Who deserves God’s judgement? Who deserves God’s mercy? Truth be told, we ALL do! Jesus said it Himself, that God *“makes the sun rise on both the evil and the good and sends rain on both the righteous and the unrighteous.”* Simply put, no matter how much or how little we have sinned, we ALL are in need to have our hearts and lives changed. And this change can only come when we know the long-suffering grace and mercy of God.

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

**Third Sunday in Lent March 20, 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** *Light of the World*

 *Leader: Light. Without it, we stumble blindly in the darkness. With it, everything is illumined and clear.*

 *Sometimes the light is dim. Sometimes it flickers, ready to die.*

 **All: But as long as we have it to guide our path, we are safe.**

 *Leader: Christ is called the Light of the World, and we, as His followers,*

 *are instructed to walk in the light, as He is in the light. You are the light of the world!*

 **All: Let your light shine before everyone.**

 *Leader: Jesus was living out His last days, yet His light never wavered.*

 **All: If we were in His place, knowing death awaited us soon, would we still reflect our light?**

 **Would our brightness shine against the darkness of the world?**

 *Leader: And what about now? Does our faith—our light — burn brightly?*

 *Or does it flicker uncertainly in the tumult of our daily lives?*

 **All: Would we rather stay in the darkness after the candles are extinguished,**

 **or do we yearn for the light?**

 *Leader: The Scriptures tell us, “For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:*

 *"Wake up, 0 sleeper, Rise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."*

 **All: Let us gather strength from the example of Jesus as he faced the darkness of his own death.**

(extinguish the flame of one purple candle)

 **Opening Hymn** *“Christ Is the World’s Light”* # 188

 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other; born in our darkness, he became our brother.
 If we have seen him, we have seen the Father: Glory to God on high!

 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none other; no one can serve him and despise another.
 Who else unites us, one with God the Father? Glory to God on high!

 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other; sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother;
 he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father: Glory to God on high!

 Give God the glory, God and none other; give God the glory, Spirit, Son, and Father;
 give God the glory, God with us, my brother: Glory to God on high!

 **Prayer of Confession** *(seated and bowed)*

 **Merciful God, in whom is life and in whose light we see light: Forgive us, we pray**

 **of those times when we seek to live in darkness, away from the light of Your love.**

 **Help us to change how we live as we look to You, in whom we know mercy and grace.**

 **Enable us, we pray, to walk in Your light as we pray through Jesus, the Light of the world,**

 **who came to show us Your light. Amen.**

**Silent Meditation…………………….Words of Forgiveness**

**Hymn of Grace**  *“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”* [vs. 5]# 269

 Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
 an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

**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 Doxology

 *“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”* [TUNE: HAMBURG] *# 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.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn**  *“Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”* # 173

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 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true, the only light, Sun of Righteousness, arise,
 triumph o'er the shades of night; Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.

 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee; joyless is the day's return,
 till thy mercy's beams I see; till they inward light impart, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

 Visit then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of sin and grief; fill me, Radiancy divine,
 scatter all my unbelief; more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Luke 13:1-9*

 Some who were present on that occasion told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed

 while they were offering sacrifices. **2**He replied, “Do you think the suffering of these Galileans

 proves that they were more sinful than all the other Galileans? **3**No, I tell you, but ***unless*** you change

 your hearts and lives, you will die just as they did. **4**What about those eighteen people who were killed

 when the tower of Siloam fell on them? Do you think that they were more guilty of wrongdoing

 than everyone else who lives in Jerusalem? **5**No, I tell you, but ***unless*** you change your hearts

 and lives, you will die just as they did.”

 **6**Jesus told this parable: “A man owned a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it

 and found none. **7**He said to his gardener, ‘Look, I’ve come looking for fruit on this fig tree

 for the past three years, and I’ve never found any. Cut it down! Why should it continue depleting

 the soil’s nutrients?’ **8**The gardener responded, ‘Lord, give it one more year, and I will dig around it

 and give it fertilizer. **9**Maybe it will produce fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.’”

 **Sermon** *“Unless…”*

 **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**  *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*” [VS. 1-2] # 206

 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

 God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

 *Refrain:* In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

 The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

 I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

 Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction**  *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*” [VS. 3] # 206

 I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

 When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

 In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.

 The Lamb is the light of the city of God.

 Shine in my heart, shine in my heart, shine in my heart Lord Jesus.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

The Bible shows us how to measure “success” — it’s not fame and riches, like the world tells us — and to clearly see what matters. When we build our lives solidly on Jesus, the world can’t manipulate us with its shifting views of “truth.” The Bible is still applicable to our modern lives because God’s nature and standards do not change. The ten commandments are as relevant now as they were two thousand plus years ago. Treating others with kindness is still in fashion with God, and always will be. His greatest commandment? Love God and love others.

**March 27, 2022 - Fourth Sunday in Lent**

 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 - Joshua 5:9-12 - Psalm 32 - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**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.***

*Praying for one another is a powerful way for us to bear one another’s burdens. It is a loving act to pray for someone and join them in taking the pain of their heart to God.*

**Prayer Requests 3/13/22**

**Continuing Prayers:**

Pastor Randy & Family Sana Aman Zilpha Browne Dorothy Buzzard

Caroline (Burghaze’s Daughter) Sheryl Duke Rev. Khan Scott Meyer Cass Quigley Betty Sauerwald & family Jim Creevey

Sylvia Spotts Suzanne Turner

 Wednesday Evenings 7:00 PM - March 9th thru April 6th

 Led by Pastor Randy Live on Zoom Theme: *Prayer*

 *Zoom login can be found on our website:*

[*https://www.crescentvilleumc.com/lent2022*](https://www.crescentvilleumc.com/lent2022)

 The link will also be sent out by email and text.

**SPRING FLEA MARKET - MAY 7, 2022 – INDOOR & OUTDOOR SHOPPING!**

Please bring to church any items you wish to donate. (No clothing)

If you need help with pick-up of these items, call Sue Snyder 215-771-4442

 **WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP WILL MEET ON APRIL 5TH AT NOON.**

Please bring your lunch, beverages and desserts will be provided