**February 12, 2023**

**6th Sunday After Epiphany**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Rev. Randy M. Brubaker, Pastor**

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*When you think of it, one of the purposes of laws is to shape our behavior. When we fight certain laws, we do so because we don’t want to live certain ways. But when we accept laws as worthy to be followed, then obeying them is easy. Jesus gets at this in His words today in this continued Sermon on the Mount.*

 *- Pastor Randy*

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

**6th Sunday after Epiphany February 12, 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 119*

*Those whose way is blameless—who walk in the Lord’s Instruction—are truly happy!*

*Those who guard God’s laws are truly happy! They seek God with all their hearts.*

*They don’t even do anything wrong! They walk in God’s ways…*

**Opening Hymn** *“O For a Heart to Praise My God”* [TUNE: AZMON] [VS. 1-4]# 417

O for a heart to praise my God, a heart from sin set free,
a heart that always feels thy blood so freely shed for me.

A heart resigned, submissive, meek, my great Redeemer's throne,
where only Christ is heard to speak, where Jesus reigns alone.

A humble, lowly, contrite heart, believing, true, and clean,
which neither life nor death can part from Christ who dwells within.

A heart in every thought renewed and full of love divine,
perfect and right and pure and good, a copy, Lord, of thine.

 **Opening Prayer** *Psalm 119*

 **… Lord, you have given us your laws and told us to obey them faithfully.**

 **How I hope that I shall be faithful in keeping your instructions!**

 **If I pay attention to all your commands, then I will not be put to shame.**

 **As I learn your righteous judgments, I will praise you with a pure heart.**

 **I will obey your laws; never abandon me! 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

Offertory *“All That We Have”*  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** *“Trust and Obey” # 467*

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word, what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.

 *Refrain:* Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and obey. *Refrain*

But we never can prove the delights of his love until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows, are for them who will trust and obey. *Refrain*

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet, or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go; never fear, only trust and obey. *Refrain*

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Matthew 5:21-37*

 [Jesus said] “You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, *Don’t commit murder,*

and all who commit murder will be in danger of judgment. **22**But I say to you that everyone who is angry

 with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgment. If they say to their brother or sister, ‘You idiot,’

 they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they say, ‘You fool,’

 they will be in danger of fiery hell. **23**Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember

 that your brother or sister has something against you, **24**leave your gift at the altar and go.

 First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift.

 **25**Be sure to make friends quickly with your opponents while you are with them on the way to court.

 Otherwise, they will haul you before the judge, the judge will turn you over to the officer of the court,

 and you will be thrown into prison. **26**I say to you in all seriousness that you won’t get out of there

 until you’ve paid the very last penny.

 **27**“You have heard that it was said, *Don’t commit adultery.* **28**But I say to you that every man who looks

 at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart. **29**And if your right eye causes you

 to fall into sin, tear it out and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that

 your whole body be thrown into hell. **30**And if your right hand causes you to fall into sin chop it off

 and throw it away. It’s better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body go into hell.

 **31**“It was said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife must *give her a divorce certificate.* **32**But I say to you

 that whoever divorces his wife except for sexual unfaithfulness forces her to commit adultery.

 And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

 **33**“Again you have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago: *Don’t make a false solemn pledge,*

 *but you should follow through on what you have pledged to the* Lord. **34**But I say to you

 that you must not pledge at all. You must not pledge by heaven, because it’s God’s throne.

 **35**You must not pledge by the earth, because it’s God’s footstool. You must not pledge by Jerusalem,

 because it’s the city of the great king. **36**And you must not pledge by your head, because you can’t turn

 one hair white or black. **37**Let your *yes* mean yes, and your *no* mean no. Anything more than this

 comes from the evil one.

 **Sermon** *“Matters of the Heart”*

 **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.

**Hymn**  *“Go Forth for God”* [VS. 1-3] # 670

 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,

 in God’s good Spirit daily to increase, till in the kingdom we see face to face.

 Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

 Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;

 help the afflicted; richly from above God’s love supplies the grace and power we seek..

 Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;

 render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with His light.

 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction**  *“Go Forth for God”* [VS. 4] # 670

 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy; to serve God’s people every day and hour,

 and serving Christ, our every gift employ, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit’s power.

 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

 Meeting on Tuesday, February 14th at Noon.

 Please bring your lunch, beverages and deserts will be provided.

As a fundraiser, Edward Paye has made Spicy Soup for “souper bowl Sunday”. It will be available to purchase by the quart.

After worship Rich Snyder will lead a short lesson on how to perform CPR. The NFL and American Heart Association are encouraging all to learn CPR. The lesson will only be about 15 minutes long, and it is NOT a certification course.



**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Peace. Reading the Bible can fill us with peace and remind us that peace comes from God.

**February 19, 2023 - Transfiguration Sunday**

Matthew 17:1-9 - Exodus 24:12-18 - Psalm 99 - 2 Peter 1:16-21

As Pastor Randy will be retiring in July, we await the announcement of a new pastor to be assigned to our church.

 The Eastern PA Cabinet anticipates that this season’s appointments will be completed between February 1 and April 30. They ask for your prayers.

 Please pray for the discernment of the cabinet as they select our new Pastor. Please also pray for our congregation that we move forward with joyful anticipation of these new beginnings.

**We now have TWELVE** youth from Crescentville Church have begun preparing for church membership through Confirmation. Please pray for them and consider “adopting” one as someone you will commit to praying for and encouraging on their journey!

Christian Stefanescu Darryl Sutton Jacob Monbo

Joshua Bhatti Kelsey Sutton Marcus Sutton

Mariah Jean Marina Jean Maurice Sutton

Naiima Jabati Naomi Jabati Jahcuerie Sinclair

**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*** Does God need us to pray to work in other people’s lives? Of course not. But God wants us to pray. Prayer brings us closer to God,

it strengthens our relationship with Him.

**Prayer Requests from February 05, 2023**

Joy - JT Combay is learning to play the piano and is doing very well.

The family of Maustapha A Grassai Jr - he was murdered in NJ. He is Collingwoode's nephew.

Traveling mercies - Paul Wilson traveling for work , Sana Aman traveling in Pakistan

Marjorie Sinclair - is a peacemaker at school

Majennah & Jean Jean and their job situations.

Joy - Snyders had a safe and fun family vacation in Vermont.

JT - asking prayers for fresh water in Mississippi.

Prayers for families - Stefanescu, Mc Manus, Didirea, Salvadore

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Eva Baumgartel Suzanne Turner

Zilpha & James Browne Dorothy Buzzard Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) Patsy Coyne Rev. Khan Wondor Korto Marva Scott Meyer Bob Patterson Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family Sylvia Spotts

Prayers for the Ukraine and Russia - for world peace.

Prayers for our city and end to violence, prayers for peace and stability in Sierra Leone.

**Ash Wednesday is February 22nd.**

**Worship services that are available to you:**

 12:00 noon:  Frankford Memorial 1300 Dyre Street (Please RSVP)

 2:00 pm     Philadelphia Protestant Home 6400 Martins Mill Road

 7:00 pm Crescentville 412 E. Sentner Street

Online Lenten devotions: https://www.luthersem.edu/godpause/lenten-devotional/