

Peace be with you.



As the Father has sent me,  
even so I send you.

John 20:21

A WORSHIP SERVICE FOR THE HOME  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ APRIL 19, 2020

**This morning we all worship in our own homes,  
but are together in the Spirit with our Cresthome Family**

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church**

**The Second Sunday of Easter**

**April 19, 2020**

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

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**Gather for Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**"Open My Eyes"**

**Track 2 from our Choir's "Our Father's World" CD**

<http://www.crestholmeperc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/02-Open-My-Eyes.mp3>

**WELCOME**

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
All: God's steadfast love endures forever.

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

**"I Will Wait for You"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_eJUqY\\_6tqo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eJUqY_6tqo)

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!  
All: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.  
One: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.  
All: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.  
One: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.  
All: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls. Let us worship God.

**OPENING HYMN**

**"All Creatures of Our God and King"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCCpj1x-vvg>

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

My friends, God is our refuge and will not abandon us. In Jesus Christ, we are reconciled to God. That is a promise of peace and joy; share that peace with one another.

## **GLORIA PATRI**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw&feature=youtu.be>

## **Hear the Word of God**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word that it may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence where there is fullness of joy. Amen.

## **To Believe**

**John 20:19-31**

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

<sup>19-20</sup> Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

<sup>20-21</sup> The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

<sup>22-23</sup> Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

<sup>24-25</sup> But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

<sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

<sup>27</sup> Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

<sup>30-31</sup> Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb24Lk1Oh5M>

## **A MEDITATION**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE GOSPEL – “I DON’T BELIEVE YOU!” John 20:19-31**

This year we celebrated Easter differently than we ever have before. If you think about it, Easter is like no other day. It’s a day when faith has to step in, because the resurrection of Jesus Christ is against everything our minds know to be true.

Chapter 20 of John focuses on the empty tomb, and the appearance of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. She ran to tell Peter and the other disciple that His body wasn’t there. They ran to the tomb, and saw it was empty.

Mary stayed at the tomb after Peter and the other disciple returned to where they were staying. (Behind locked doors) She was the first to see Him. She didn’t recognize Him until He called her by name. Then she knew. She ran to the others as He instructed her and said, “I have seen the Lord!” I suspect their first reaction was the same as Thomas’ reaction. “Yea, Right.”

The disciples were back in the room with the locked door on Sunday. But on Sunday night...

Suddenly Jesus was there! “Peace be with you.” Had it only been days before when Jesus told them during the last supper, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” Can you imagine standing before the risen Lord and having Him say, “Peace be with you.”? Just His presence would have been over powering, but to hear those words and see Him would melt even the coldest heart.

Now we come to Thomas. Poor Thomas. He wasn’t there the first time the Lord appeared. The disciples told him about it, but his reaction was like theirs. “I don’t believe you.” Then he put into words what the rest had probably thought when Mary told them she had seen Jesus. “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” So that was that.

No convincing Thomas, no way, no how. But then a week later...

Jesus was suddenly in the same room behind the same locked doors, and His first words were “Peace be with you.” Then He looked at Thomas. Three things come to my mind when I read this story. The presence of Jesus always brings peace. It is the very nature of the risen Lord to bring peace into any situation He is allowed into. The second thing is that Jesus used the same words that Thomas had spoken the week before. Jesus knew what Thomas had said. Does this prove God is omnipresent? It does for me. The 3<sup>rd</sup> thing is that Jesus didn’t rebuke Thomas for his harsh remark about believing only if he could see for himself that it was the Lord. Jesus merely told Thomas that he could prove to himself that it was Jesus by doing what he said would convince him of the resurrection. Once again, Jesus showed the grace of God that carried Him from the cradle to the cross and after His resurrection to those disciples.

So where does that leave us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? John summarizes the Book of John this way, “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” I invite you to read the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of John and meditate on what is written.

If questions come to mind while you are meditating on this passage, talk to the Lord. If you would like, I am available to walk through an idea or a question you might have. It would be fun to pray and seek the Lord together for an answer.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. (1 Thess 5:23-24)

Larry

## **Respond in Love and Service**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

### **HYMN**

#### **"Fairest Lord Jesus"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIDYW1OZfMk>

### **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

### **DOXOLOGY**

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

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, you are our portion and our cup. In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest. Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges that they may bring the joy of your presence more deeply into the world. 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!

## **The People's Prayers**

For our Military and their Families...

For those who know how contagious this virus is and still stand by and care for those who are sick, watch over them and protect them.

For our elected officials. Lord help them to make ethical and just decisions in the fight with this virus.

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**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

**"Oh, Jesus, I Have Promised"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC-2Ss9tg7I>

## **BENEDICTION**

May your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)

## **POSTLUDE**

**"The Risen Christ"**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=77&v=ivMqmob5GFg&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=77&v=ivMqmob5GFg&feature=emb_logo)

No, you don't have to stand!

Yes, you can play it over and over, all afternoon!

## **The End of Worship – The Beginning of Service**

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

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Email: [crestholmepc@satx.rr.com](mailto:crestholmepc@satx.rr.com) Web Site: [www.crestholmepc.com](http://www.crestholmepc.com)

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 Larry at: [larryrsears@gmail.com](mailto:larryrsears@gmail.com) or 210-240-7609.

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?