*The result of raised valleys and lowered hills is an even place; neither high nor low. This sounds like equity where all are seen as on an even plane. Was this John’s call to those who heard him speak of “changed hearts and lives?” As we hear his call today as though it is to us, “What should we do?*

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

**3rd Sunday of Advent *JOY* December 12, 2021**

**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

 L: We gather in preparation…

 **P: For good news is about to be proclaimed.**

L: We gather in expectation…

 **P: For joy is about to break forth in our midst.**

 L: We gather in celebration…

 **P: For we are those people who have said *Yes* to the manger;**

 ***Yes* to the One incarnate for others; *Yes* to the wholeness of God.**

***All: Joy to the world, the Lord IS come!***

**Opening Hymn** *“Joy to the World”* # 246

 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room,
 and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ; while fields and floods,

 rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
 and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

 **Advent Candle Lighting**

 L: Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, lift up your hearts to God.

 **P: Come, Child of joy!**

 L: When Christ arrives, grief and groaning will flee away.

 **P: Come, Child of joy!**

 L: God takes pleasure in shaping our world, holding nothing back.

 **P: Come, Child of joy!**

 L: Let us give joyfully, because God is so good.

 **P: Come, Child of joy!**

 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!

Let it shine; let it shine; let it shine!

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Almighty God, the Source of all joy: We ask that we, being gathered together**

 **in the unity of faith to await the coming of Your Son, may go forth in praise and joy**

 **to make Him known to those we meet; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,**

 **who with You and the Holy Spirit dwells in glory everlasting. 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

 *“What Can I Give Him” # 221*

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

**The Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn** *“Blessed Be the God of Israel”* # 209

 Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,

who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.

 The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;

God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace;
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Luke 3:7-18*

 Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes!

 Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? **8**Produce fruit

 that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves,

 Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones.

 **9**The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit

 will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.” **10**The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

 **11**He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none,

 and whoever has food must do the same.”

 **12**Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

 **13**He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.”

 **14**Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?” He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone,

 and be satisfied with your pay.”

 **15**The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ.

 **16**John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming.

 I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

 **17**The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area

 and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.”

 **18**With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

 **Sermon** *“What Should We Do?”*

 **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**  *“Take My Life, and Let It Be”* # 399

 Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days;
 let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
 Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

 Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be
 filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
 Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
 Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction** *“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”* [TUNE: ACENSION]# 362

There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod:

Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!

The valley’s shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;

make straight all the crooked places, where the Lord our God may go!

**Women’s Fellowship lunch. December 15th at Noon**

in the Crescentville church basement. Please bring some food to share, just a small amount and not a dessert or beverage.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

 **Crescentville UMC 8:00 PM**

 (Frankford Memorial UMC 6:30 PM)

