

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church**

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

"It Is No Secret"

Track 7 from our Choir's "Our Father's World" CD

<http://www.crestholme.pc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/07-It-Is-No-Secret.mp3>

WELCOME

One: Your love, Oh Lord, reaches to the heavens,

All: Your faithfulness stretches to the skies.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Lord, Have Mercy"

Bach / arr. Hopson

<https://youtu.be/WFDGeCDiv98>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God

All: Let us praise and worship our God

One: Let us lift up holy hands and voices to the Lord our God

All: Hallelujah!

One: Let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

"My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJPW8EB22LU>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, your word offers freedom from sin, but we confess that we have not obeyed your word. We have harbored malice toward our enemies; we have been deceitful in our relationships; we have been insincere in our commitments; through gossip we have slandered our friends. Forgive us our sins and lead us to genuine repentance. Help your children long for your pure, spiritual milk that we may grow into the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Sisters and brothers, once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. In the Name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

GLORIA PATRI

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

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, as we listen to your holy Word, open our hearts to the power of your Spirit, call us out of darkness, and lead us into your marvelous light. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

1 Peter 3:13-22

THE SERMON

"Give the reason for the hope that you have"

Such a simple thought, and yet it invokes a great deal of contemplation. This is the second half of Peter's thought. The first half being, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to.." I think Peter is expecting a life lived through Christ to be different than the world's expectations of what life should be like and therefore subject to questions about the difference. Peter had himself as a prime example of life before meeting the Christ, and life after that encounter.

We have hope in all kinds of things. Hope is the expectation of something good. Hope can be spiritual; hope in salvation, eternal life, having a relationship with the Creator of the universe. It isn't limited to that. It could be hope in meeting the love of our life. Getting a job we can enjoy and look forward to each day. It might be we hope to have children and raise a family. Hope comes in many packages. It is a very personal thing. I can tell you that if the Lord is involved in the things you hope for, your attitude and demeanor will show a different look to the world than the world expects. That's why Peter expects people to ask about the hope we have in the Lord.

Peter mentions that when we do give a reason for our hope, for our expectation, we do it with gentleness and respect. These would be signs of love. Gentleness and respect seem to not be in our vocabulary any more. Listening to the news and social media, we find people attacking others for their beliefs and thoughts. Unfortunately, sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between those who believe in Christ and those who might have what we consider a more worldly view of things. Christ wants to show His love to the world through us, therefore let us love one another as Christ loves us.

As I mentioned, hope invokes a great deal of contemplation. What do you hope for? I pray that you will take time to talk to the Lord about those things you hope for. It doesn't matter if they seem spiritual or not. Let Him into the conversation and watch what happens.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Larry

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3dEh25pduQ8>

Respond in Love and Service

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe:

that in His faithfulness, God sent Jesus Christ to show us the way to the Father; to encourage us to seek God with all our heart. It was in God's faithfulness that Jesus went to the cross to die for our sins. It was God's faithfulness that rose Jesus from the dead. It was God's faithfulness that set Jesus at God's right hand to rule and reign throughout eternity. It is God's faithfulness that drew us to Himself that we might live.

It is God's faithfulness that He promises to listen when we pray. It is God's faithfulness that when we cry out for mercy, He will answer and be with us. In God's faithfulness He promises to never leave us or forsake us.

It is God's faithfulness that He treats us as His beloved children. It's God's faithfulness that He teaches us and corrects us.

In God's faithfulness, He sent the Holy Spirit to comfort us, to remind us of all Jesus did.

HYMN

"Morning Has Broken"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wzMqtububzs>

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



We're on the way to Pentecost! Join us in contributing to the Pentecost Special Offering! An investment in our Youth! For all your gifts, Wow, Thank you.

DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty God, receive the gifts we bring in gratitude for your astounding goodness. Make our lives to be an acceptable offering in union with our risen Lord, who lives and reigns with you forever. 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

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKP_XxCBDZY

BENEDICTION

May your love 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

"Fugue in G-minor"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdCuA7SbzaM&app=desktop>

The End of Worship – The Beginning of Service

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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 Larry at: larrysears@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?