**January 21, 2024**

**4th Sunday After Christmas**

**“** **Following Immediately”**

**A group of men in a boat

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Pastor Brendan Van Gorder**

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[**https://www.youtube.com/@crescentvilleunitedmethodi7688**](about:blank)

***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***4th Sunday After Christmas* January 21, 2024**

**Welcome and Prayer**

**Announcements**

*Please stand*

**Chorus of Welcome** *“The Family of God”*

I’m so glad I’m a part of the family of God—I’ve been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod; for I’m part of the family,

the family of God.

**Call To Worship:**  Psalm 62:5-12

L: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

**P: He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

L: On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

**P: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;**

**God is a refuge for us.**

**Opening Worship Song** *“I Have Decided To Follow Jesus”*

I have decided to follow Jesus; I have decided to follow Jesus;

I have decided to follow Jesus; No turning back, no turning back

(Mende) Kia beh ga gii lor – Ga toh lor gi maa Kia beh ga gii lor – Ga toh lor gi maa

Kia beh ga gii lor – Ga toh lor gi maa Ge Yaa Wotee Ge yaa Wotee

The world behind me, the cross before me; The world behind me, the cross before me;

The world behind me, the cross before me; No turning back, no turning back

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? Will you decide now to follow Jesus?

Will you decide now to follow Jesus? No turning back, no turning back

*\*\* Mende /ˈmɛndi/[3] (Mɛnde yia) is a major language of Sierra Leone, with some speakers in neighboring Liberia. It is spoken by the Mende people and by other ethnic groups as a regional lingua franca in southern Sierra Leone.*

**Opening Prayer**

**God thank you for always being there when I need you. When I take time to slow down, and wait on you, I feel you near. Jesus, help me to feel your presence this morning. Help me to hear you calling to follow you. Help me to leave the cares of my day, and set my eyes on you. Help me to be bold and courageous and go wherever you lead me. I love you God. In Jesus name, Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

**Youth Message**

**Joys & Concerns …………….*Gathered Prayer***

*Please stand*

***Singing of THE LORD'S PRAYER–***

*Our Father, which 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*

*Please Be Seated*

**Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory**  *“We Are An Offering” Please join in singing!*

*Please stand*

**The Doxology** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* #95

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 Offertory Prayer**

Dismissal of the Youth

**Hymn “**Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore” [vs 1,2,3] # 344

Lord, You have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;

You only asked me to follow humbly.

Refrain: O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name; now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me; by Your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons;

You will find there my nets and labor. (Refrain)

You need my hands, full of caring through my labors to give others rest,

and constant love that keeps on loving. (Refrain)

*Please be seated*

**Scripture Lesson** Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

**Sermon** *“Following Immediately”*

*Please stand*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven,

and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Closing Hymn**  “*Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult”* [vs 1,2,4] # 398

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;

day by day His sweet voice soundeth, saying "Christian, follow me."

As, of old, the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,

turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus sake.

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,

still He calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these."

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** *“Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult”* [vs 5] # 398

*Jesus calls us; by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear Thy call,*

*give our hearts to Thine obedience, serve and love Thee best of all.*



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**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Reading the bible enables us to combat Satan. The Bible is the sword of the Spirit, used to combat Satan in spiritual warfare.

**Sunday, January 28**

Mark 1:21–28 - Deuteronomy 18:15–20 - Psalm 111

- 1 Corinthians 8:1–13



**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call the church and leave a message. (215) 745-7115.***

When we go to God in prayers, we do so in spirit, and this helps us grow and strengthen our spirit-man. Our prayer and spiritual life grow as we pray for others, which stimulates our evangelical nature for ministering to others.

**Prayer Requests from January 14th**

Allyson is requesting traveling mercies for herself and her family.

Cocoa’s requests prayers for her father, Ron Smith

Prayers for the Sprigg family as their daughter had a miscarriage, and the family is already grieving the loss of a grandchild.

Prayers for Dale Keyser and his wife Marilyn. Dale has been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor.

Prayers for a friend that has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Thanks for prayers for Zilpha, she is feeling better.

Traveling mercies for Sonja and Zilpha as they travel home for a visit.

Joy - This morning a group from the "We Love You Foundation" was cleaning up Sonja's neighborhood

Prayers for Flossie who is on life support

Mike Pacillio & Marion, Mike is in the hospital with pneumonia, Afib, & dehydrated.

Maureen Mc Crimmon has the flu

Mary Cubbage has Covid

Bianca Cruz

MaJennah Jean thanks God for keeping her safe through a car accident.

Prayers for Jahcuries school pastors.

Prayers for Alana as she is in a Salsa dance competition in Florida.

Majorie asks for prayers for her school class.

Prayers for Eva Baumgartel to feel better.

Prayers for Carol Evans to feel better.

Prayers for Haiti and Jean's family

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Eva Baumgartel Dorothy Buzzard Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer

Cass Quigley Marva Dale and Marilyn Keyser

**For families, especially:**

Betty Sauerwald & family The Stefanescu & Mc Manus Families Jiselle & Family

Zilpha and James Browne Jean Bernard and family The Spotts Family

Pastor Brendan Van Gorder & family

**For an end to violence, for peace and stability**

Philadelphia, especially our community - Sierra Leone, Africa

Haiti - Israel and Hamas - Ukraine and Russia

**Please praise and pray for our youth – they are the future of our church!**

**IN CASE OF SNOW………….**

***If the weather outside is frightful,***

***zoom will be delightful!***

When snow or poor travel conditions are in the forecast,

and it will affect travel on a Sunday, Pastor Brendan

will make the decision to go to Zoom instead of

worshipping in our sanctuary.

Zoom worship will begin at 10:30 AM.

As soon as the decision to go to zoom is made, you will receive a text,

an email, or a phone call. It will also be noted on our websites.

You will be given a link to join worship on zoom.

It will be your responsibility to check for these messages.

You may also call Sue Creevey at 267-847-6029

These directions also include any gatherings

scheduled to be held at the church.



After worship today there will be a brief Women’s Fellowship meeting. All women are invited to attend.

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**