**April 28, 2024**

**5TH Sunday of Easter**

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Pastor Brendan Van Gorder**

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***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***5th Sunday of Easter April 28, 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 1 John 15:1-8**

L: So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

**P: Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world.**

L: There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

**P: We love because he first loved us.**

**Opening Worship Song**  *“Soon & Very Soon”*  # 706

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,

No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,

No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we are goin' to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,

we’re are goin' to see the King!

Hallelujah, Hallelujah,

we’re are goin' to see the King!

**Opening Prayer**

**Lord Jesus, help us to cast our burdens on you. Help us to understand how to lighten our load just by getting in your presence again. Help us not to carry things that you never meant us to carry. Keep us aware of how small and connected we are to you. Jesus, we declare that your power and love is replacing the fear and doubt in our lives. Come now Holy Spirit. Transform us and help us to rest in you. In Jesus name, Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

**Youth Message**

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

***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*

**Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory**  *“Freely, Freely” Please join in singing!*

*Please stand*

**The Doxology** *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”* # 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**The Offertory Prayer**

Dismissal of the Youth

**Hymn**

We’ve a story to tell to the nations,

That shall turn their hearts to the right,

A story of truth and mercy,

A story of peace and light,

A story of peace and light.

Refrain: For the darkness shall turn to dawning,

And the dawning to noonday bright;

And Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth,

The kingdom of love and light.

We’ve a song to be sung to the nations,

That shall lift their hearts to the Lord,

A song that shall conquer evil

And shatter the spear and sword,

And shatter the spear and sword. (Refrain)

We’ve a message to give to the nations,

That the Lord who reigns up above

Has sent us His Son to save us

And show us that God is love,

And show us that God is love. (Refrain)

We’ve a Savior to show to the nations,

Who the path of sorrow has trod,

That all of the world’s great peoples

Might come to the truth of God,

Might come to the truth of God. (Refrain)

*Please be seated*

**Scripture Lesson** Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Sermon** *“A Holy Encounter”*

*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** “*Go Make of All Disciples”* Verses 1,2,3 # 571

“Go make of all disciples.” We hear the call, O Lord,

that comes from Thee, our Father, and Thy eternal Word.

Inspire our ways of learning through earnest, fervent prayer,

and let our daily living reveal Thee everywhere.

“Go make of all disciples.” Baptizing in the name

of Father Son and Spirit, from age to age the same

We call each new disciple To follow Thee O Lord,

Redeeming soul and body by water and the Word

“Go make of all disciples.” We at Thy feet would stay

until each life’s vocation accents Thy holy way.

We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart,

revealing in our witness the Master Teacher’s art.

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** “*Go Make of All Disciples”* Verse 4 # 571

“Go make of all disciples.” We welcome Thy command.

“Lo, I am with you always,” we take Thy guiding hand.

The task looms large before us; we follow without fear;

in heaven and earth Thy power shall bring God’s kingdom here.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Have you ever felt dissatisfied or discontent? The Bible helps us to grow in our knowledge of Jesus Christ so that the cravings of our soul may be satisfied.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 5, 2024**

John 15:9-17 - Acts 10:44-48 - Psalm 98 - 1 John 5:1-6

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**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy, *please call Sue Creevey 267-847-6029***

There are many people in our lives who need prayer. At times their needs are clear. Other times we may not know what to pray. Either way, when we pray for others, we join God in His work in their lives.

**Prayer Requests from April 21st**

Jason's friend, Devon,whom we have been praying for as he was treated for cancer, died. Prayers for Devon's family & friends.

Traveling mercies for Enid as she travels again this week for work, and for Marina & Collingwoode as they travel to Sierra Leone for a two month visit.

Prayers for our church as we grieve for Eva Baumgartel

Massa shared a joy that her friend had a baby.

Prayers for Mallory

Prayers for Marina & Collingwoode while they are away.

Cocoa's Mom had a mini stroke, prayers for recovery. Continued prayers for her dad, Ron Smith.

On the way to church today an older man, his name is Ted, fell and Cocoa and others helped him up. Prayers for him.

Prayers for Ukraine, Russia, Palestine

Thank God for caring for us

Prayers for the youth as they lead us in worship today.

Joy to have so many youth in our congregation!

Prayers for Church & Family

Continued prayers for Sheryl Duke, hope that they find a good care facility near her children.

Kathy Saloky's brother in law, died this week. He was 96. Prayers for the Penzes family.

Kass's granddaughter was in a car accident, the car was totaled but she was not harmed.

Abdulah Jah's mother-in-law (Patience Kunyabor' Mom) died. Prayers for the family.

Prayers for Savannah's Mom

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Dorothy Buzzard Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer Cass Quigley Marva

Sheryl Duke Betty Brzoza

**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!**

**Upcoming Church-Wide Events**

Monday April 29th 10-12 speak and pray with our neighbors

Tuesday April 30th 10-12 canvass the neighborhood

Saturday May 4th 4-6pm All Out Big push to canvass the neighborhood with Youth Leading Us

Sunday May 5th Listening Campaign Findings and Church Strategizing

Sunday May 19th Admin Council mtg