*Jesus placed a little child “AMONG the Twelve.” In this action, Jesus is making a powerful statement about the importance of children. To be AMONG is to be A Part of something, not APART from something. Thanks be to God for the children; especially when they are in our midst! – Pastor Randy*

***Crescentville & Frankford Memorial United Methodist Churches***

**17th Sunday After Pentecost September 19, 2021**

**Welcome**

 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** *James 3*

 *……the wisdom from above is pure first of all; it is also peaceful, gentle, and friendly;*

 *it is full of compassion and produces a harvest of good deeds;*

 *it is free from prejudice and hypocrisy.*

 *And goodness is the harvest that is produced from the seeds the peacemakers plant in peace.*

 **Opening Hymn** *“Children of the Heavenly Father”* # 141

Children of the heavenly Father safely in his bosom gather;

nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish; in his holy courts they flourish;
from all evil things he spares them; in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Merciful Lord, Comforter and Teacher of Your faithful people: Increase in us our desire for You;**

 **confirm the hearts of those who hope in You; help us to understand the depth of Your promises,**

 **that we may behold by faith what has not yet been revealed; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Joys & Concerns………………….……..*Gathered Prayer…………………………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 trespasses and debts as we forgive our debtors and those who trespass**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.*

Gifts and Offerings 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**

 **Hymn** *“Jesus Loves Me”* # 191

 Jesus loves me!

 This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.

 *Refrain:* Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

 Jesus loves me!

 This I know, as He loved so long ago, taking children on His knee, saying “Let them come to Me.” *Refrain*

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Mark 9:30-37*

 From there Jesus and his followers went through Galilee, but he didn’t want anyone to know it.

 **31**This was because he was teaching his disciples, “The Human One will be delivered into human hands.

 They will kill him. Three days after he is killed he will rise up.”

 **32**But they didn’t understand this kind of talk, and they were afraid to ask him.

 **33**They entered Capernaum. When they had come into a house, he asked them,

 “What were you arguing about during the journey?” **34**They didn’t respond, since on the way

 they had been debating with each other about who was the greatest. **35**He sat down,

 called the Twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be least of all

 and the servant of all.” **36**Jesus reached for a little child, placed him among the Twelve,

 and embraced him. Then he said, **37**“Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name

 welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me isn’t actually welcoming me but rather the one who sent me.”

 **Sermon** *“Among”*

 **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.

**Service of Holy Communion**

The Lord be with you…………………...….**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts……………………...…..**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God…....**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

...And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

 **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAVEN**

 **AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY, HOSANNA IN THE**

 **HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE**

 **LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.**

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

 we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,

 in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

 **CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST IS RISEN, CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN.**

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

 all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

*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 trespasses and debts as we forgive our debtors and those who*

 *trespass**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.*

*BREAKING THE BREAD………………………………….GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

 **Compassionate God, You have taught us through Your Son**

 **that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we would love You with our whole heart**

 **and our neighbors as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn**  *“We Are the Church”* [VS. 1-2, 4]# 558

 *Refrain:* I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

 All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we’re the church together!

 The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple

 the church is not a resting place, the church is a people. *Refrain*

 We’re many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,

 all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places. *Refrain*

 And when the people gather, there’s singing and there’s praying,

 there’s laughing and there’s crying sometimes, all of it saying: *Refrain*

**Benediction**

***Quiet Meditation, Reflection, and Prayer***

**Choral Benediction**   *“Jesus Loves Me”* # 191

 Jesus loves me still today,

 walking with me on my way, wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

 Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

**Lectionary Readings for Sunday September 26th**

The Bible isn't just a book of pages and passages to be memorized. The Bible is much more alive, much more useful and practical than you may think. To leave it on the shelf is to miss out on an opportunity for a fuller, more satisfying, joyful life.

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Mark 9:38-50 - Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Psalm 124 - James 5:13-20