

Before we begin...

let me ask you:

“What comes first?”

“God! Of Course! God comes first,” you’d faithfully answer.

“And, God is ____?” I’d wonder.

“LOVE! God is LOVE!” you’d almost sing!

OK, then, “Love” is first...!

Here’s “Love”:

<http://www.crestholmeperc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/14-Love.mp3>

It’s the 14th Track of our Choir’s CD: “Our Father’s World.” Listen, and know that you are loved!

Let love, always, come first.

And, now, please, say these words out loud with me:

**“This is the Day which the Lord has Made,
Let’s Rejoice and Be Glad in It!”**

Worship has just begun...!



**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian
Church’s
— We’re on a Journey —
Worship at Home Kit**

**Mother’s Day
Our Celebration of Communion
Our Joyful Reception of
Katie Lamb-Anderson
Randy A. Anderson
as New Members**

Is this what the Israelites’ path forward looked like?

What’s ours look like? What “pillar of cloud” is leading us?

**May 10, 2020
The 5th Sunday of Easter**

Worship — We’re Together, though Separate — from Home!

Alone or with Family — Right Now, or at 11 on Sunday

Read (all the parts, out loud), Sing, Pray, Laugh, Share...

Celebrate Communion: Your Bread, Your Juice or Wine

Gather for Worship

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“This Is The Day... ”

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=cccJhMVFrLs>

GOD IS CALLING US TO WORSHIP

Psalm 95. 1 & 2, 6 & 7 "The Message"

If you're at a place where you can "shout" this Call, without worrying your neighbors, please do:

"Come, let's shout praises to God, raise the roof for the Rock who saved us!
Let's march into His presence singing praises, lifting the rafters with our hymns!

So come, let us worship: bow before Him, on your knees before God, Who made us!
Oh yes, He's our God, and we're the people He pastures, the flock He feeds."

OPENING HYMN (and it's a prayer!)

"Open My Eyes That I May See"

Blue, # 324

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=GDceaG7kFQA>

OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Look in a mirror:

What / Who do you see?

Then, read / see yourself in

St. Paul's Romans 7. 18 & 19

"I can 'will' what is right,
but I cannot do it.
For I do not do the good I want,
but the evil I do not want
is what I do."



Then, Pray with Me:

"When I'm isolated — like we all have been — I tend to shut down. I get narrowly introspective and judgmental. I can spiral down to a couple of really nasty places:
Either tenaciously blaming myself about my own goof-ups —
I re-live them, and scold myself, over and over again.
Or I get equally nasty about the really dumb things I think that others have done to me — and I get indignantly furious with them all over again.

And then I join Norman Rockwell and look in the mirror:

Ooops, there's those cruel clumsy former-friends of mine... they look just like me!

There I am... and I look just like those I get so much satisfaction out of blaming!

Forgive me, Gracious God Who Forgives 70 x 7 Times!

Help me "repent" — i.e. "change!". Change my mind. Change my behavior.

In 7 prayerful steps:

- 1 — Notice my self-defeating behaviors and blaming.
- 2 — Decide to repent / change! Then, begin to change...
- 3 — No more projecting.
- 4 — Take a Deep Breath.
- 5 — Forgive my self!
- 6 — And, forgive those dopey friends,
- 7 — Ask for their forgiveness, as well.

"... all things new!" That's Your promise.

It's time. I'm ready!

Amen.... which means, "So Be It!" Amen!

GOD'S 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.

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.

YOUR STORIES OF HOPE DURING THE JOURNEY

What Biblical Stories do you turn to,
when needing comfort, courage and a new call?
What Biblical role models speak to you?
What personal experiences do you re-live
to be reminded of God's promised presence?
I'll "preach" four short Exodus experiences...
what will you preach / live?



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

A Humorous Journey with Moses...
<https://youtu.be/ogfVBP35U-U>

THE STORY — SERMON

Click...
<https://youtu.be/mGe4-9ZIRLU>

Amen!

Handwritten signature "Tom" in blue ink on a yellow background.

Respond in Love and Service

OUR 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

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wT4n1hGjDDg>

Blue, # 281

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!

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 Sunday morning. Join me.

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 we are 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 Mothers... this Mothers' Day... especially...!

Celebrating this year will be... difficult... hard.

Reach out. Remember. Give Thanks!

For New Members Katie and Randy, and their family...

For our Military and their Families...

For our Graduates...

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...

"Lord, In Your Mercy." "Hear Our Prayer!"

The Lord's Prayer

During Your Celebration...

"Let Us Break Bread Together" Blue, # 513

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=xX47HvMEgBo>

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.' "



Easter's Communion!

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"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS KATIE AND RANDY...

... who were received into membership during our Session's Conference Call on the 30th of April. We'll joyfully celebrate their partnership in ministry with us when we're "back."

The last question that the Session asked them is:

"Will you love God and serve the people

with all your 'energy, intelligence, imagination and love'?

Will you accept God's blessings... and be a blessing to others?

Will you promise to listen and learn... in order to love and lead?"

They answered, "Yes, we will!"

How are you answering that question?

We will ask, you know!

Here they are, and their three —>
"Welcome... to the Ministry we share!"
You weren't expecting a "traditional" photograph,
were you? I sure wasn't!



CLOSING HYMN "When We Face an Unknown Future"
New Words, by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette,
set to a familiar tune: "Beach Spring"
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=N6HkWFMOy6o>

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.
Amen."

POSTLUDE

<https://youtu.be/vsMWVW4xtwI>

I worked on this part of the service on "May the 4th Be With You" Day...
hence, the playful postlude... John Williams and his
"Imperial March" from Star Wars!

The End of Worship The Beginning of Service

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Thank you... for being a part of the Crestholme's
compassionate community!
for staying home and taking care!
for all your prayers, your gifts,
your sharing and serving!



One of last Easter's Lilies!

