*Mary. John the Baptist. God was coming to earth as Emmanuel, and yet God strategized this coming to include human beings. How awesome is that! Joy to the world—the Lord is come! – Pastor Randy*

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

**3rd Sunday of Advent *JOY* December 11, 2022**

**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 *Luke 1:47-55*

 *“My soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on*

 *all people will call me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me. His name*

 *is holy; from one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honor him. He has stretched out*

 *his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their*

 *thrones, and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with*

 *empty hands. He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors, and has come to the help of his*

 *servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!”*

**Opening Hymn** *“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”* # 198

 My soul gives glory to my God. My heart pours out its praise.

 God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

 My God has done great things for me: Holy is Her name.

 All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

 From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,

dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,

leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,

remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

 **Advent Candle Lighting**

 Reader One: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

 like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing . . . A highway

 shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it,

 but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray . . . And the

 ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy

 shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing

 shall flee away.”

 Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God’s house. The prophet tells us

 to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live

 in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else.

 And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy.

 Reader One: The Psalmist says “Happy are these whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope

 is in the Lord . . . who made heaven and earth . . . who keeps faith . . . who executes

 justice . . . gives food . . . sets prisoners free . . . opens eyes . . . lifts up . . . watches over

 . . . upholds . . . The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

 Praise the Lord!”

 Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep

 and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step

 because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy.

 We are ascending to God’s promise.

**Response** *“Kum Ba Yah”*

Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Come by here, my Lord, come by here.

Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Oh, Lord, come by here!

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Most holy God, who will come to judge the earth and all that dwells therein:**

 **Help us, so that in the day of Your coming our whole spirit, soul and body**

 **will be so refreshed that we may have eternal life; Through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

 **who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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** *“The Giving Song”*

**The Doxology** *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* [TUNE: VENI EMMANUEL]

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn** *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”* [VS. 1-3, 6]# 57

 O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
 the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!

 My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
 to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Thy name.

 Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;
 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.

 Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ;
 ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Matthew 11:2-11*

 Now when John heard in prison about the things the Christ was doing, he sent word by his disciples

 to Jesus, asking, **3**“Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” **4**Jesus responded,

 “Go, report to John what you hear and see. **5***Those who were blind are able to see*. Those who were

 crippled are walking. People with skin diseases are cleansed. Those *who were deaf now hear.*

 *Those who were dead are raised up. The poor have good news proclaimed to them*.

  **6**Happy are those who don’t stumble and fall because of me.”

 **7**When John’s disciples had gone, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John: “What did you go out

 to the wilderness to see? A stalk blowing in the wind? **8**What did you go out to see? A man dressed up

 in refined clothes? Look, those who wear refined clothes are in royal palaces. **9**What did you go out

 to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10**He is the one of whom it is written:

 *Look, I’m sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you*.

**11**“I assure you that no one who has ever been born is greater than John the Baptist.

 Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

 **Sermon** *“…More Than a Prophet”*

 **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** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* [VS. 1-3] # 384

 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling;
 all thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
 visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit;
 let us find that second rest. Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
 end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

 Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return and never,

 nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
 pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction** *“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”* [VS. 4]# 384

 Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be. Let us see thy great salvation
 perfectly restored in thee; changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
 till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

 **Mark your calendar**

**Don’t sit on the sidelines – get involved!**

**Wednesdays during Advent – Dec 14, 21** Advent Vesper Service – 7:00 PM at PPH

Due to Covid restrictions, this service is only for residents of PPH.

**December 13th – Women’s Fellowship Christmas Luncheon**

 Time: 12 Noon - Please see Sue Snyder for more details.

**December 18th – during worship – Our youth will present “Merry Christmas”**

Light refreshments after worship.

**December 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

 **Crescentville UMC 8:00 PM**  (Frankford Memorial UMC 6:30 PM)

Crescentville will have light refreshments after our service.

**December 25th – Christmas Day 10:00 AM**

Crescentville and Frankford Memorial will worship together

at Frankford Memorial UMC Church

**January 1st – New Year’s Day 10:00 AM**

Crescentville and Frankford Memorial will worship together

at Crescentville UMC Church

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Advent reminds us to look forward to His return every day. This season is about resetting Jesus Christ at the center of our lives. After all, when He comes to take us home forever, we want to be ready. Expect to be inspired, challenged, refocused, broken, motivated, unified, encouraged, and most of all, expectant.

**December 18, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Matthew 1:18-25 - Isaiah 7:10-16 - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 - Romans 1:1-7

**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, we participate in God's work. 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 December 4th**

Prayers for Beverly (Cocoa's friend) she is in the hospital with Covid and pneumonia.

Joy - John Wilson's procedure went well - thank you for prayers.

Continued prayers for the Ingle Family - Ed died on November 21st.

Prayers for Erdric's family as they grieve his death.

Prayers for James & Zilpha Browne - they both had surgery this past week.

Prayers for the family and friends of Betty Dawson as they grieve her death.

Jeffery (Linda's son) - Prayers that he passes upcoming tests.

Joy - Kass Greenlaw's family had 21 people gather for a lasagne dinner - thankful for family!

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Zilpha & James Browne Dorothy Buzzard

Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) Rev. Khan Scott Meyer Marva

Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family Wondor Korto

Sylvia Spotts Suzanne TurnerEva Baumgartel

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.

