**January 8, 2023**

**1st Sunday After Epiphany**

**Baptism of the Lord**

**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

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*In his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul writes that Jesus*

*“emptied himself by taking the form of a slave and by becoming like human beings...” Today, as we ponder how awesome this is that God would enter our world to this extent,*

*we are left in awe…Jesus, indeed, IS LORD! - Pastor Randy*

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

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**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 29*

 *Praise the Lord, you heavenly beings; praise God’s glory and power. Praise the Lord’s glorious name; bow down before the Holy One when He appears. The voice of the Lord is heard on the seas; the glorious God thunders, and His voice echoes over the ocean. The voice of the Lord is heard in all its majesty……The Lord rules over the deep waters; God rules as King forever.The Lord gives strength to His people and blesses them with peace.*

 **Opening Hymn** *“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God”* [VS. 1-3]# 604

 Praise and thanksgiving be to God our Maker, source of all blessing, prodigal Creator. Baptized and made Your own, now we come before You, while we adore You.

 Not our own holiness nor that we have striven brings us the peace which You, O Christ, have given. Baptized and set apart, strengthen us, O Savior, with grace and favor.

 Come, Holy Spirit, come in visitation; You are the Truth, our Hope, and our Salvation. Baptized with joy and power, give, O Dove descending, life never ending.

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Enable us who are baptized into His name, the strength to keep the covenant that we have made, and boldly confess Him as Lord and Savior, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. 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

The 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** *“When Jesus Came to Jordan”* [TUNE: ELLACOMBE] # 252

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 When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John, he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one. He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins, to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

 He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss, for us and our salvation to die upon the cross. So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man, the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

 Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make; this very day invade us, and every bondage break. Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most: to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Matthew 3:13-17*

 At that time Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River so that John would baptize him.**14**John tried to stop him and said, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you come to me?” **15**Jesus answered, “Allow me to be baptized now. This is necessary to fulfill all righteousness.” So John agreed to baptize Jesus. **16** When Jesus was baptized, he immediately came up out of the water. Heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and resting on him. **17** A voice from heaven said, “This is my Son whom I dearly love; I find happiness in him.”

 **Sermon** *“,,,In the Form of a Human” (Philippians 2:7)*

 **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**  *“This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now”* # 608

 This is the Spirit’s entry now: the water and the Word,

 the cross of Jesus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.

 Let water be the sacred sign that we must die each day,

 to rise again by His design as followers of His way.

 Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for Your baptismal power

 that washes us through all our days, come cleanse again this hour.

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction** *“Jesus, Thine All-Victorious Love”* [VS. 1]# 422

Jesus, Thine all-victorious love shed in my heart abroad;

then shall my feet no longer rove, rooted and fixed in God.

**Confirmation Class today after worship.**

**Please support our youth with your praise and prayers!**

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

Reading the bible strengthens our faith. Our faith becomes stronger as we trust who God is, and that He is in control. We also see Him at work in our lives.

**January 15, 2023 - Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

John 1:29-42 - Isaiah 49:1-7 - Psalm 40:1-11 - 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

**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.*** As Christians, our prayers do not bounce off the ceiling or dissipate like fog. God hears when we pray for others, and He answers. The answer may not come quickly, nor may the reply be what we expected. Or, because God is gracious, we receive much more than we asked. Either way, God answers our prayers when we pray for others. Our prayers are powerful, and our loving God wants us to know through His answer to our plea that He has the power and authority to answer whatever we ask.

**Prayer Requests from January 1st**

Bob Patterson being treated for cancer (friend of Kass Greenlaw)

Patsy Coyne being treated for pancreatic cancer (friend of Kass Greenlaw)

Alton Crowther prayers for God's guidance

Cocoa - Another retinal tear on Christmas Day - prayers for recovery.

Mrs. Richard, diagnosed with colon cancer (neighbor of Martha Korto)

Prayers for James & Zilpha Browne -as they both recover from surgeries

Traveling mercies for all who are traveling, especially Collingwoode as he travels to Sierra Leone

Joy - many expressed they are thankful and grateful for family and friends.

Joy - Ruthie Dillon grateful for good soup sold at our Flea Market.

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Eva Baumgartel

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 Suzanne Turner

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.

