

Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church

5th Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020

"Caring Relationships"
The 6th Mark
Of a Vital Congregation



PRELUDE

"For Me"

#10 on CD

<http://www.crestholmepec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/10-For-Me.mp3>

(place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

WELCOME BEAUTIFUL SAINTS OF GOD!

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXTG2auAoPs> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

CALL TO WORSHIP: Read out loud by yourself or with a loved one

YOU: Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

LOVED ONE: In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another; in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing stedfastly in prayer; communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality.

YOU: Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. Be not wise in your own conceits.

LOVED ONE: Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men.

ALL: If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men.

OPENING PRAYER: Read out loud

Lord, by your grace we restore each other in a spirit of gentleness. By your love we bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. By your strength we are not weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Therefore Almighty God, by your will, your guidance, and your Spirit we work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith. Amen

Opening Hymn "What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vlv0zzKs_rY (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

Prayer of Confession:

Lord Jesus, you gave us a new commandment that we love one another; even as you have loved us, we are also to love one another. By this shall all men know that we are your disciples, if we have love one to another. Forgive us Lord when we have failed to love as you have loved us. Amen

Assurance of God's Forgiveness:

Hear the GOOD NEWS!

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it but to save it through Jesus Christ. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also beareth witness to us. Saints of God, In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven! Hallelujah and Amen!

GLORIA PATRI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Abba Father, Holy Spirit, we want to see Jesus. Amen

PSALTER READING

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Jehovah. Lord, hear my voice:
Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If thou,
Jehovah, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.
I wait for Jehovah, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.
My soul waiteth for the Lord More than watchmen wait for the morning;
Yea, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in Jehovah;
For with Jehovah there is lovingkindness, and with him is plenteous
redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:6-11

For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace: because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be: and they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you, he that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

SERMON

“Caring Relationships”
John 21:15-19

Tom Heger

Caring... is many things! It's a value and an attitude, it's a quality and it's a commitment. And, it's a skill. A skill that can be learned. And lived. Behavior that makes a real difference!

Caring Skills: In Three Steps

Step One: Get Centered!

If we were “live” in worship, I’d invite our precious young girls to join me on the carpet at the front of the sanctuary...and encourage them to be...themselves: wiggly, squiggly, giggly, happily scattered. Coloring. Dancing. And invite the congregation to talk to each other. Cathie — semi-quietly practice the next hymn. Robin — hum the next anthem. And, then, in the midst of the happy hub-bub...James would — in a whisper — say something like, “If you can hear me, I’ll give you a ten dollar bill!”

My bet: No takers! We’re all too pleasantly preoccupied to hear, to notice.

And that’s, my bet, the way many of us go through life.
“Self-centered” — isn’t that (also) a simple Biblical description of sin?

When quiet (centered), James will offer again — I hope he’s got lots of 10s!

Step Two: Rehearse. Anticipate.

Then, when quietly centered, attentive, I’d ask Fred to wobble up the center aisle, precariously trying to carry / balance an 8 foot high pile of (empty) tottery tip-over-able cardboard boxes!

What do you see? An emerging emergency. See it? Anticipate what’s apt to happen!

Step Three: Ask... “How Can I Help?”

Then, with a crisis looming, DO NOT rush in (depending on the crisis, of course). Ask...“Looks like they’re gonna fall! How can I help?” Maybe Fred was practicing his juggling and wondering how far the boxes would tumble. Rushing in would mess up his “experiment.” But, in most cases, it is an emerging crisis...and help would be gratefully welcomed. Offer. And, then, obey...give what’s asked for.

Works in the aisles at HEB:

a shopper with an arm load of way too many potatoes...

a curious child in a shopping cart...leaning reaching...about to topple

Works in the kitchen at home:

a younger sibling with a too-full bottle of about-to-be-spilled milk

Works in institutional settings:

during a Session meeting...

in the City Council chambers and corridors...

I think it's the practical application of the Jesus'...

"Those who have eyes to see...look around!" (Tom's paraphrase.)

Feeding the 5000 — Jesus anticipates both his disciples' limits, and the child's generosity!

To Blind Bartimeaus, "What do you want me to do for you?" Ask!

Then, act...in love.

HYMN "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWdNgXSd46Y> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

THIS WE BELIEVE:

For we are persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Please, continue to support the life and work of Crestholme. You can mail your tithes pledges and offerings to...

CPC. POBox 23919. SATx 78223-0901 or you can save them and gather them until we meet again. Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice.

DOXOLOGY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyg6-htOtHU> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of heaven and earth, thank you. Our time, ourselves, our love, our strength, that which you have given to us by grace, we offer to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Here, in your own words, pray and intercede for others and for yourself followed by the Lord's Prayer.

CLOSING HYMN "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMLOIYWM03g> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

BENEDICTION:

[With our hands lifted unto the Lord and a heart full of grace and love, receive this blessing in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ!]

In Christ, Almighty God makes you to be like a tree planted by the streams of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also doth not wither; and whatsoever you do shall prosper.

Now go in his care, in his love, and be the blessing he has made you to be. In his grace and for his glory, go! Amen