**December 31, 2023**

**1st Sunday After Christmas**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

**1st Sunday after Christmas *HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE* December 31, 2023**

**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** Psalm 8:1-5

L: O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

**P: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because**

**of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that

you have established;

**R: what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for**

**them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them**

**with glory and honor.**

**Worship Song** *Way Maker*

You are here moving in our midst; I worship you, I worship you

You are here working in this place; I worship you, I worship you

Refrain: Way maker, Miracle worker, Promise keeper,

Light in the darkness, My God, That is who You are [Repeat]

You are here, touching every heart; I worship you, I worship you

You are here, healing every heart; I worship you, I worship you {Refrain}

You are here, turning lives around; I worship you, I worship you

You are here; mending every heart; I worship you, I worship you {Refrain}

*Please be seated*

**Advent and Christ Candle Lighting** *Hebrews 1:1-3*

L: In the past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us through His Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess al things at the end.

**P: Christ reflects the brightness of God’s glory and is the exact likeness of God’s own being, sustaining the universe with His powerful word. After achieving forgiveness for the sins of humankind, He sat down in heaven at the right side of God, the Supreme Power.**

**Response** *“There’s a Song in the Air”*  [VS. 4] # 249

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng. Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King! And we greet in his cradle, our Savior and King!

**Opening Prayer**

**Lord Jesus, this is the first Sunday after your birth, and the last Sunday before 2024. Jesus, help us to wait and expect new things today! Jesus, please remind us of all the ways you have watched over us in 2023. Thank you for never leaving us or forsaking us. Jesus we ask that this year ahead we would be completely led by your Holy Spirit. Show us the paths we should walk in. Help us to sense your Holy Spirit in our lives and in our world. Give us a new and exciting way to spread your kingdom of Love this year. Help us to make decisions and guide our lives according to the presence of God this year. We thank you Jesus. We Love you Jesus. Be our shepherd. Help us to feed your sheep. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Scripture Lesson**  **Galatians 4:4-7**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a servant but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

***Carol Singing***

**O Holy Night**

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining; It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine,O night when Christ was born! O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break, for all men are our brothers And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; Let all within us praise His holy name.

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!

His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow’r and glory evermore proclaim!

**Sing We Now of Christmas**

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest, journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest."

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild, seated by the manger, watching the holy child.

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

**O Come All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:

"Glory to God, in the highest!" [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

**Angels From The Realms of Glory**

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth.

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night,

God on earth is now residing; Yonder shines the infant light. [Refrain]

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice; Give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today; Ox and ass before Him bow; And He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, With heart and soul and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave:

Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all, To gain His everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;

I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;

bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with thee there.

And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

**It Came Upon The Midnight Clear,**

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth

to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."

The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years

Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,

And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing

**Joys & Concern…..*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 “Christ Is The World’s Light”**

*Please stand*

**The Doxology** *“What Can I Give Him” # 221*

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Gospel Lesson** *Luke 4:16-21*

*Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. As was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath. And when He stood up to read, the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it was written:*

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor.*

*He has sent Me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,*

*to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Then He rolled up the scroll, returned it to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fixed on Him, and He began by saying, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

***Carol Singing***

**Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming**

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse’s lineage coming, As those of old have sung.

It came, a flow’ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night.

This Flow’r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,

Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God,

From sin and death Thou saves us, And shares our every load.

**What Child Is This**

What child is this who, laid to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant king to own Him;

the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

**The First Noel**

The first noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord

that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.

Noel, noel, noel, noel, born is the King of Israel.

**EMMANUEL (HIS NAME IS CALLED EMMANUEL)**

Em - ma - nu - el, Em - ma - nu - el His name is called Em - ma - nu - el

God with us, Revealed in us His name is called Em - ma - nu – el

God with us, Revealed in us His name is called Em - ma - nu – el

**While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around, and glory shone around.

“All glory be to God on high, And to the Earth be peace; Good will henceforth from heaven to men Begin and never cease!” Begin and never cease!

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the mountains in reply echo back

their joyous strains. Glo - - ri-a in excelsis Deo. Glo - - ri-a in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the tidings be which

inspire your heavenly song. Glo - - ri-a in excelsis Deo. Glo - - ri-a in excelsis Deo

Come, to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come, adore on bended knee

Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Glo - - ri-a in excelsis Deo. Glo - - ri-a in excelsis Deo.

**Love Came Down At Christmas**

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;

Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, Love divine;

Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,

Love to God and neighbor, Love for plea and gift and sign.

**Affirmation of Faith** *Nicene Creed* # 880

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Hymn** “Joy To The World” # 246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods,

rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow

far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** “Joy To The World” # 246

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,

and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

A cartoon of a child reading a book

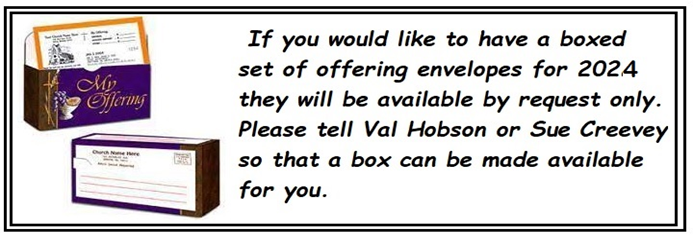
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**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

We read our Bible to see glory, to savor glory, to be shaped into the image of the glory of God, to show the glory so that God is magnified as we are satisfied in him.

**January 7, 2023 – 2nd Sunday After Christmas**

Mark 1:4-11 – Genesis 1:1-5 – Psalm 29 – Acts 19:1-7



A clear glass ball with a red ribbon and a bow

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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.***

We have front row seats and witness God’s power, grace and love in action as we pray for others. The character and power of God is revealed as we pray, and we learn to recognize the mystery of God’s will. As our faith grows, we understand that the Lord will continue to work miracles in the lives of others.

**Prayer Requests from December 24th**

Prayers for the Pastor of Jahcurie's school, who was diagnosed with cancer.

Prayers for Natasha

Prayers for those not with us in worship today.

JOY - Sonja delighted to have her nieces, nephew and second Mom here today.

JOY - to have so many at church today

JOY- Gene Bernard's sons are here from Haiti!

Prayers for Tommi, Hanifa, & Aiesha as grief for a child that died last Christmas overwhelms the holiday.

Prayers for Rachel & Shawn Holland as they deal with medical issues.

Prayers for Cocoa as she has carpal tunnel in her right wrist.

Prayers for Wadiya Korpoi who is dealing with medical issues.

JOY - Martha Korpoi is retiring on December 29th after 30 years on the job.

JOY - Ed Paye is thankful and full of gratitude for the Church, family, friends and loved ones.

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Brendan Van Gorder & family The Stefanescu & Mc Manus Families

Zilpha and James Browne Dorothy Buzzard Eva Baumgartel

Scott Meyer Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family

Martha & Wondor Korto The Spotts Family Marva Jiselle & Family

Prayers for the Ukraine and Russia - for world peace. Prayers for our city and an end to violence. Prayers for peace and stability in Sierra Leone. Please praise and pray for our youth – they are the future of our Church.