

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020**



Matthew 20:1-16
Parable of the workers in the vineyard

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.”

#PRELUDE “Lamb of God” #11
<http://www.crestholmepec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/11-Lamb-of-God-What-Wondrous-Love.mp3>

WELCOME, BODY OF CHRIST!

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Holy, Holy, Holy”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9gQLqD5yLM&list=PLjFDKkWSWFC3p_wjYj71ee9MIUCFlashj&index=18

(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: You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek You;

LOVED ONE: I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You.

YOU: I have seen You in the sanctuary and beheld Your power and Your glory.

LOVED ONE: Because Your love is better than life, my lips will glorify You.

YOU: I will praise You as long as I live.

ALL: In Your Name we will lift up our hands in worship!

OPENING PRAYER: Read out loud

As we worship You, let our prayers and praise rise as a sweet cloud of incense to You. Let all we say and do in this service bless You. And Father, bless us as we worship. We ask this in the Name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Opening Hymn “O Worship the King All Glorious Above”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAyKmYD2Zg8>

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

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious and loving God, you lived for us – we have not lived for you. You have forgiven us – we have not forgiven others. You have loved us – we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another. Take pity on us and forgive us, God. Help us to forgive. Help us to live for you. Help us to love through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of God’s Forgiveness:

Hear the GOOD NEWS!

People of God, our sins are forgiven. God is merciful and gracious and is Lord of us all. Reconciled to the God who loves us, let us live and love through Christ our Lord.

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

Holy God, your Word is strong and leads our feet to your holy dwelling place. Strengthen and guide us with your Word through the power of your Holy Spirit; in Jesus' name. Amen.

BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 145

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+145%3A1-8&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+20%3A1-16&version=NIV>

Children's Time

Parable of the workers in the vineyard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQqLEOh3vKU>

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

MESSAGE

A living parable

I have lived this parable.

When my brother became ill, we had a lot of time to talk. He was 64 when he entered hospice care. Before that he always thought I was a little crazy to believe in God as I do. I tried many times over the years to explain my beliefs, but he was not ready to hear. That all changed when cancer caught up with him and he knew he was at the end of his life. (He used to say the reason there were so many old people in church was because they were cramming for the final.) The last 6 months he questioned me about my faith, about God, about Who Jesus Christ was. As time grew short, the Lord even sent Carl's best friend to tell him that God loved him.

I asked Paul how he and Carl met, and he said that originally, he had gone to a house to kill my brother and several others. Paul was the head of a rival motorcycle gang and they were going to clean up the problem as they saw it. The Lord physically saved my brother (and the others) that day, just as He had saved him during 2 tours in Vietnam. Paul told me that he came to San Antonio when Carl called him to tell him he didn't have much time left. In Paul's words, "I had to come, because I knew that if I didn't come over now and tell him God loves him, the Lord would hound me until I did." Few people have met Paul, but he is

the poster child of what you picture a motorcycle gang member would look like. I doubt there was any place another tattoo could be etched on his body. (I didn't get a chance to ask him how he became a Christian.)

Carl gave his heart to the Lord, and our relationship changed. We were able to open up and see old wounds healed. One day I told him it wasn't fair. I have been living my whole life for the Lord, while he had only known Him a short while. I lovingly complained that it wasn't fair that he was going to get to see Him before me. He would get the same reward that I was going to get. He said he found peace in that realization. I told him the main difference was that I have been enjoying the rewards along the way.

Isn't that just like the parable? The landowner offered a job to people, with a promise to pay them. At the end of the day, he paid those that worked the least the same wages that He paid those who had been there all day. When some grumbled that He wasn't fair, His response was that they agreed to work for a set wage. He didn't hide anything and He kept His word. The parable isn't really about the wages the landowner paid, but about the gift he gave each man. They were given something instead of just standing around all day for nothing.

I think even Peter had the idea that his reward would be better because he had given up everything to follow the Lord. The scriptures say the disciples argued about who would get to sit at Jesus' left and right hand in heaven. There again, they were thinking that their reward should be more than others. This is a natural human thought.

But God...

I will close with this thought. The reward is too great. The reward is to be with God and walk in the light of His love throughout all eternity. How can there be more or less with that reward?

Amen

HYMN

“What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BtYlrWDVoA>

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

THIS WE BELIEVE:

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

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

Gracious and holy God, accept what we offer today. Please bless, multiply and transform these offerings that new life may sprout to celebrate and share in Jesus' name. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Pray for your families, friends, neighbors, enemies, and all those that the Lord brings to your mind.)

O Lord, for your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways your ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are your ways higher than our ways and your thoughts than our thoughts. Hence listen as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever." Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less”

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

(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!]

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you 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 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!