*In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” was given on the side of a mountain. Today, we hear this sermon given on “level ground,” causing some to call this Jesus’ “Sermon on the Plain.” Up against Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is here, on the level, speaking more plainly. In its earthiness, Jesus is “keeping it real,” speaking plainly of what true happiness is. Dare we have ears to hear?*

 *– Pastor Randy*

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

**6th Sunday after Epiphany February 13, 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**

 *The truly happy person doesn’t follow wicked advice, doesn’t stand on the road of sinners,*

 *and doesn’t sit with the disrespectful. Instead of doing those things, these persons love the Lord’s Instruction, and they recite God’s Instruction day and night! They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don’t fade. Whatever they do succeeds.*

 **Opening Hymn** *“Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven”* [VS. 1-3]# 66

 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to His feet thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,

 evermore His praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

 Praise Him for His grace and favor to His people in distress; praise Him, still the same as ever,

 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.

 Father-like, He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows;

 In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia!

 Widely yet His mercy flows.

 **Opening Prayer**

 **O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You: Mercifully accept our prayers;**

 **and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without You, give us the help**

 **of Your grace, that in keeping Your commandments we may please You both in will and deed;**

 **through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,**

 **one God, for ever and ever. 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 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** *“How Firm a Foundation”* [VS. 1-2,5] # 529

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 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
 What more can he say than to you he hath said, to you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

 "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed, for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
 I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

 “The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose, I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

 that soul, though all hell shall endeavor to shake, I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Luke 6:17-26*

 Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a large area of level ground.

 A great company of his disciples and a huge crowd of people from all around Judea and Jerusalem

 and the area around Tyre and Sidon joined him there. **18**They came to hear him and to be healed

 from their diseases, and those bothered by unclean spirits were healed. **19**The whole crowd

 wanted to touch him, because power was going out from him and he was healing everyone.

 **20**Jesus raised his eyes to his disciples and said:

“Happy are you who are poor, because God’s kingdom is yours.
 **21**Happy are you who hunger now, because you will be satisfied.
 Happy are you who weep now, because you will laugh.

 **22**Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and condemn your name as evil

 because of the Human One. **23**Rejoice when that happens!

 Leap for joy because you have a great reward in heaven.

 Their ancestors did the same things to the prophets.

 **24**But how terrible for you who are rich, because you have already received your comfort.
 **25**How terrible for you who have plenty now, because you will be hungry.
 How terrible for you who laugh now, because you will mourn and weep.
 **26**How terrible for you when all speak well of you.

 Their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets.

 **Sermon** *“On the Level”*

 **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**  *“Blessed Assurance”* # 369

 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain:* This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
 this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
 angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
 watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction**  *“How Firm a Foundation”* [VS. 3] # 529

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

**Lectionary Scripture Readings**

**February 20, 2022 - Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

Are you plagued with doubts, fear, and anxiety? The Bible helps us defeat them by strengthening our faith.

**Luke 6:27-38 - Genesis 45:3-11, 15 - Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

**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.

*When we pray for others, God also opens our eyes to the needs of people everywhere—their pain, addiction, hurt, illness and heavy hearts. In prayer, our hearts recognize that every, single person matters to God.*

***Prayer Requests 02-06-2022***

**Robert Farrer** – Prayers for healthy recovery after hospital stay.

**Andrew Wilson** - John and Diana's grandson is being treated in Abington Hospital for stomach pain.

**Joan and Elaina Potts** - Andrew, Joan's son and Elaina's brother, died unexpectedly on January 30th. Services are at FMUMC on Friday Feb 11th.

**Fametta Dixon** and family (Claudia Johnson sister-in-law) Fametta's son, Cyrus Lawrence died and was laid to rest on Jan 29th.

**Cocoa and Phil Lee** - both awaiting test results

**Hank & Eva** having plumbing problems

**Linda Sutton** - prayers for health and her job.

**Prayers for all in the 2022 Winter Olympics**

***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.

*Women’s fellowship meetings are postponed until it is safe for us to meet together and share a meal. Hopefully, this will be in late February or March.*

 **DISCOVER THE CHRISTIAN HISTORY**

 **OF VALENTINE’S DAY**

 **By Editors http://insider.pureflix.com/**

 There are actually three historical men by the name of Valentine, and all of them were Christian martyrs. The most popular of the three (and the one who we remember on February 14) was a priest who lived in Rome during the third century. At this time, in the interest of making better soldiers, the Emperor Claudius II ruled that young men should not get married. After all, single soldiers could devote their entire lives to fighting at war, while married soldiers were distracted by a wife and family.

 Valentine, recognizing both the beauty of Christian marriage and the injustice in the emperor’s decree, went against the emperor and continued to secretly marry young Christian couples. Unfortunately, when Valentine’s marriages were discovered, Claudius II had him killed. For Valentine, though, his death sentence was worth following God’s will and procuring holy, Christian marriages.

**THE PAGAN CELEBRATION OF LUPERCALIA**

 You may have heard that before Valentine’s Day, pagans celebrated the festival of Lupercalia, which according to history.com “was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.” The festival included animal sacrifices that were supposed to help young women find a husband and be fertile. Thankfully, the church outlawed Lupercalia in the fifth century and replaced it with the Christian holiday of St. Valentine’s Day.

**CELEBRATING VALENTINE’S DAY AS A CHRISTIAN TODAY**

 Christians can celebrate Valentine’s Day as a day to honor the beauty of romantic love, especially within the covenant of Christian marriage. However, the day doesn’t have to be restricted to romantic love. You can use Valentine’s Day to celebrate the love of God, the love between parents and children, the love between friends, and love for our neighbors, the poor and sick. Valentine’s Day is a special day for Christians, because our entire faith is built upon love.

 Did you know that after Christmas cards, Valentine’s Day cards, or “valentines,” are the most popular holiday card? Each year, about 150 million valentines are exchanged around the world. The origin of the valentine comes from St. Valentine himself right before his death. According to CBN, his last words were in a note that he signed, “from your Valentine.”