*Jesus said, “Whoever isn’t against us is for us.” This is a thought worth taking time to consider and ponder as we try to understand who we are as we are a part of God’s greater church. The call of Jesus is always to be FOR Him! - Pastor Randy*

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

**18th Sunday After Pentecost September 26, 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** *James 5*

 *....Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you will be healed.*

 *The prayer of a good person has a powerful effect.*

 **Opening Hymn** *“Sweet Hour of Prayer”* # 496

 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known.
 In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief,
 and oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer!

 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return!
 With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows his face,
 and gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

 Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall my petition bear
 to him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless.
 And since he bids me seek his face, believe his word, and trust his grace,
 I'll cast on him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!

 **Opening Prayer**

 **Almighty God, You are the source of all life and health. Grant to all who are in need**

 **Your heavenly healing. Look upon all Your faithful people who are in need**

 **and who love to call upon Your Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

 **who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, O Trinity most Holy and Blessed. 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** *“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”* [VS. 1-2, 4]# 427

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan,
 above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of man.

In haunts of wretchedness and need on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.

The cup of water given for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these beautitudes to view the strong compassion in your face.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. Mark 9:38-50*

 John said to Jesus, “Teacher, we saw someone throwing demons out in your name,

 and we tried to stop him because he wasn’t following us.” **39**Jesus replied, “Don’t stop him.

 No one who does powerful acts in my name can quickly turn around and curse me.

 **40**Whoever isn’t against us is for us. **41**I assure you that whoever gives you a cup of water to drink

 because you belong to Christ will certainly be rewarded.

 **42**“As for whoever causes these little ones who believe in me to trip and fall into sin,

 it would be better for them to have a huge stone hung around their necks and to be thrown

 into the lake. **43**If your hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It’s better for you to enter into life

 crippled than to go away with two hands into the fire of hell, which can’t be put out.

 **45**If your foot causes you to fall into sin, chop it off. It’s better for you to enter life lame than to be thrown

 into hell with two feet. **47**If your eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out. It’s better for you to enter

 God’s kingdom with one eye than to be thrown into hell with two. **48**That’s a place *where worms don’t die*

 *and the fire never goes out.* **49**Everyone will be salted with fire.

 **50**Salt is good; but if salt loses its saltiness, how will it become salty again?

 Maintain salt among yourselves and keep peace with each other.”

 **Sermon** *“For or Against…or Not Against”*

 **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**  *“Christ for the World We Sing”* [VS. 1-3]# 568

 Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with loving zeal;
 the poor, and them that mourn, the faint and overborne, sin-sick and sorrow-worn, whom Christ doth heal.

 Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with fervent prayer;
 the wayward and the lost, by restless passions tossed, redeemed at countless cost, from dark despair.

 Christ for the world we sing, the world to Christ we bring, with one accord;

 with us the work to share, with us reproach to dare, with us the cross to bear, for Christ our Lord.

**Benediction**

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

**Choral Benediction**   *“I Surrender All “ [vs 4] # 354*

All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to thee; fill me with thy love and power;

let thy blessing fall on me. I surrender all, I surrender all, all to thee my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

**Lectionary Readings for Sunday October 3rd**

 Studying the Bible has often been compared to mining for gold. If we don't try very hard, merely "sifting through the pebbles in a stream," we'll only find a bit of gold dust. But the more we make an effort to really dig and discover, the greater our reward will be.

**19th Sunday after Pentecost - World Communion Sunday**

Mark 10:2-16 - Job 1:1; 2:1-10

Psalm 26 or Psalm 25 - Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12