSHIP

PASTOR: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

CONGREGATION: *The same was in the beginning with God.*

PASTOR: All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made

CONGREGATION: *In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

PASTOR: And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

CONGREGATION: *That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

PASTOR: He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

PASTOR AND CONGREGATION: *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

John 1:1-5; 9-12

A basket has been provided for Christmas cards to members of our church family. We suggest that the money you save on postage be donated to missions or another worthy project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Remember to contribute to the missionaries' Christmas gift fund (in the collection box).*
- The Rev. Robert Symons will be speaking in our service this morning.
- **TONIGHT - 7:00 PM** - Christmas Musical - *An Alfred Burt Carol Festival*
- **December 23** - No service
- **December 25 - Christmas** - 7:00 PM - Candlelight Service
- **January 3, 2009** - Communion
- **January 15-17** - Midwinter Youth Convention
- **January 24** - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- Our sister church to pray for this week is **Lake Placid**. The pastor is William Saxton.
- Pray for **comfort** and healing for the Heckman family members who are mourning the death Thursday evening of Paul Heckman.
- Pray for **revival** in our church and community.
- Recent requests from the Cobleskill church include **Alice, Stanley, Louise, Lorraine, Bill, Jean, Caroline, Ann, Ruth, Ralph, Todd, Sharon, and Laverne**.
- Pray for:
 - Conference President Case's daughter **Patty Shaffer & family, Ed and Rosemary Snyder**, and the **Mincers** and the **Bowmans**, coping with fire losses.
 - The **Ford family**.
 - Neighbors, relatives and friends for whom prayer has been requested, including Julia, Butch, Barb, Wayne, and Tim.
 - Our **young people**.
 - The renovation of our church building.
 - Conference President Case and the Council.
 - Our armed services personnel.
 - Our President, Congress, and Supreme Court, that they may make righteous choices.
- Recent requests for physical needs:
 - **Patricia Case** (Conference Prseident's wife - tracheal brochitis, asthma), **Kathy Dendler, Ida Hunt, Mitch Haverly**
- Continue to pray for:
 - **Dean Hughes , Dave, Andrew , Gwendolyn Lecates, Earl Bickford, Marie Rooney, Susan Ford, Kathy Moltzen, Duane Maxey**

SERVICES — SUNDAY: Sunday School 8:45 AM Morning Worship 9:30 AM, Cobleskill 4:00 PM, Evening 7:00 PM — WEDNESDAY: Midweek Service 7:00 PM

Keeping Christmas

How can we best keep Christmas?

By sinking the shafts of our spirits deep beneath the sparkling tinsel of the surface of Christmas and renewing within us the radiance of the inner meaning of the season.

By following the Star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to stand again in awe and wonder before the babe in a manger.

By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.

By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.

By reaffirming the supremacy of the spirit in man's conquest of himself.

By rededicating ourselves to the Master's ideals of peace, brotherhood and good will....

By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy and devotion.

— Wilferd Peter

Dear Lord, in this holy Christmas season may we draw nearer to you. How wise you were to reveal yourself in the presence of a little baby, the Christ child. You demonstrated the power and the depth of your love for each of us. Thank you for showing us that Christmas begins in the heart, and for the love that it teaches. Help us now to keep the light of the Christmas message burning brightly all year through. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

-Norman Vincent Peale

Suggested Daily Scripture Reading

	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
OT	Haggai 1:1-2:23	Zechariah 1:1-21	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Zechariah 4:1-5:11
NT	Revelation 11:1-19	Revelation 12:1-17	Revelation 13:1-13:18	Revelation 14:1-20
PSA	Psalms 139:1-24	Psalms 140:1-13	Psalms 141:1-10	Psalms 142:1-7
PROV	Proverbs 20	Proverbs 21	Proverbs 22	Proverbs 23
	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	
	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Zechariah 8:1-23	Zechariah 9:1-17	
	Revelation 15:1-8	Revelation 16:1-21	Revelation 17:1-18	
	Psalms 143:1-12	Psalms 144:1-15	Psalms 145:1-21	
	Proverbs 24	Proverbs 25	Proverbs 26	