

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 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, “Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed.”

PRELUDE “Open My Eyes” #2
<http://www.crestholme.pc.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 “Trust and Obey”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcMQ0RiQrtE> (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: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

LOVED ONE: Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

YOU: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

LOVED ONE: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

YOU: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;

ALL: His faithfulness continues through all generations.

OPENING PRAYER: Read out loud

Lord we gather today to praise you with our souls. We recognize, acknowledge, and confess that you O LORD our God are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty. LORD you wrap yourself in light as with a garment; you stretch out the heavens like a tent and lay the beams of your upper chambers on their waters. You make the clouds your chariot and you ride on the wings of the wind. You make winds your messengers, flames of fire your servants. Hear and receive our praise Lord God Almighty in Jesus' name, amen.

Opening Hymn “Sing Praises To My God Who Reigns Above”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKJP4k4nXD4> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

Prayer of Confession:

God, forgive us. At times we fail. At other times we falter. Sometimes we entertain the voices of fear, doubt or unbelief and we take our eyes off of Jesus, and we sink. We pretend we do not need each other not always love one another. We do not know and bear one another's burdens. We fail to build each other up. We do not always give ourselves willingly and joyfully to one another. Forgive us, and treat us not according to what our sins deserve but according to your loving and forgiving nature. In Jesus' name we ask, amen.

Assurance of God's Forgiveness:

Hear the GOOD NEWS!

We praise you O the Lord with our souls and we forget not all your benefits—you forgive all our sins and heal all our diseases, you redeem our lives from the pit and crown us with love and compassion, you satisfy our desires with good things

so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!
Alleluia. Amen. (*Romans 5:1*)

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

O Lord, we pray that your light would pour over these sacred words of life and illuminate our darkness. Allow these printed words to dance with newness in our hearts and minds. May you grant your Spirit in us to shine with radiant light through us reflecting your Word in our living and service to you and of one another.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 3:1-15

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ex+3.1-15&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mt+16%3A21-28&version=NIV>

Children's Time

Children of the Living God

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6anpAf9EoY&list=RD_6anpAf9EoY&start_radio=1

(place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

MESSAGE

“The Trade Worth Making”

Matthew 16:21-28

A paradox according to the Google dictionary is a noun defined as, “A seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true.” While irony is defined as, “The expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect.”

Paradoxes and ironies surround us every day. Think of, “jumbo shrimp,” or a “non-stop flight.” How about “a sensitive man?” Or “a driveway,” where you actually park your car. How about buying “life insurance,” when the proceeds are used to bury you when you die! You get the point. We use language in the most interesting ways.

God understands the power of language. After all, he is the creator of all. In John 1:1 Jesus is called the Word. When Moses in Exodus chapter three asks God to reveal his name, God answers, “I am that I am.”

Here, in today’s passage, we see Jesus speaking to his disciples. He must go to Jerusalem. According to the book entitled, “*All the Names in the Bible*,” Jerusalem means, “city of peace.” Jesus is saying he must go to Jerusalem, the city of peace and suffer. And what? And suffer. And not only to suffer but to suffer many things! The paradox or irony does not stop here for he is to suffer many things at the hands of the Elders. And at the hands of the Chief Priests. And at the hands of the Teachers of the Law. This goes to show you that opposition or suffering can come in the least expected places, the City of Peace, and from the least expected people: your own.

How does Peter, (his name meaning – “stone”) react? No way Lord! Not you! Not now! “This shall never happen to you!”

Now Jesus responds in a most peculiar way. He says, “Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Let’s unpack this a bit. It is Jesus, “God incarnate, God with us, Jehovah Saves” who is speaking here. And although Peter speaks to Jesus, the message Peter is speaking is a message from the accuser, Satan. This message Peter spoke is an obstacle to Jesus. Remember, Jesus came into this world to fulfill the Father’s will - redemption. And without the shedding of blood there is there is no forgiveness. The focus of Jesus was not his individual physical comfort but the comfort of his Father’s heart and will - the redemption of the cosmos! Peter only had human concerns in mind, personal comfort. Satan’s message, was think only of yourself not of others, and least of all of God!

Jesus then goes on to explain. Whoever wants to be my disciple or anyone who wishes to learn from me must deny themselves. To learn from Jesus is to think and do like Jesus. In Philippians, Paul instructs us to have this mind of Jesus, “he,

Jesus, emptied himself of rights.” He allowed God to dictate his course, even if it led to a shameful death on a cross. Trust. Total. Unequivocal and absolute!

Jesus continues with his dialogue instructing his disciples, “take up your cross.” In other words, count the cost. And what is this cost? Everything! Yet think about it. What are we really giving up? Sin. Sinfulness. Death. In exchange for what? Forgiveness. Righteousness. Life eternal. Hallelujah! Jesus also adds, “And follow me.” Here recall Ruth and Naomi when Ruth tells Naomi, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” An Old Testament story with a meaning revealed in a New Testament context. Beautiful! Paul puts it like this, “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Yes, Jesus must go to Jerusalem, the City of Peace. He was on his way to make eternal peace between God and man by the means of suffering and death at the hands of the experts who had preached, “The way to peace with God is through the keeping of the law by human efforts, by means of fleshly works, self-righteousness.” But Jesus came to set it all right by the means of suffering and death on a cross. Grace. Sheer Grace. Love and Mercy in full display for all to see in the City of Peace.

Paradox and irony. Life through death. Peace through suffering. The Trade Worth Making.

To God be the Glory! Now and forever, amen!

HYMN

“His Eye Is On The Sparrow”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H74FBgOZTDw> (place your cursor over the link. Right click, and then choose Open Hyperlink)

THIS WE BELIEVE:

Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 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, because of you we are able to present these gifts to you. We give to you because you first gave to us. Accept them, bless them and multiply them for the honor of your great name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, we lift the prayers in our hearts with this song. Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3pe0XrCKjqM>

CLOSING HYMN

“Wonderful Words of Life”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7x3OX6v5_o (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 Lord is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust. Surely he will save us from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover us with his feathers, and under his wings we will find refuge; his faithfulness will be our shield and rampart. We will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at our side, ten thousand at our right hand, but it will not come near us. Now, go forth in his peace and confidence for we are his beloved. 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 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?

God bless you!