**March 10, 2024**

**4th Sunday in Lent**

**“Look Up”**

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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***

***4th Sunday in lent March 10, 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 Saying** **Good-bye**

*Leader: Today is the fourth Sunday of Lent. In three short weeks, on Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the*

*end of Lent with a jubilant chorus of*

**People: The Lord has risen indeed!**

*Leader: But that victory is not yet in sight as Jesus walks toward the deathly darkness of Good Friday,*

*alone, so very alone. The disciples did not seem to understand what was really going on and what*

*was going to happen in these coming days. So, Jesus tried to teach them, to show them,*

**People: To explain to them. To prepare them.**

*Leader: For the coming crisis. Jesus knew what was already unfolding and began to say good-bye.*

**People: He said good-bye by taking a basin and a towel and washing all their feet, even Peter's feet,**

**and Judas’ feet.**

*Leader: And he said, "I give you an example that you also should do as I did to you”*

**People: He said good-bye by saying “Little children, I am with you a little while longer”.**

*Leader: By saying:*

**People: A new commandment I give to you that you love one another even as I have loved you.**

*Leader: By saying:*

**People: “Let not your heart be troubled, I go to prepare a place for you."**

*Leader: By saying: “Peace I leave with you; not as the world gives do I give to you.”*

**People: In these darkening days of Lent, let us hear these words of Christ. Let us see God’s love**

**and care, shining brightly against the black Good Friday horizon that looms up in the background.**

*(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 forgive us for not calling out for help. When we are going through something difficult, we often just try to keep going and make our way through it. Jesus, you have asked us to stop and trust you. Help us to trust you more. Help us to not be so overwhelmed by our busyness or our emotions that we forget that you are still right next to us. We confess that sometimes we take our eyes off of you. But Jesus, we want to return to you. We want to see you everywhere we look. We cry out now Jesus. Save us! In your name we pray, Amen.**

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

**Opening Worship Song**  “*When Jesus Says Yes, Nobody can say No”*

When Jesus say Yes, Nobody can say No [repeat 4x]

I’m not worried ’bout a thing Cause I know You are guiding me

Where You lead me, Lord, I will go I have no fear cause I know who’s in control

There’s no limit to what You can do cause it all belongs to You

Yes, it all belongs to You; You’re almighty and all powerful

And it all belongs to You; Yes, it all belongs to You

[repeat all]

When Jesus say Yes, Nobody can say No [repeat 4x]

*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**  *“Give Thanks ” 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** “To God Be the Glory” # 98

To God be the glory, great things He hath done! And loved He the world that He

gave us His Son, who yielded His life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-

gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the

Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru

Jesus the Son, and give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done, and great our

Rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our

wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

*Please be seated*

**Scripture Lesson** John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

**Sermon** *“Look Up ”*

*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** *“Living for Jesus”*

Living for Jesus, a life that is true, Striving to please Him in all that I do;

Yielding allegiance, glad hearted and free, This is the pathway of blessing for me.

Refrain: O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee,

For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me.

I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne.

My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone.

Living for Jesus Who died in my place, Bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace;

Such love constrains me to answer His call, Follow His leading and give Him my all. (Refrain)

Living for Jesus, wherever I am, Doing each duty in His holy Name;

Willing to suffer affliction and loss, Deeming each trial a part of my cross. (Refrain)

**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.

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**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Reading the bible helps us develop and grow spiritually. We grow our relationship with God as we spend time with Him in prayer and in reading the Bible daily.

**Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 17, 2024**

John 12:20-33 - Jeremiah 31:31-34 - Psalm 51:1-12 - Hebrews 5:5-10

******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.***

Praying for others helps us actively focus on the needs of others instead of ourselves. Praying for others forces us to think about what they need. That process can lead to us being more outwardly focused in all of our relationships.

**Prayer Requests From March 3rd**

Prayers for Betty Brzoza (Sue Creevey's sister) - She tore a tendon and is hospitalized for pain relief.

Prayers for Devon as he returns to school after chemo.

Traveling mercies for Andrew Wilson during spring break.

Prayers for Jean Bernard and Haiti

Joy to have many in church today (53)

Sheryl Dukes (Carol Evan's Sister) prayers as family tries to get her into an assisted living facility.

Prayers for Ron Smith as he recovers from sepsis and heart attack.

Claudia Johnson had travel problems but we able to travel to Puerto Rico to celebrate her birthday.

Claudia Johnson will be traveling to Ohio to visit with her son Cornelius as he anticipates the birth of his child.

Kass Greenlaw happy to have her family join us for worship in celebration of her birthday.

Prayers for a 9 year old boy, Lorenzo, as he receives chemo treatments.

Prayers for healing for Dende's shoulders.

Prayers for City of Philadelphia and employees as they are called to return to offices for work.

Prayers for the Riley family, for peace, forgiveness and healing of relationships.

**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  Please let the Snyder’s know if you plan to attend. |
| 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. |