**December 22, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**A painting of candles in a wreath

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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***

***Fourth Sunday of Advent                       LOVE* December 22, 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**

L: O God, grant us the gift of faith in the face of what seems impossible.   
 **P: Like Mary may we say “I am the Lord’s servant.**

**Let it be with me just as You have said.”**  
L: You spoke to Joseph in a dream.  
 **P: Speak to us in our dreams and make your will known.**  
 L: : Help us love each other,

**P: With love crosses boundaries of culture and tradition.**

L: Open are hearts to Your still small voice  
 **P: Help us imagine a new world with You. Amen.**

**\*Hymn** *“Savior of the Nations, Come”* [TUNE: ORIENTIS PARTIBUS] # 214

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin’s Son, here make Thy home!

Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood; by the Spirit of our God

was the Word of God made flesh, woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the Virgin undefiled!

Human and divine in one, eager now His race to run!

God the Father is His source, back to God He runs His course;

down to death and hell descends, God’s high throne He reascends.

Now Thy manger’s halo bright hallows night with newborn light;

let no night this light subdue, let our faith shine ever new.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting**

L: For God so loved the world that God sent His only Son.

**P: Come, child of love!**

L: Our creator’s love transcends every boundary.

**P: Come, child of love!**

L: How can we respond with anything other than love?

**P: Come, child of love!**

L: We reach out with tenderness to brothers and sisters all over the world.

**P: Come, child of love!**

**\*Response “This Little Light of Mine”**

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine! This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine! Let it shine; let it shine; let it shine!

**\*Opening Prayer**

**Almighty God, our hearts desire the warmth of Your love and our minds are searching**

**for the light of Your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior, and give us**

**the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of His coming may find us rejoicing**

**in His presence and welcoming the light of His truth. Through the same Jesus Christ**

**our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Sprit for ever. Amen.**

*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** *“My Soul Gives Glory To My God”  vs 1,4,5 # 198         Please join in singing!*

*Please stand*

**\*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**

Dismissal of the Youth

**\*Hymn of Preparation** *“There’s a Song in the Air”* [VS. 1-2, 4]# 249

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!

There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
 for the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing, for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
 that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
 Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring, and we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

And we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

*Please be seated*

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Luke 1:39-45* [Common English Bible]

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. **40**She entered Zechariah’s home

and greeted Elizabeth. **41**When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb,

and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42**With a loud voice she blurted out,

“God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry.

**43**Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

**44**As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy.

**45**Happy is ***she who believed*** that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”

**Sermon** *“She Who Believed”*

*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** *“The First One Ever” / “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* # 276 / # 196

The first one ever, oh, ever to know of the birth of Jesus was the Maid Mary,

was Mary the Maid of Galilee, and blessed is she, is she who believes.

O blessed is she who believes in the Lord, oh, blessed is she who believes.

She was Mary the Maid of Galilee, and blessed is she, is she who believes.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Your people free;

from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;

dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* # 196

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,

born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;

by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.



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Description automatically generated**Lectionary Scripture Readings** Christmas is a season of spiritual reflection on the foundations of the Christian faith. It’s also a celebration of the arrival of Jesus. Christmas is a time for Christians to praise God’s love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of His birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies from the Old Testament.

**Nativity of the Lord - December 24, 2024**

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20) - Isaiah 9:2-7 - Psalm 96 - Titus 2:11-14

**First Sunday after Christmas Day - December 29, 2024.**

Luke 2:41-52 - 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 - Psalm 148 - Colossians 3:12-17

This Christmas let’s bless a friend of Crescentville UMC.

We are accepting donations for a family in need this holiday season.

Even as many are already struggling, this family needs our support.

Please give as you can, knowing you are a blessing to this family.

Envelope for giving in your bulletin today, and available by request.

Please make checks payable to Crescentville UMC and mark it “Bless a Friend”.



**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***

Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, who came to bring hope and love to the world, making it a time to focus on extending that same love

to others through prayer.

**Prayer Requests from December 15th**

The Wilson's great-grandson, Kelsey is home - surgery went well.

Dave Wilson is going back to work! Continued prayers for improved health.

Peter Higgins received a diagnosis of Melanoma - prayers for other upcoming tests.

Prayers for Haiti where there is so much violence and massacre in PORT-AU-PRINCE

Prayers For Jean Bernard's family.

Kass Greenlaw's son David is in the hospital for an infection in his gallbladder, surgery in the future.

Prayers for the great youth we have at Crescentvile UMC.

Rhonda had a wonderful early Tennesee Christmas! Her sister Maria is cancer free!

Prayers for Siria, Nancy Pelosi, families of 3 boys shot near City Hall.

Mariah Jean's Cheer team came in third place out of 7 teams.

Prayers for Gene Saloky's Aunt Mary, she is in her 90's and fell and broke her pelvis.

Gene thanks God for answered prayers about a personal situation.

Marge Rosenkaimer has been in and out of the hospital this week. She is currently back at PPH in Pathways. Prayers for Marge & for her family.

Prayers for the Hannaway Family. Loss a family member in a car crash who had 4 children under the age of 10, and husband is in critical condition, still in the hospital.

**Continuing Prayers for:**

Martha & Wondor Korto Scott Meyer Cass Quigley David & Esther Clinton Jeannie Wilson

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!**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING**

**DONATIONS FOR UNITED METHODIST NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**

Um Neighborhood Services purpose is to service the needs of inner city Philadelphia people, especially women, children, and youth, providing food, clothing, and other resources, empowering individuals to become self-sufficient. We will be collecting items to send to UM Neighborhood Services.Please donate NEW personal care items [such as body wash, wash cloths]

We will also be collecting gently used coats for any gender, any age.

Please bring your items to 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.

**CRESCENTVILLE UMC - Calendar of Events**

**December 2024**

**Please check our web page for updates!**

**Tues, Dec 24th CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE 7 PM**

**Please stay after worship & enjoy some milk & cookies!**

**Sunday, Dec 29th Youth Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

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**Without Christmas, there would be no Good Friday, there would be no Easter, and there would be no looking forward to Christ’s second coming. New life began at Christmas. And it’s the reason Christmas should be the time when we marvel at God’s goodness most of all.**

**From “Christ Changes Everything”**

**by John Greco**