**December 29, 2024**

**Youth Sunday**

**First Sunday After Christmas**

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**Crescentville United Methodist Church**

**A Changing Church for Changing Times**

**Pastor Rev. Randy Brubaker**

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***Crescentville United Methodist Church***

***1st Sunday After Christmas                  Youth Sunday* December 29, 2024**

**Prelude**

**Preparing for Worship “Sweet, Sweet Spirit” – please join in singing**

**Welcome & 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** *St. John 1*

 L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

 **P: He was in the beginning with God.**

 L: All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being.

 **P: What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

 ***All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.***

***Hark, the Herald Angels Sing***

*Prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley gave us this song. Originally, the first line read, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." Welkin is an old English word for the heavens or the sky. Fourteen years later, Wesley changed the line to "Hark, the herald angels sing." Wesley got the idea for the song one Christmas morning as he walked to church, listening to the bells in the distance.*

**Opening Worship Song** *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*  vs 1,3 # 240

 Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;

 peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!

 Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th' angelic host proclaim,

 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth,
 born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

**\*Advent and Christ Candle Lighting** *Hebrews 1*

 L: In the past, God spoke through the prophets to our ancestors in many times and many ways.

 **P: In these final days, though, God spoke to us through a Son.**

 **God made His Son the heir of everything and created the world through Him.**

 L: The Son is the light of God’s glory and the imprint of God’s being. He maintains everything

 with His powerful message. After He carried out the cleansing of people from their sins,

 He sat down at the right side of the highest majesty.

 **P: And the Son became so much greater than the other messengers, such as angels,**

 **that He received a more important title than theirs.**

 \***Response** “Yea, Lord, We Greet Thee”

 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus to Thee be all glory given.

 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore Him,

 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

 **\*Opening Prayer**

 God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:

 may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds;

 through Him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

***ADULT* Message: “What is a manger?”**

***Manger***

 *A manger is a box or trough (pronounced TROFF), usually carved from stone, used for the feeding of animals. Mangers couId be found wherever animals were kept, either in a lower portion of a house or in a cave near a house or even beneath a house. In caves, the manger was often carved out of the wall. According to Luke chapter 2, a manger was used as the bed for the infant Jesus after His birth in Bethlehem.*

**Away in a Manger**

 *This simple hymn, beloved by children everywhere, is often called "Luther's Cradle Hymn." Some say Luther did not write it, but that some artist imagined he would choose this type of song to sing his own child to sleep. Regardless of origin, it is one of our favorite Christmas songs.*

**All Sing:** “Away in a Manger”

 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
 bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**Gospel Lesson** St. Luke 2:8-14[Common English Bible]

 Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. **9**The Lord’s angel

 stood before them, the Lord’s glory shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**The angel said,

 “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.

 **11**Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. **12**This is a sign for you:

 you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” **13**Suddenly a great assembly

 of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, **14**“Glory to God in heaven,

 and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

***Carols of the Angels***

***Angels From the Realms of Glory***

 *Written by James Montgomery, this hymn was first printed December 24, 1816, in a paper he edited. Included in one of the first hymnbooks used in the Church of England, it had a wide circulation in both England and America. Formerly it was sung to the melody of an old French carol. Now it appears with music by Henry Smart.*

**All Sing: “***Angels from the Realms of Glory”*

 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

 ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Refrain:* Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

 Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: *Refrain*

***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear***

*A Unitarian minister in Boston, Edmund H. Sears, wrote a poem in 1849, and a year later, Richard S. Willis wrote this joyful music for it, giving us one of the few hymns of the nineteenth century with the real Christmas message, "Peace on earth, good will towards men.*

**All Sing:** *“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”*

 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

 For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years
 shall come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

 and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

***While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night***

*William Gardiner was a stocking manufacturer in Leicester, England.  He had an exceptional knowledge of music.  He took the melodies of Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven and adapted to them English poems to create churchly hymns.  In this way, people learned an appreciation for the music of the master composers.  He took Nahum Tate's poem and a tune by Beethoven and married them to create this lovely carol.*

**All Sing:** *“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night”*

 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
 the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

 "All glory be to God on high, and to this earth be peace;
 good will to men from highest heaven begin and never cease, begin and never cease!"

**Special Music** *“The Birthday Of A King”* William Harold Neidlinger

In the little village of Bethlehem, There lay a Child one day,

And the sky was bright with a holy light O'er the place where Jesus lay.

*All join in singing the Refrain:* Alleluia! O how the angels sang. Alleluia! How it rang!

 And the sky was bright with a holy light, T’was the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birth-place, but O how much God gave to us that day,

From the manger bed what a path has led, What a perfect, holy way.

*All join in singing the Refrain 2x*

**Birthday Recognitions BIRTHDAY RESPONSIVE READING**

**Celebrants: We thank God for the gift of life.**

People: We thank God for you whose birthdays we celebrate this January.

**Celebrants: Life is precious.**

People: We are grateful for all of you. May God bless you in this time and throughout all your days.

**All: We are glad that God has brought us together in this world. We are enriched by those who come into our lives, our families, our church, and our community. May we always be open to seeing God in others. May we always follow God’s leading into the future.**

**Celebrants: Thanks be To God for the gift of life.**

People: Thanks be to God for the gift of life. Amen.

**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** *“Deck The Halls & Jingle Bells” Piano solo by JT Combay*

 *Please stand*

**\*The Response** *DOXOLOGY*  [TUNE: THE FIRST NOEL]

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.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Gospel Lesson** St. Luke 2:1-7[Common English Bible]

 In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled

 in the tax lists. **2**This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. **3**Everyone went

 to their own cities to be enrolled. **4**Since Joseph belonged to David’s house and family line,

 he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David’s city, called Bethlehem, in Judea.

 **5**He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage

 and who was pregnant. **6**While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

 **7**She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger,

 because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

***Carols of Bethlehem***

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

*The beloved Boston pastor, Phillips Brooks, wanted to do something different for his children's Christmas program at the church.  Three years before, he had been in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.  Thinking back upon that night, he wrote the words, and the church organist, Lewis Redner, wrote the melody, for "O Little Town of Bethlehem."*

**All Sing:** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in,
 be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

***What Child Is This?***

*The words of this carol are sung to the old English tune "Greensleeves," which was popular before the time of Queen Elizabeth I.  It was one of the best-liked tunes of its day, and Shakespeare mentions it twice in "The Merry Wives of Windsor."  The present words about the Christ Child were written by William C. Dix during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.*

**All Sing:** “What Child is This”

 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.

 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*

***O Come All Ye Faithful***

    This lovely hymn was written by an unknown composer in France early in the eighteenth century.  When first published in 1751, it was published in Latin.  Over forty different English translations of the hymn have been made.

**All Sing:** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
 Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

 True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
 Son of the Father, begotten, not created; *Refrain*

***The Nicene Creed***

 *The Nicene Creed is the historic statement of belief devised by the Council of Nicaea, convened in A.D. 325 by the Emperor Constantine in the city of Nicaea, Iocated in what is now northwest turkey. The Creed was revised in 381 by the Council of Constantinople. The Nicene Creed sat forth the key affirmations concerning the Christian faith and served as a guide in combating heretical or false teaching. Following the Apostles’ Creed, it is the second oldest creed in the Christian faith.*

*Please stand*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** *The Nicene Creed*

 We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty,

 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

 We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

 God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,

 of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.

 For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven,

 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

 For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried.

 On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

 He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

 We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

 We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***I Wonder as I Wander***

*John Jacob Niles is a collector of folk songs and mountain ballads.  In a southern Appalachian town, an itinerant evangelist set up his tent on the courthouse lawn and hung his wash from the Confederate monument.  Niles went that night and heard a fourteen-year-old girl sing the first stanza of this hymn.  He asked her where she had learned it.  She couldn't remember.  He asked if there were more to the song.  There wasn't.  The next day, the evangelist left town, and Niles never saw him or his family again.  Adding additional verses, John Jacob Niles published this lovely American carol.*

**\*Closing Hymn** *“*I Wonder as I Wander*”*

 I wonder as I wander out under the sky How Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die
 For poor on'ry people, like you and like I? I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

 When Mary birthed Jesus, t'was in a cow's stall With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all.
 But high in God's heaven a star's light did fall, And the promise of ages, it then did recall.

 If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing: A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,
 Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing. He surely could have it, for He was the King!

 I wonder as I wander out under the sky How Jesus, the Savior, had come for to die
 For poor on'ry people like you and like I? I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

***Go, Tell It On the Mountain***

 *This spiritual in the typical call-and-response pattern is a simple, compelling, and straightforward retelling of the Lukean natal narrative. The words and perhaps the music were adapted from traditional sources by John W. Work II. James H. Cone has commented that the birth of Jesus announces the ministry of "the conquering King”, and the crucified Lord who has come to bring peace and justice to the dispossessed of the land. That is why the slave wanted to "go tell it on de mountain."*

**Benediction**

**\*Choral Benediction** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

 *Refrain:* Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
 go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
 behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. *Refrain*

 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
 and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain 2x*

 That Jesus Christ is born!

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

We read our Bible to see glory, to savor glory, to be shaped into the image of the glory of God, to show the glory so that God is magnified as we are satisfied in him.

**Second Sunday after Ephiphany - January 5, 2025**

John 1:(1-9), 10-18- Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12 - Psalm 147:12-20 or Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 - Ephesians 1:3-14

**Joys & Concerns: Keep those prayers going and thank God for His answers! To add a prayer request or share a joy,**

***please call or text Sue Creevey 267-847-6029***

We have front row seats and witness God’s power, grace and love in action as we pray for others. The character and power of God is revealed as we pray, and we learn to recognize the mystery of God’s will. As our faith grows, we understand that the Lord will continue to work miracles in the lives of others.

**Prayer Requests from December 22nd**

Joy that John Wilson Jr is with us in worship today. Traveling mercies for Wilson's grandson Andrew as he

 comes home from college, Continued prayers for David as he is not yet back to work.

Joy - Kristen Farrer is starting a new job.

Farol Jennings is attending Eastern University on line and will achieve her Bachelors degree next year.

 She is currently working as a teacher. Wishes all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year and sends her

 love to all.

Joy - Elizer had a safe and joyful trip home to Nigeria. Thanks for traveling mercy prayers.

Traveling mercies for all traveling this Christmas, especially youth.

Prayers for Linda Sutton as she was hurt stopping a fight during her job at Olney Elementary School.

Continued prayers for Kathy Saloky and her daughter Lori Roverelli. Healing is coming along slowly.

Great Joy & praise God - Gene Saloky has a new job that is close to home & Kathy.

Prayers for our church and Pastor Randy. Prayers for peace in the world, Prayers for our new government

 leadership.

Cocoa is asking for prayers for her son, Acie, as he is going through a difficult time.

Pastor visited Marge Rosenkaimer this morning, she was calm and restful, in decline. Prayers for Marge &

 her family.

Joy - Betty Sauerwald continues to do well, has recently enjoyed outings with her family. Prayers for her

 well being.

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer Cass Quigley Marva David & Esther Clinton Sherma Prince

Betty Brzoza Victoria Somers Meghann Riley Sheryl Duke Marge Rosenkaimer

**For families, especially:**

Betty Sauerwald & family The Stefanescu & Mc Manus Families

Zilpha and James Browne Jean Bernard and family The Spotts 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!**

**FUNDRAISER TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO OUR YOUTH**

**SO THAT THEY MAY ATTEND SUMMER CAMP.**

Please bring gently used clothing and books to our church for donation.

These items will be donated to 2nd Street Thrift, and we will be reimbursed a small monetary amount per pound of items we donate. Donations will be collected up until January 13, 2025.

Our date for drop off to 2nd Street Thrift is January 14, 2025.

Bags for donations are available in the back of the church.