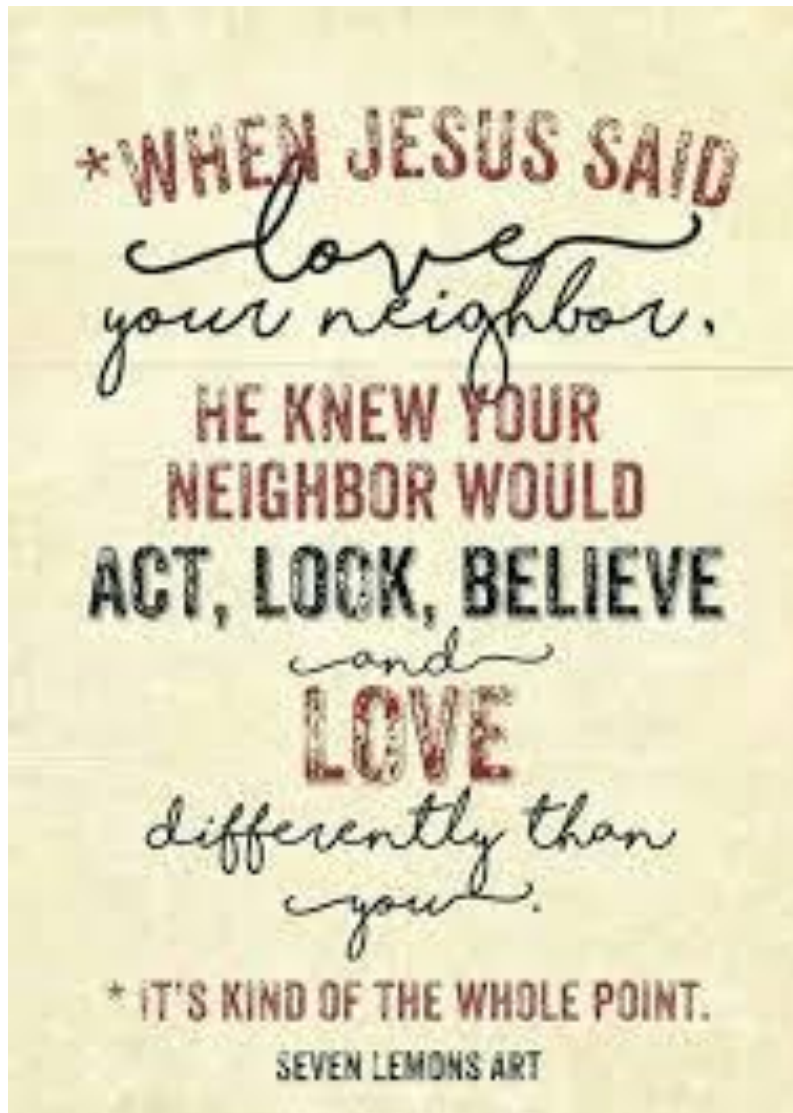


**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2020**



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

Worship is a response to the Word of God. It is not something we initiate on our own. Therefore, hear the Word of the Lord, “We love him, because he first loved us.”

WELCOME

Larry Sears

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRPxJNVdZZ0&feature=youtu.be>

PRELUDE

“Open My Eyes”

#8

<http://www.crestholmepc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/02-Open-My-Eyes.mp3> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

WELCOME, BODY OF CHRIST!

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Here I Am to Worship”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARPuKVSeqR0> (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: O sing to the LORD a new song;

LOVED ONE: sing to the LORD, all the earth;

YOU: Sing, and give praise to God’s Name;

LOVED ONE: tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

OPENING PRAYER: Read out loud

Lord, let us be glad when we can enter Your gates with thanksgiving and into Your courts with praise. Let us remember to praise and worship You all day long. May our lives reflect Your love for each of us. We thank You for all You have provided us. Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3ivdNzwE> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

Prayer of Confession:

God of justice and mercy, we admit that we are not always free of deceit. We are fooled by the false promises of the world into pursuing things that do not truly nourish us. Hear our cry and save us, dear God, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness:

Here is good news for everyone: God is gracious, merciful, abounding in steadfast love, and gives us forgiveness and grace. We do not have to earn it with sacrifice because it is a free gift from a generous God!

GLORIA PATRI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zdo3A35L9Wg> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept Your Word. Silence in us any voice but Your own, that, hearing, we may also obey Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (*Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 1993) 60.)

BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 67

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+67&version=NIV>

Awesome God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fI-AWNCpSUU>

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 15:(1-20) 21-28

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mt+15.1-28&version=NIV>

Children's Time Children of the Living God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3YI523yoxQc> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

MESSAGE

“Prejudice?”

Matthew 15:21-28

To Hear the sermon:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-dHS4e_haw&feature=youtu.be

Matthew 15:(10-20) 21-28

The Faith of a Canaanite Woman

21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

25 The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

26 He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

27 “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

28 Then Jesus said to her, *“Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.”* And her daughter was healed at that moment.

If we were to read the gospel passage without the guidance of the Spirit, we would say that Jesus let His prejudice show as He ignored the Canaanite woman. (Which is what some believe.) When Israel left Egypt, they were to go to the land of the Canaanites, and several other tribes. They were not to bow down to their gods or serve them. They were to overthrow the Canaanites completely a little at a time. (Exodus 23:23). The Israelites never did this. The Canaanites were considered enemies and were not to be dealt with or associated with in Jesus time. Jesus was ignoring her as any good Jew of that time would have. The disciples, realizing who she was wanted Jesus to send her away.

She had probably heard the stories of Jesus healing people and setting them free from demons. She had also heard that He claimed to be the Son of God. Here was her hope of getting help for her daughter. She called Him Lord, and Son of David. She acknowledged Him for Who He was. She then went right to the heart of the message He had been teaching throughout His ministry, *“Have mercy on me.”* Jesus had told the Pharisees on several occasions to contemplate what it meant when Hosea said, *“For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.”*

Jesus still didn't budge as He responded with *“I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”* I think Jesus was fishing for something. He was always teaching His disciples to understand what God was requiring of them. This was another time of teaching. The Canaanite woman responded to His remark by kneeling before Him and asking for help. Once again after calling Him Lord and Son of David, she humbly approached Him in an act of worship and humility. Though she wasn't a Jew, she acknowledged Him for Who He was. His response was not encouraging, *“don't toss the children's bread to the dogs.”* At this point she responded with a show of faith and her request was granted. Her daughter was healed at that moment.

Any of us who come to God with a need can do so at any time. Hosea gives us a picture of how to do that. We ask for mercy, not because we deserve it, but because that is what He gives. We come acknowledging God as the answer of our needs. This goes back to the Micah passage where it says, *“walk humbly with your God.”*

We still haven't responded to the problem of Jesus' apparent prejudice against an ancient enemy of the Jews. Jesus knew that the disciples would be immediately turned off by a Canaanite woman approaching them. They acted on their bias against her, "send her away." Why is she even here? I think the Lord wanted the disciples to hear what she had to say. It was to clear up an argument He knew they were having within themselves. The argument in their minds was that they were not to associate with Canaanites in any way, shape, or form. After all, that is what the law said.

But Jesus... showing mercy...and in the end her request was granted.

I think this incident was used to begin to break down the prejudices that the disciples had against those who were not Jews. The story follows along the same lines of Jonah going to Nineveh and preaching repentance to them. Jonah complained that he knew God would forgive them, that is why he didn't want to go there. We don't know what the disciples' response was to her daughter being healed. The Bible moves on immediately to something else. But for the disciples, if even a Canaanite woman is shown mercy by God, who else could approach the Lord in prayer and worship?

Anyone!

What are we to do? Step back and do not get in anyone's way as they turn to the Lord. Being prejudiced can put a stumbling block before people and keep them from the Lord. We are called to love the Lord and our neighbors. Loving our neighbors is the antithesis of being prejudiced. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that can help us overcome prejudices. The Spirit brings the fruit of love, joy, hope, peace and all the other fruit of the Spirit into our lives, and then teaches us how to allow them to flow through us to those around us.

Are you prejudice? Ask for help in overcoming that. Being prejudiced means we are not obeying the law of the Lord and showing love to our neighbors.

Don't break the law of love.

Amen.

HYMN

"The king of Love My Shepherd Is"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iu83WQdQ7-Y> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

THIS WE BELIEVE:

Today we express our belief in song,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVTop7pzqcM> 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=eMnevRoAz74> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, blessed are You, God of all creation; through Your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of Your kingdom. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray and intercede for the body of Christ, the governments of this world, the poor, the marginalized, the lost, and others. Pray also for your family and for yourself.

After your prayers sing along with this version of the Lord's prayer.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA47_QaSKgY

CLOSING HYMN "Great Is thy Faithfulness"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eQ1oal44wU> (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!]

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with y'all. Amen

Announcements:

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 or call me: 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?

Blessings!