

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church**

**The Resurrection of Our Lord  
Easter Sunday**

**April 12, 2020**

**Worship... Together, from Home!  
Alone or with Family — Right Now, or at 11 on Sunday  
Read (all the parts, out loud), Sing, Pray....  
Celebrate Communion: Your Bread, Your Juice or Wine**

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**Gather for Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**"Let Us Rejoice and Sing Praises"  
Track 12 from our Choir's "Our Father's World" CD**

<http://www.crestholmepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/12-Let-Us-Rejoice-and-Sing-Praises.mp3>

**WELCOME**

Psalm 118. 24

One: "This is the day which the Lord has made:  
All: let's rejoice and be glad in it!"

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

**"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"**  
<https://youtu.be/BkVWoduD-c0>

## RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We thought it was all over:  
All: His amazing life,  
Our faithful discipleship adventure,  
God's Promise of Hope,  
And then, there was finality of a cruel death.  
It was over!

One: But then...  
All: In the quiet of the pre-dawn dark,  
When the world was quiet,  
And everything was still,  
And the faithful were grieving:

One: Everything changed!  
God changed everything!

All: The caring grieving faithful women came to the tomb:  
One: But, instead of a final ending  
All: They discovered an astonishing new beginning:  
One: The tomb was empty!  
All: He wasn't constrained by death or tomb.  
One: He'd gone ahead of them, again,  
to live anew, to love again, and to boldly lead.

All: The tomb was empty!  
One: What is there to say?  
All: He is Risen!  
One: He is Risen indeed!  
All: Alleluia! Jesus Christ is Risen indeed!

## OPENING HYMN

### "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Blue, # 123

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1brSOs0IMc>

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

"God of beginnings, on the very first day You began Your creation  
by bringing light out of darkness.  
On another "first day," You began Your new creation  
by raising Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, out of the darkness of death.  
On this Lord's Day, this Easter Day, this new day, grant that we,  
the people You have made Your own with Water and Word, with Bread and Wine,  
may celebrate and practice the power and the promise of Your resurrection love,  
praise Your name, live into Your promises, and work for Your peace and justice,  
Forgive us, when... we fall short, when we get in the way, when we get scared or tired or...  
in Jesus' name. Amen."

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

II Corinthians 5. 17

One: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel:  
All: Anyone who is in Christ is becoming a new creation.  
One: The old life has gone, a new life is beginning.  
All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

<https://youtu.be/QUBxpypSblw>

## Hear the Word of God

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Quiet the chatter, tame the fears, still the storms, O God of Creation  
 Open our hearts, kindle our imaginations, free our spirits, O Risen Christ.  
 And then, O Holy Spirit, lead us: show us what to do, when to speak, and how to love.  
 In the Name of the God Who  
     still Creates and Calls  
     still Loves and Leads  
     still Comforts and Challenges.  
 Amen.

### THE EASTER STORY ACCORDING TO JOHN'S GOSPEL

**John 20. 1 — 18**

Read it first, from your own favorite Bible translation. Then, from "the Message":

**1-2** Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

**3-10** Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

**11-13** But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?"

**13-14** "They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him.

**15** Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?"

She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Mister, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him."

**16** Jesus said, "Mary."

Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "*Rabboni!*" meaning "Teacher!"

**17** Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'"

**18** Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: "I saw the Master!" And she told them everything he said to her.

### TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN ... AND THE CHILD IN EACH OF US!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NWZ7bjNQXA>

## THREE EASTER MEDITATIONS

### “For God so Loved the World”

Larry Sears

I relate to John in the New Testament. Over the years I have experienced how much God loves me, and I think that is what John learned early on in his walk with Jesus. I've heard some say John was conceited since he always called himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved”, but I think he just knew the truth about God's love.

With that as an introduction, allow me to view the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday through his eyes.

He was there when they arrested Jesus. He was scared, hurt, and confused. How could they do this to the Son of God? Didn't they know how much He loved them? As events marched on out of John's control, he was concerned for the Son of God. He was never far from where Jesus was as he was tried in the kangaroo court of those “in power”. John might have been there when Jesus was before Pilate. He might have seen Pilate's surprise that Jesus didn't respond as others had when faced with certain death. The others pleaded not to die, or they defiantly told the authorities where they could go. But Jesus...

Throughout this day, John knew the real reason Jesus was silent. He knew the soft crying that Jesus was doing had nothing to do with the wounds put upon him by the soldiers. It had nothing to do with the crown of thorns that was forced upon his head. John realized that Jesus was crying because His heart was broken. John knew that the Son of God had come to let people know God loved them, to let them experience the love of God. He knew that because he had experienced it. Jesus had already said all that could be said. If they didn't believe Him while He was ministering the Love of God to them, they would not understand or believe what He might say immediately before He went to the cross.

And so John, with a heavy heart stayed by his friend until the end. He even heard Jesus tell him to take care of Mary. And then He was gone. “It is finished” and then... nothing. All that love, gone, just like that! Would God ever visit us again? Did we just blow the only chance we had to see God, love God, and be loved by God? Now what?

I imagine John was there when they buried Jesus in that borrowed tomb. It was nice of Joseph to give his tomb to Jesus. At least he had a good burial. Now what?

Going back to the disciples and meeting with them as they were all depressed and in shock. It had all seemed so real! But now.... All of the sudden, the atmosphere in the room changed. There was a sweet smell in the room. Not the smell of fear, and sweat, but a pleasant odor. And there He was! “Peace be with you.” John immediately recognized Jesus, and realized that the love of God was even greater than he imagined it could be.

The surprise wasn't so much that Jesus rose from the grave, after all didn't God make the universe? How hard would the resurrection of a body be compared to that? The real surprise was God saying, “Whatever you have done, whatever you throw at Me, I love you.” John knew he was loved before, but this took him deeper into that love.

May the Lord bless you as you meditate on these things today.  
Larry

## **“THE GREATEST ACT OF LOVE”**

Carlos Baladez

There is a song the Bee Gees sang, “Back in the day,” as my children like to say. In this particular song, the following lyrics appear:

You don't know what it's like  
To love somebody  
To love somebody  
The way I love you.

God's love for us is so intense, the son of God, Jesus Christ put it on full display on a cross at Golgotha. He surrendered his life. This was followed by an interment in a tomb for three days. On the third day he was brought forth in glorious resurrection power, past the cherubim with the fire branding sword, past the Garden of Eden, past the heavenly Tabernacle, into the very heart of God, our final dwelling place.

God our creator has prepared humanity for this great event. You see, resurrection themes abound. They surround us.

Every month we witness the lunar phases: no moon in the sky; to a full moon; back to no moon. Those living by the ocean experience two low tides and two high tides every lunar day. The whole world encounters morning light turned into evening darkness and back to light every 24 hours. Each day our bodies experience a form of resurrection too. Our lungs fill up and then empty out with air every time we breathe. Our hearts take in blood and then are emptied of it with each heartbeat. We even experience mini resurrections every morning as we awaken from the previous night's sleep.

We see this theme of death and resurrection every time a seed is planted. It dies in order to release the germ. Then it sprouts, grows, and reproduces a thousand fold. Harvest comes. The multifold results of the planted seed provides sustenance for the living.

God's love is so intense, fearful, mysterious, and wonderful all at the same time. Have you allowed yourself to experience such glorious, fearful, and intense passionate love? Let God love you! Who are you? You are God's beloved. The subject (not object) of his love. His love is for you and is directed towards you. Crucify your “no” and accept his resurrected, “yes!”

All these mini resurrections point to the one true resurrection of and in Jesus Christ. We too will be resurrected someday. Celebrate his today and he will celebrate yours at the appointed time.

Grace and Peace,  
Carlos Baladez

## **“Surprised... by Resurrection”**

Tom Heger

I grew up thinking that the Resurrection was a one-time, long-ago, miracle about Jesus, an anomaly that somehow proved He was God.

My Resurrection was too small. God is bigger than that.

Resurrection is not an ancient miracle  
as much as it is an enduring relationship.  
Resurrection is a faith-affirmation about how reality and history actually work.  
About what's really real!

Christ Crucified is all of the hidden, private-and-public, tragic pain of history  
made public and given over to God.  
Christ Resurrected is all of that same private-and-public, ungrieved, anonymous suffering  
received, loved, and transformed by an All-Caring God.

How else could we believe in God at all? How else could we have any kind of cosmic hope?  
How else would we not die of sadness for what humanity has done — and is doing! — to itself,  
to our fragile world, and to one another?

Jesus is the blueprint, the plan, the pattern revealed in one body and one moment of history,  
to reveal the meaning of all of history and the purpose of each of our lives.

The Cross is the banner of what we do to one another and to God.  
The Resurrection is the banner of what God gives and does to us in return.  
Easter is the announcement of God's perfect and final victory.

A wise 77 year old contemplative-activist Roman Catholic Franciscan friar reminds us,  
"There is a light in us that only darkness itself can illuminate."  
There's plenty enough darkness. Be the Light! Resurrection Light!

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Amen.



## **Respond in Love and Service**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

"We are not alone; we live in God's world.  
We believe in God – Who has created and is creating;  
Who has come in Jesus, to reconcile and make new.  
We trust God – Who calls us to be the Church;  
To love and serve others;  
To seek justice and resist evil;  
To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
Our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God."

## HYMN

### "The Day of Resurrection"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV0uE2j9A9I>

## PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

"In Jesus' name, Live your Gifts! In Jesus' name, Give your Gifts!"

Please, mail your gifts, tithes, offerings and pledges to the church:  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 23919. SA TX 78223-0901



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

During this Easter Season, we're also participating in the Presbyterian Church's and all of Christendom's One Great Hour of Sharing (annual, special) Offering. It's our tangible compassion, in Jesus' Name, to a hungry and hurting world! Please... add your special gift and mark your check: OGHS

Some of us chose to "fast" on Good Friday and will donate the amount of food money saved to the San Antonio Food Bank (<https://safoodbank.org/>) or to our own — temporarily closed — Food Pantry. For all your gifts, Wow, Thank You!

## DOXOLOGY

**Blue, # 592**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyg6-htOtHU>

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

"Accept these gifts, O God, as You have already accepted us. Use them, as You use us... to touch lives and make a difference in the world You so love. In Jesus' name, we give our gifts, and live! Amen."

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE AND SERVE

- Identify a friend who'd love a phone call. Call!
- Remember a way you used to generously serve? Find a new — "from home" way!

## OUR CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Tom will "read" these words and Celebrate Communion... at 11:40 on Easter morning.

**Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" \*\***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVP52dC3jks&list=RDbVP52dC3jks&start\\_radio=1&t=111](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVP52dC3jks&list=RDbVP52dC3jks&start_radio=1&t=111)

Just as Cathie often accompanies our Communion Celebration from the organ, let Leonard Cohen's haunting hopeful poem and promise accompany us!

## Invitation to the Table

"Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! We have come from east and west and north and south, to gather together — even when separate — at Table in the Kingdom of God."

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

... in your own words, give thanks! Say "grace!"

## The People's Prayers

For our Military and their Families...

For our First Responders, the Doctors and Nurses and Hospital Staff; Grocery Clerks...

For \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.... (friends and family and neighbors in need)

For you, Beloved Child of God and Dear Friend of Mine...

"In Your Loving Mercy; Lord... Hear our prayer."

## The Lord's Prayer

### Our Celebration of Communion

Yes, say these Words of Institution and Serve Yourself / Each Other:

"The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread,  
and after giving thanks to God, He broke it and said,  
'This is my Body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.'

In the same manner, He took the cup after supper, saying,  
'This cup is the New Covenant sealed in my blood.  
Whenever you drink it, do it in remembrance of Me.' "

## The Prayer of Thanksgiving

"Gracious God, You love us... to make us whole.

You feed us... to make us strong.

You call us... to love each other.

For loving us, for feeding us, and for calling us,  
we thank You! Amen"

## CLOSING HYMN

### "This Easter Celebration"

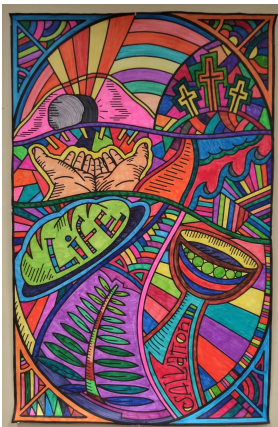
New Words, by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette: see below! Set to: "The Church's One Foundation":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nr7rbeMAMN8>

If you're a musician, and know the tune, go straight to the sheet music, at the very bottom,  
and, sing away! If you need a musical tune reminder, listen here, for a minute...

Or, print the sheet music. Or, read one on your computer, listen to the other on your phone!

## BENEDICTION



Go out into the world in peace  
Have courage  
Hold on to what is good  
Return no one evil for evil  
Strengthen the fainthearted  
Support the weak  
Help the suffering  
Honor all men and women,  
Little boys and little girls  
Love and serve each other  
Rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!



## POSTLUDE

### "The Hallelujah Chorus"

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=handel%27s+messiah+lyrics&docid=607992155537869389&mid=40B45BB2589F017AF02040B45BB2589F017AF020&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

No, you don't have to stand!  
Yes, you can play it over and over, all afternoon!

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## The End of Worship – The Beginning of Service

\*\* A quote from Leonard Cohen on why he wrote "Hallelujah":

"This world is full of conflicts and full of things that cannot be reconciled but there are moments when we can transcend ....and reconcile and embrace the whole mess, and that's what I mean by 'Hallelujah.' That regardless of what the impossibility of the situation is, there is a moment when you open your mouth and throw open your arms and you embrace the thing and you just say, 'Hallelujah....blessed is the name.'

The only moment that you can live here comfortably in these absolutely irreconcilable conflicts is in this moment when you embrace it all and you say, 'Look, I don't understand... at all — Hallelujah!' That's the only moment when we live here fully as human beings."

### **Crestholme Presbyterian Church 1602 Goliad Road San Antonio TX 78223**

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We have temporarily closed our congregation's campus — no group activities, no church programs, no shared-space partners' programs, no Food Pantry or Clothes Closet... to honor the White House's Guidelines and the City's Emergency Directives and to protect our vulnerable volunteers and members and neighbors during these perilous COVID-19 days.

But that does not mean that we've... gone away.

How can we support you? Your prayer life? Your every-day needs and cares?  
Yes, "Social distance!" But, NO, not "Emotional distance!" Help us connect and care!

There's an active "hug train" — our phone tree. Would you make a call or two? Would you like to be called? Chat with Tom at: [tjheger@flash.net](mailto:tjheger@flash.net) or 210 237 8182.

There are lots of "little things" that are quite important for us — for someone — to continue to do. Got an hour? Some of our members could use a hand with... shopping, "essential errands," every-day little things. Got a hand?

# This Easter Celebration

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. This Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known.  
2. No gath-ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban-ners lead the way.  
3. Our joy won't come from wor - ship that's in a crowd-ed room  
4. In all the grief and suf-fering, may we re-mem-ber well:  
5. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be

We pray in i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone.  
O God of love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day?  
but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb.  
Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell.  
a scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry.

We're dis-tant from our neigh - bors— from wor - ship lead - ers, too.  
With sanc - tu - a - ries emp - ty, may homes be - come the place  
Our joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see—  
Each Eas - ter bears the pro - mise: Christ rose that glo - rious day!  
In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too,

No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to set a fes - tive mood.  
we pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace.  
who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be - lieved.  
Now no - thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love a - way.  
we live the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.

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