

CALL TO WORSHIP: Read out loud by yourself or with a loved one.

YOU: The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

LOVED ONE: The LORD protects the unwary; when we were brought low, he saved us.

YOU: Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.

LOVED ONE: For you, LORD, have delivered us from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from stumbling,

YOU: That we may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.

ALL: The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

OPENING PRAYER: Read out loud

God, your way is perfect: your word LORD is flawless; you shield all who take refuge in you. You O God arm us with strength and keep our way secure. You make our feet like the feet of a deer; you cause us to stand on the heights. You make your saving help our shield, and your right hand sustains us; your help has made us great. You provide a broad path for our feet, so that our ankles do not give way. Thus, we gather today to recognize and worship you, Almighty God. Amen.

Opening Hymn “Earth and All Stars”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh1-85tfy04> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen. (PCUSA Book of Common Worship Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993; p. 88)

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness:

Hear the GOOD NEWS!

God does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who

fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. Beloved, in Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

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

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, O Lord, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of the Eternal; through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 124

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%20124&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matt+16.13-20&version=NIV>

Children's Time

Praise ye the lord

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8pbNBKK2jA0> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

MESSAGE

“Who do you say Jesus is?”

Carlos Baladez

Matthew 16:15

Scholars tell us that Matthew was writing to a Jewish community. Can you imagine that? Picture the angst they must have experienced. Do we stay with the law and continue trying to please God earning our salvation? Do we continue to approach God “the way we’ve always done it,” or do we embrace this new way of grace? Can we now believe that God has done it all for us? After all, Jesus did cry out, “It is finished.” Do we dare leave Moses and embrace this Jesus? Not even our “Princeton, Yale, and Harvard theologians” believe in him. His followers are rabble rousers and uneducated fishermen. And yet, how can Jesus accomplish such amazing feats if God is not with him?

In the midst of this controversy Jesus asks his disciples two simple questions. The first, “Who do people say I am? The second more direct and personal, “Who do you say that I am?” Impetuous, bold, and brazen Peter declares a revelation not his own, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” TNT made up of ten words given to him by the Father above. In essence, Peter is declaring Jesus to be God in the flesh, Immanuel. You, Jesus, are the savior of the world, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. You, Jesus, are the one who makes all things right between God and man, between creation and man, between man and man, and between man and himself. Jesus calls Peter “blessed,” meaning happy.

The words of Jesus are as valid to us today as they were to Peter and his fellow disciples when Jesus first asked them. This blessing comes to us not when we parrot Peter’s declaration but when we too receive this revelation from the Father above. We like Peter will be called “blessed,” happy.

The opportunity is before us like the first century Jews to abandon trying to please the Lord and accept God’s way of mercy and grace. Our days of trying to please God by keeping the law on our own strength will be over as we enter into the Rest of God wrought in and through Jesus. We will sing with the song writer, “All is well with my soul.”

Come! Listen! Hear and Believe! In Jesus Christ we **are** forgiven. We **are** accepted. In the Beloved we **are** beloved. We **are** loved and valued. We are most blessed, happy, being His forever more! Amen

To God be the Glory!

HYMN

“God Is My Strong Salvation”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VI7IlsQtMTA> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

THIS WE BELIEVE:

Jesus, you are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God. 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, we bring these gifts to you. Lord, may you bless and multiply them for the work of your church. We ask you to use all that we have and all that we are in your service. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Abba, Father, may our love for you and for each other make a difference in our world. We pray for teachers, for students, and for all those in authority, our military, and those in leadership positions, both locally and throughout the world. Give them your mind, and surround them with godly counselors who will exercise integrity and work for justice, love, and freedom. Help them to esteem you and honor you. We pray for the lost, the hurting, the lonely, the sick, the bereaved, and those who are imprisoned behind visible and invisible walls. Allow us, the inhabitants of this earth, to receive your comfort, your peace, and your calming presence. Provide hope to those who are without hope. Protect the defenseless, and hold them close to your heart. We pray for laborers to tell the good news of Jesus to people around our world. Send revival, Lord. Jesus, our hearts cry out for persecuted believers, too. Grant them your powerful protection and uphold them in your strength. We pray you bring swift justice to those who want to destroy the innocent and oppose those who carry out your message. Bind that which assails you Lord, and strengthen believers everywhere around the world. In Jesus' name we pray Abba, amen. -- Follow this with the Lord's Prayer.

CLOSING HYMN

“O Jesus I Have Promised”

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

For I am sure 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. Therefore, go forth in his peace and strength for you are his beloved sharing his victory as you go. Amen.

Announcements:

Happy Birthday to Marian and Fred and to all our other family and friends with birthdays in August! This song is for you!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4Ei6x1ofCk>

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!