

Large Print Bulletins are available in the back of the Sanctuary

Denmark Manor United Church of Christ

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Rev. Meredith Ann Hutchison.....	Pastor
Kelly Millar.....	Choir Director
Irina Thomas.....	Organist
Rheba Salac.....	Administrative Assistant
Wade Anderson.....	Sexton
The Congregation.....	Disciples of Christ
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Second Sunday after Christmas	January 4, 2015

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during the Worship Service. Thank you.

Preparation Music

(Please be seated and prepare yourself for worship)

The Entrance of the Light

Welcome

Moments of Concerns and Announcements

*Ringing of the Bell

Gathering Music-Please stand and join the choir in singing:

All: Christ is the light, Christ is the light.

Goodbye to darkness, goodbye to night.

In the Eastern sky the stars are shining bright,

Oh, glory hallelujah children, Christ is the light. (repeat)

Call to Worship

Pastor: The prophet announces:

People: All of you will return to God, a great company of saints processing!
(continued next page)

Pastor: The people reply:

People: We praise the Lord, for we are God's people!

Pastor: God restores what has been broken:

People: Communities destroyed by conflict,

Pastor: Trust betrayed by broken promises,

People: Families torn apart by war.

Pastor: The prophet has spoken, and the people respond:

People: We praise the Lord, for we are God's people!

***Hymn: "Joy to the World!"**

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King:

Let every heart prepare him room,

And Heaven and nature sing. (Repeat)

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:

Let us our songs employ;

While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy. (Repeat)

3. He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness

And wonders of his love. (Repeat)

***Call to Reconciliation (Remain Standing)**

***Confession of Sin**

All: God, your true light has come into the world, blessing all upon whom it shines. Hope, peace, joy and love are ours through the Incarnate Word. And yet we languish, O God. We do not dance your praises; we do not join in merry laughter or holy pleasures. Our mourning is like ash in our mouths, and sorrow chokes the words of delight we wish to profess. There is no peace in our hearts. We do not see the promises of the prophets fulfilled. Open us to the blessings that surround us, that we may again be moved to praise you, God of blinding light and gentle power.

Silent Confession

*Kyrie # 750

**All: Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.**

*Words of Assurance:

Pastor: *God's might is inscrutably contained in the vessel of a human baby, and God's grace is unleashed upon a weary, broken world. You, too, are vessels of God's spirit, recipients of God's grace and partners in Christ's reconciling work. Be at peace; in Christ you are made whole once more.*

People: **Alleluia and amen!**

*Act of Praise..... #760

**All: Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)
Amen we praise your name, O God! (Sing Amen)
Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!
Amen we praise your name, O God!**

*The Passing of the Peace

Pastor: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

All: And also with you.

Please share a greeting of Christian love with those sitting around you.

Children's Time: "The Wisemen"

(Children in Kindergarten and younger may go to the nursery)

Anthem: "Go With the Wisemen"

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-18

Sermon: "The Word Became Flesh"

*Hymn "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (Please Stand)

**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.**

(continued next page)

**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)

**3. Frankincense to offer have I,
Incense owns a deity nigh
Prayer and praising, all are raising,
Worship him, God on high.**

(Refrain)

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

(Refrain)

**5. Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies.**

(Refrain)

Our Morning Prayers

The Candle of Remembrance is lit in honor of USA Veteran Dennis J. Kleyn, and as a prayer for all military personnel and first responders, especially those in harm's way.

Call to Prayer "Pray"

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our world_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for peace within our souls_____.

Pray___, pray___, pray___ for love and unity_____;

Quiet our busy hearts

Pray___, pray___, pray___ .

Pray___, pray___, pray___

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer,
Prayer of Our Savior (sung)

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,

and the power and the glory forever. Amen

Our Time of Sharing

Invitation to the Offering, The Sharing of Gifts

Offering Music

*Offertory Response "We Are Giving in the Light of God" (526)

All: We are giving in the light of God,

We are giving in the light of God (Repeat previous 2 lines)

We are giving, giving, we are giving, Oo,

We are giving in the light of God (Repeat previous 2 lines)

Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (Children are welcome to receive Communion at the discretion of their parents. Gluten free wafers are found in the center of the plates of bread.)

The Invitation

The Communion Prayer

All: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and *(continued)*

that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

***Hymn: #148 "What Child Is This?"**

*The Benediction

***Benediction Response #136**

All: "Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child"

*Postlude

Pastor Meredith and her brother Bill wish to express their thanks for the kind words and acts of sympathy upon the passing of her brother Bob who entered into eternal life on December 23, 2014.

Did you know that today we are receiving the all-church offering for "The Christmas Fund/Veterans of the Cross"? **Have you had a pastor who has had an impact on your life? Honor him or her with this offering that goes to help clergy and lay ministers in their time of need.** The gifts provided by UCC Congregations enable the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide assistance for hundreds of lower-income retired clergy/lay employees. In 2013, pension supplementation totaled \$1,342,000 and quarterly health premium supplementation helped 239 retired employees. Christmas "Thank You" checks went to 543 retired UCC clergy/church employees. Emergency Grants were given to 65 active or retired UCC clergy/lay employees.

This week:

Today-Annual reports are due. Electronic versions are preferred, but not necessary.

Monday-Consistory 7:00PM

Thursday-ROC AND Worship Team 6:00PM

Looking ahead: The annual meeting of the congregation is January 25.

Offering for December 24: \$3,295.00

Attendance for December 28: 55

Offering for December 28: \$1,696.00

Christmas Fund: \$145.00

Brooke McLarty, daughter of Mark and Melissa McLarty and granddaughter of Alan and Claudia McLarty, entered into eternal life on December 28.

Today begins our celebration of Epiphany which in some cultures is the time for gift-giving. Throughout the month of January we will be collecting New Kitchen Items for the Blackburn Center. When women need a safe haven because of domestic violence, the Center is there. The Blackburn Center helps women to start over, and so these kitchen items are needed to set women up in a new home.

9x13" Baking pans	Hot dish pads	Flatware
Dish drainers	Dishpans	Toasters
Dishwasher detergent	Soap dispensers	Kitchen knives
Paper towels	Towel holders	Skillets, all sizes
Electric mixers	Knife sharpeners	Dish liquid
Coffee makers	Dishrags	Dish towels
Plastic wrap	Aluminum foil	Colanders

Kitchen tools: large spatulas, reg. & slotted spoons, etc.
Extensions cords & multi-plug outlets Laundry detergent
Large lidded kitchen trash cans
Can openers, manual & electric Tall kitchen trash bags
1 & 2-gal. Ziploc bags Small & large pots & pans
Sandwich & quart-size Ziploc bags Plastic containers, all sizes

GetGo & Sheetz Gas Cards WalMart & Giant Eagle Gift Cards

Canned soups, meats & tuna, condiments & spices, cake mixes, juices, packaged snacks for lunches, cereals, jelly, peanut butter.

From the Stillspeaking Devotional of the United Church of Christ

Bask

"See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them in person; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." - Revelation 21:1-6a

If you're like the rest of us, you will do, or have already done, the resolution thing for 2015. A couple I know spends every January 1st doing what they call "Healthy, Wealthy, and Wise." Together, they make one commitment that will help them be healthier, one that will help them to use their wealth in better and more faithful ways, and one that will educate them or otherwise improve their wisdom. It is a worthy way to spend the day.

Resolving to do things that will improve our lives and improve the world is certainly a good practice. But before you do it this year, allow me to make a suggestion. Take a few minutes and do this: Read through all of John's vision in chapters 21 and 22 of the Book of Revelation. Take time to imagine what the world will be like when this vision is fulfilled. Imagine what it will look like, what it will taste like, how you will feel. Bask in the goodness.

And then just before you begin resolving, remind yourself of this very important point: it is not your job to save the whole world; somebody else has already made that resolution, and that particular somebody is guaranteed to keep it.

Prayer

Lord, I thank you that you are God and I am not. Help me to trust that you are saving the world even as we speak, and give me the grace and the resolve to play my small part in it. Amen.

About the author . . . Quinn G. Caldwell is the Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, Syracuse, New York. His most recent book is a series of daily reflections for Advent and Christmas called All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas. Learn more about it and find him on Facebook at Quinn G. Caldwell.



“God is still speaking . . .”