

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
7th Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020**



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

PRELUDE "Sing A Song of Peace" #4
<http://www.crestholmepec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/04-Sing-A-Song-of-Peace.mp3> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

WELCOME BEAUTIFUL SAINTS OF GOD!

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Shine, Jesus Shine"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4hXJ9ax2FY> (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: Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

LOVED ONE: But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ

YOU: So that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

LOVED ONE: If you are insulted because of the name of Christ,

YOU: You are blessed,

ALL: For the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

OPENING PRAYER: Read out loud

Almighty God, we humble ourselves under your hand, that you may lift us up in due time. We cast all your anxiety on you because you care for us.
Amen

Opening Hymn "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mj0RSDn08> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

Prayer of Confession:

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by your grace and mercy you have ransomed and redeemed us. You have caused us to repent and be alert and of sober mind. Our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. By your Word, your Spirit, the shed blood of the Lamb and our testimony we resist and triumph over him, standing firm in the faith, because we know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. Almighty God, you are the God of all grace, who has called us to your eternal glory in Christ, and after we have suffered a little while, you will restore us and make us strong, firm and steadfast. To you alone be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness:

Hear the GOOD NEWS!

We are those who have died to sin and have been baptized into Christ Jesus into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! 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, as your son Jesus opened the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf so open ours that we may see, hear, and believe what your Spirit is saying to us today. We pray, ask beseeching in the only name given among men through which we might be saved, Jesus. Amen

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 1:6-14

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

GOSPEL READING

John 17:1-11

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you

granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

Children's Time

Polite

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywjU25u6ALw> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

SERMON

"I Will Call to Him"

Carlos Baladez

Psalm 116:2

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

Did the Psalmist know that the human ear is made up of the outer, middle and inner ear? Did this writer know about the three tiny bones: the malleus, incus, and the stapes in the middle ear? They are connected and transmit the sound waves to the inner ear. Did the author know about the inner ear? The cochlea, vestibule, and the semicircular canals contain

nerves for hearing and receptors for balance. Did the one who penned this psalm know the following?

"Hearing starts with the outer ear. When a sound is made outside the outer ear, the sound waves, or vibrations, travel down the external auditory canal and strike the eardrum (tympanic membrane). The eardrum vibrates. The vibrations are then passed to 3 tiny bones in the middle ear called the ossicles. The ossicles amplify the sound. They send the sound waves to the inner ear and into the fluid-filled hearing organ (cochlea). Once the sound waves reach the inner ear, they are converted into electrical impulses. The auditory nerve sends these impulses to the brain. The brain then translates these electrical impulses as sound." 1

I don't know. What has been my experience is that we as humans have tried extremely hard to "understand" how things work that we forget to "understand" the point.

The cosmos is made up of millions upon millions of stars, galaxies, and star dust. Light travels at 183,000 miles per second. Music consists of different amounts of sound alternating with silence which are spaced out in sequences of time. 3.14159...is Pi. The primary colors of light are red, green, and blue. Mix red with yellow you get orange.

Data is good, if (and this is a huge IF), if we "get" the point. What's the point of praying, reading scripture, giving alms, etc.? The psalmist in verse one gives us a hit. "I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy." May I suggest, the purpose of it all: Pi, anatomy and physiology, mathematics, physics, music, art, poetry, producing movies, politics, government, baby making, alms etc. is to bring us to the point. The point being; "God hears our voice, knows each and every one of us by name and hears our cry." We along with the psalmist can cry out, "LORD, I love you!" To God be the glory now and forever, amen!

HYMN

"Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzuLi4fqjAQ> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

THIS WE BELIEVE:

Our God arises and his enemies are scattered, his foes flee before him. We sing to God, we sing in praise of his name, we extol him who rides on the clouds; we rejoice before him—his name is the 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
PO Box 23919.
SA TX 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

Abba Father, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to your son Jesus. Accept this offering and multiply it so that your servants may preach your message going forth and making disciples of all people groups. May your servants baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach the nations to obey everything you have commanded us for surely your son Jesus is with us always, to the very end of the age. In Jesus' name, Father, 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 "America The Beautiful"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwCEJFXVnhY> (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!]

Now, go forth singing to God, singing praise to the Lord, to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens, who thunders with mighty voice. Go, and proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is in the heavens. Declare him awesome in his sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God. Amen

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 Carlos at: crbaladez@yahoo.com or 210 324 5665.

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?

Blessings!