**March 17, 2024**

**5th Sunday in Lent**

**“Are You Willing To Give Up Your Life?”**

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***5th Sunday in lent March 17, 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 In** **the** **Garden**

*Leader: The Garden. Gethsemane. "Come with me to pray," Christ said, and they did: Peter, James, and*

*John. Thomas, Andrew, and Philip;*

**People: Bartholomew, Matthew, and James, son of Alphaeus;**

*Leader: Simon the Zealot, and Judas, son of James.*

**People: Only one of the twelve was missing: the other Judas — Judas Iscariot.**

*Leader: There, in the growing darkness, beneath gnarled olive trees, Christ knelt and poured out his heart to his father.*

**People: "If it is your will, Father, please take this cup from me."**

*Leader: And they slept.*

**People:** "If it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, then your will be done."

*Leader: And they slept.*

**People: "Not my will, but your will, 0 God."**

*Leader: And still, they slept.*

**People: For the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

*Leader: "My soul aches with sorrow . . .""*

**People: Lord — we are here for you.**

*Leader: "Stay with me a while."*

**People: Lord, you know we will.**

*Leader: "Can you not even stay awake long enough to keep watch with me!*

**People: But Lord . . .**

*Leader: "Behold, the hour is at hand." Here is my betrayer now."*

**People: Lord, we acknowledge the times we have failed you, just as the disciples did so long ago in the garden. As the flames are taken away from these candles, so remove our sins from us. We remember your pain as we snuff out yet more of your light.**

*(extinguish* *the* *flame* *of another* *purple* *candle.)*

**Choral Response:** “More love to Thee, Oh Christ” (Vs 1) # 453

More love to Thee, oh Christ, more love to Thee! Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee...

This is my earnest plea More love, oh Christ, to Thee More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

More love to Thee, more love to Thee!

Please be seated

**Prayer of Confession** *(seated and bowed)*

**Jesus we confess that we see incredible amounts of violence in this world and we walk the other way. We feel too small to do anything about it. We tell ourselves it’s not our problem. We try to forget that we are a part of Jesus, who is big enough to save this world. Jesus, we confess that we love our life too much. Jesus, I have not done enough to help stop the killing in Gaza. Jesus, I have not done enough to help stop the killing in the Ukraine. Or in Haiti, or in Philadelphia, or anywhere… What can I do? Jesus, help me to ask this expecting an answer. I want to be more like you Jesus. I want to give my life for others. Jesus, what can I do? In Jesus name, Amen.**

**Silent Meditation…………………….Words of Forgiveness**

**Opening Worship Song**  “Mighty To Save”

Everyone needs compassion; A love that's never failing; Let mercy fall on me

Everyone needs forgiveness; The kindness of a Savior; The Hope of nations

Refrain: Savior, He can move the mountains My God is mighty to save He is mighty to save

Forever, author of Salvation He rose and conquered the grave Jesus conquered the grave

So take me as You find me; All my fears and failures; Fill my life again

I give my life to follow; Everything I believe in; Now I surrender (Refrain)

Shine Your light and let the whole world see

We're singing for the glory of the risen King,

Jesus Shine Your light and let the whole world see

We're singing for the glory of the risen King (Refrain 2x)

*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**  *“An Irish Blessing” Please join in singing!*

*Please stand*

**The Doxology** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* [tune: HAMBURG}

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.

**The Offertory Prayer**

Dismissal of the Youth

**Hymn** “The Servant Song”

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow ‘til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,

Born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too

*Please be seated*

**Scripture Lesson** John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--' Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

**Sermon** *“*Are You Willing To Give Up Your Life?*”*

*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” Verses 1,3,4,5 # 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!"

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,

from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"

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!"

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.

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction “***Lord Who Throughout These Forty Days” vs 1,4*

Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us did fast and pray,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.

And through these days of penitence, and through your Passion-tide,

Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

A cartoon of a child sitting on a bench

Description automatically generated **Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Reading the bible gives us hope and joy. Spending time in the Bible daily reminds us of the hope and joy we have in Christ. Our perspective shifts from this world to eternal matters.

**Liturgy of the Passion - March 24, 2024**

Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47) - Isaiah 50:4-9a - Psalm 31:9-16 - Philippians 2:5-11

**Liturgy of the Palms - March 24, 2024**

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16 - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

A logo for a power of prayer

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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 the church and leave a message. (215) 745-7115.***

When we pray for others, we are doing what Jesus did. The Bible tells us of the many, many times Jesus prayed for others and told us to do the same.

**Prayer Requests From March 10TH**

Gun violence in area - prayers for those who have been wounded and the families grieving the death of loved ones. Also prayers for justice for those commitrting these as acts of terrorism.

Dende had a small accident coming to church, but all is ok and she is thankful for that. Prayers for Sierra Leone and for their President's upcoming visit to Philadelphia.

Prayers for the Kofa Family. Sophia's nephew, Sawee Kofa, was shot and killed at a bus station on March 3rd.

Prayers for healing for Kelsey & Maurice Sr Sutton as they recover from a very bad cold that is effecting Kelsey's asthma.

Prayers for Haiti - there is so much violence that no one is safe there.

Thankful for Andrew's safe return home and again for traveling mercies.

Prayers for Diana's neighbor, Charles, who is in ICU

Prayers for Cocoa and Phillip, and prayers for Ron Smith as he is back in the hospital with fluid in his lungs.

Elizer Diyalou thankful for successful sinus surgery.

Prayers for Sonja and her health care co-workers.

Prayers for Dot Gallagher who is not feeling well.

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Eva Baumgartel Dorothy Buzzard Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer

Cass Quigley Marva Meghan Riley

**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!**

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| Tuesdays evenings during Lent  Feb 20th thru March 19th | Lenten Bible Study on Zoom  With Pastor Brendan 7:30 – 8:30 PM |
| Sunday, March 24th | Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 AM |
| Tuesday, March 26th | Women’s Fellowship 12:00 Noon |
| Thursday, March 28th | Maundy Thursday Worship 7:00 PM  Holy Communion |
| Friday, March 29th | Good Friday Worship 7:00 PM  Tenebrae Service |
| Sunday, March 31st | Easter Sunday Worship 10:30 AM |
| A close-up of a logo  Description automatically generatedSunday, April 7th | The Snyders’ invite you to join them  for a **bowling party celebration**  on Sunday, April 7th 1:30 – 4:30 PM  at Pike Lanes,121 Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA 18966  If you plan to attend, please sign the sheet in the back of the church so that the Snyders can plan how much food to provide. Thank you! |
| Sunday, April 28th | “**Down The Aisle, Now & Then”**  1:30 – 3:30 PM Admission $ 10.00  **A wedding fashion show fundraiser**  All are welcome to attend.  Wedding fashion will include  styles from 1880 to 2024  Refreshments will be served  after the show. |