*When is the last time you fell on your knees in front of another person? This is how the magi responded when they entered the house and saw Jesus and Mary. They had been searching, and now, as they came to the end of their journey, they responded with humility and honor toward what God had done—sent Immanuel, God’s presence, into the world. In addition to gold, frankincense, and myrrh, what can we give Him? - Pastor Randy*

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

**Epiphany Sunday *New Year -*  Holy Communion Sunday January 2, 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** *Revelation 21*

 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared,*

 *and the sea vanished. And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven*

 *from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice speaking*

 *from the throne: “Now God's home is with people! He will live with them, and they shall be his people.*

 *God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes.*

 *There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.”*

 **Opening Hymn** *“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”* [VS. 1,2,3,5]# 383

 This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,

time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.

In faith we'll gather round the table to taste and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Holy God, who by the leading of a star made Jesus known to be the Savior of the world:**

 **mercifully grant that we, who know You by faith may at last behold the newness of Your love;**

 **through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with You,**

 **in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Joys & Concerns………………………………………………………..……………….……..*Gathered Prayer***

Gifts and Offerings

**\*The Doxology** *“Doxology”* [TUNE: KINGS OF ORIENT]

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.

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading,

still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

**\*The Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn** *“Sing We Now of Christmas”*  # 237

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

*Refrain:* 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." *Refrain*

 In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild,

 seated by the manger, watching the holy child. *Refrain*

 From the eastern country came the kings afar,

 bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. *Refrain*

 Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;

 there was never a stable so like paradise. Refrain

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Matthew 2:1-12*

 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod,

 magi came from the east to Jerusalem. **2**They asked, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews?

 We’ve seen his star in the east, and we’ve come to honor him.” **3**When King Herod heard this,

 he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. **4**He gathered all the chief priests

 and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. **5**They said, “In Bethlehem

 of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote:

**6***You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,*
*because from you will come one who governs,* *who will shepherd my people Israel.*”

 **7**Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star

 had first appeared. **8**He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search carefully for the child.

 When you’ve found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him.” **9**When they heard the king,

 they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place

 where the child was. **10**When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. **11**They entered the house

 and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened

 their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12**Because they

 were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

 **Sermon** *“Fall on Your Knees”*

 **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.

**Gather your own symbolic elements, and Pastor Bob will indicate when we eat and drink together, even though apart.**

**Hymn: Be Present At Our Table Lord**

Be present at our table, Lord. Be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and grant that we, may strengthened for Thy service be. Amen.

**Prayer**

**Father of earth and heaven, Thy hungry children feed, Thy grace be to our spirits given,**

**That true immortal bread. Grant us and all our race, In Jesus Christ to prove,**

**The sweetness of Thy pardoning grace, The manna of thy love. Amen**

**Eat Together**

**Drink Together**

**Meditation:** One Bread, One Body

**Prayer**

**Your love, O God, has called us here, for all love finds its source in you, the perfect love that casts out fear, the love that Christ makes ever new. O gracious God, you consecrate all that is lovely, good and true. Bless those who in your presence wait and every day their love renew. O God of love, inspire our life, reveal your will in all we do; join every husband, every wife in mutual love and love for you.**

**Hymn**  *“What Child Is This”* # 219

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?

*Refrain:* 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. *Refrain*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*

**Benediction**

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

 **Choral Benediction** *“We Three Kings”*  [VS. 5] # 254

Glorious now behold Him arise; King and God and sacrifice:

Heaven sings Alleluia, Alleluia earth replies

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,

westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to Thy perfect light.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

By reading scripture daily—you are taking a stand to turn your heart to God and His plans for you and your family. You’re letting Him renew your mind, guide you and direct your steps, and that directly impacts everything you do in life.

**Epiphany of the Lord - January 6, 2022**

Matthew 2:1-12 - Isaiah 60:1-6 - Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 - Ephesians 3:1-12

**January 9, 2022 - Baptism of the Lord**

 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 - Isaiah 43:1-7 - Psalm 29 - Acts 8:14-17

**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.***

*Prayer is powerful and sometimes it’s the only thing we can do, but it’s also a chance to let God tell us how we can be His hands in the world.*

***Prayer Requests 12-26-2021***

**Ethel Graman** - recovering from a surgical sight infection

**Hilda** - wife of Frank, Hilda is having health problems.

**Traveling mercies for all traveling** especially John Combay as he goes to Sierra Leone

**Those who grieve the death of South African Anglican Archbishop Rev. Desmond Tutu**.

**The King family** whose Quakertown home was destroyed by a fire that claimed the lives of 3 family members. **For Carol Arnold**, (Sue Snyder's sister) whose home was the attched twin that was also damaged.

**Gus & his family**

***Continuing Prayers:***

Pastor Randy & Family - Cass Quigley - Sheryl Duke - Sana Aman - Rev. Khan

Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) - Betty Sauerwald & family - Fred Frank - Ethel Graman

Zilpha Browne - Sylvia Spotts - Dorothy Buzzard - Scott Meyer - Suzanne Turner

We pray for the world around us, for the many who continue to suffer and call out for help, for those without enough to eat, for those caught up in violence and political uprisings, for those picking up the pieces after a natural disaster, and for those desperate to find work to support their families.

