

I WAS JUST THINKING . .

Dwight Gunter, writing in a book titled, Time, makes some interesting observations. Among them are these: “Christopher Columbus, discouraged one day, walked by a monastery. He was thirsty, so he went in for a drink of water. An old monk sat with him and listened to how he wanted to go on an expedition to find another land. Bad timing? When the story was over, Christopher Columbus went on, but the old monk was a personal friend of Queen Isabella, and he was the one who convinced her to finance Columbus’ expedition. Europe’s discovery of America started with a drink of water in a monastery.

“Abraham Lincoln was out in the back of his store one day, rummaging through an old barrel. As he finished, he reached down and felt a couple books in his hand. And he pulled them up and saw they were Blackstone’s Commentaries (works on English law). Something happened to Abraham Lincoln as he read those. He became a lawyer, and it totally changed his direction. He got into politics and became the President of the United States and healer of the wound of the Civil War. It all started with him rummaging in a barrel.

“John Calvin was going down to Italy. War broke out and the road he was going to take was blockaded, so he went to Geneva. Bad timing? His time in Geneva made a change in his life that has changed many lives since.

“George Whitfield was a bartender in England and couldn’t get along with his sister-in-law, who owned the bar, so he left. Bad timing? Out of that experience he turned to God, went to Oxford, became part of the Holy Club with John Wesley and helped change England (and America).

“What I’m saying is this: God’s timing is perfect and purposeful. We can trust Him and make the most of the opportunities He has given to us in His time.”

I hope you are in agreement with what Mr. Gunter has observed. On this Christmas Day as we consider again the coming of Christ it is inescapable that we should think about timing. The writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews puts it succinctly: “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.” Have a blessed Christmas!

*Pastors Moran and Roy wish to express a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the members of the congregation for their expressions of love and caring in the giving of cards, gifts, and goodies during this season of Christmas.*



Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church

December 25, 2016

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP A WEEKLY CELEBRATION OF THE RESURRECTION

Christmas Day

“Therefore my people will know My name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.” Isaiah 52:6

The Prelude

“He is Born, the Divine Christ-Child”

“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.” Psalm 37:7

(If you have a prayer request, please fill out a green prayer card and pass it to the center aisle as they will be collected during the first hymn and included during the prayer time)

WE WORSHIP IN PRAISE

The Call to Worship

*A Carol #97 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

WE WORSHIP IN PRAYER

*The Call to Confession

*The Unison Prayer of Confession

On this Christmas morning, we come to You, Father, confessing: the ways in which we have been caught up in the frenzied spirit of the holidays, and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace; the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires, that we have neglected the voices of Your children who cry out for justice; in our desire of making the season perfect, we have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of healing; in the times we have dismissed Christmas as a time only for children, and we have stubbornly closed our hearts to Your amazing gift of love.

Continued on next page

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word become flesh, our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray, Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

*The Assurance of Forgiveness

*Glorifying God **“We Will Glorify”**

*We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb.
We will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.*

The Joys, Concerns, and Prayers of God’s People

The Lord’s Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE WORSHIP IN GIVING

Our Invitation to Give

The Offertory

Dara Marner

“The Birthday of a King”

*Praising God #556 **“Praise God From Whom All Blessings”**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*The Prayer of Dedication

WE WORSHIP IN PROCLAMATION

*The Greeting *(Please share words of peace, encouragement, and hope)*

The Children’s Lesson and Prayer *(The children may come forward)
(There is **no** TLC or KFC this morning)*

*A Carol # 102 **“What Child is This?”**

The Scripture Lesson

(page 955)

Matthew 1:18-25

The Sermon

Pastor James M. Moran

“WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

GOING IN GOD’S NAME

*A Closing Carol #98 **“Good Christians All, Rejoice!”**

*The Benediction

The Postlude **“Come On, Ring Those Bells”**

**Please stand as you are able.*

* * *

Please keep these family members and friends in your prayers:

Jennifer Acata-Castro (Nancy MacFarlane/Kelly Stebor), Rick Alexander (Diane Alexander), Geneva Cable (Mindy Cable), Howard & Marietta Eklund (CCUPC members), Lillian Grundler (Dick Grundler), Ryan King (Cindy Miller), Sue Kirkland (Nancy MacFarlane/Kelly Stebor), Barry Lavery (Dale & Diane Jacobs), Kim Long (Nancy Hodges), Marissa (niece of Joe & Judy Webers son & daughter-in-law), Gary Miller (Tim & Nancy MacFarlane), Jim Miller (CCUPC member), Harriet Murray (Bill Murray), Peggy (Linda Schuman), Dr. Dan Peters (friend of Judy Weber), Karen Raman (CCUPC member), Refugees of Syria, Tim (Shirl Lonie), Samantha Travis (Pam Best), Ty (Mark Stebor), and Doug Zillweger (Pam Best).

The SYMPATHY of our congregation is extended to Marcia and Gary Miller on the death of Marcia’s mother, Anna Klemanski.

The vases of flowers are given by Dara Marner to the glory of God, and in loving memory of her parents, Herb and Audrey Passoth.

The luminaries were given by a family in our church to the glory of God, and in honor and thanks for Pastors Jim and Dena, our office staff, the Elders and Deacons, and all who serve our church in various capacities.

The Christmas Tree in the Greeting Area is given by a family in our church to the glory of God.

The Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary is given by Amy, Isaac, Natalie, and Sarah McKinley in sincere appreciation of the love and support they receive from their church family.

All lyrics are used by permission CCLI License No. 1070076.