

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
October 11, 2020**



**"The kingdom of heaven is like a king that  
prepared a wedding dinner for his son."  
- Matthew 22:1-4 NLT -**

**At the \*, please stand, if you are able.**

**Large Print Hymnals and Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices, are available**

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## **Gather for Worship**

### **PRELUDE**

"My Heart Ever Faithful"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LLe13NYLCUY>

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Good Morning. Here we are together, though separate, worshipping God.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who Gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen

### **THE BELLS**

### **CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

"This Is the Day"

Choir

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cccJhMVFrLs&list=RDcccJhMVFrLs&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cccJhMVFrLs&list=RDcccJhMVFrLs&start_radio=1)

### **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord

**All:** Let us go to praise the Name of the Lord.

LEADER: Let us lift holy hands to the Lord

**All:** Let us worship the Lord

## OPENING PRAYER

- \* **OPENING HYMN** "When Morning Gilds the Skies!" Blue Hymnal #487  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIEYP76JJeM>

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rescuing God, you brought us out of the land of captivity, out of the house of slavery. Forgive us when we willingly return to slavery, making divine the machine of production, crafting idols from the excess of consumption. Forgive us when we consider ourselves so grand that we do not rest and enjoy your presence, defining ourselves by our ability rather than your love. Forgive us when we esteem ourselves so little that we dare not rest and sit with ourselves, exposed, without the cloak of productivity. Forgive us when we deem our species so central that we do not rest and halt consumption, decimating Earth, denying her Sabbath integrity. Forgive us through Christ, who redeems us from the brokenness of slavery that we might enjoy your presence, creation, and community.

## ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Righteousness does not come from our own doing or not doing. Righteousness comes from God, by faith. Through the faithfulness of Christ, our Lord, we are forgiven.

- \* **GLORIA PATRI** Blue Hymnal # 579  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw>

## \* SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**One:** Peace be with you!

**All:** And also with you!

**One:** As God's forgiven people, share the peace of Christ with each other.

## Hear the Word of God

### PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God who speaks, your law is perfect, reviving the soul; your commandment is clear, enlightening the eyes. May your Spirit illumine this Word that our eyes may be opened and our souls revived. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 32:1-14

### PSALTER READING

Psalms 106:1-6,19-23

### CHORAL ANTHEM

"Living for Jesus"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIHmVcI3LiM>

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4:1-9

### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus starts the parable in Matthew with, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to..." It seems the whole thing goes downhill from there. The king mentioned, seems kind of stern. Those that were invited to the wedding feast weren't much better. They even killed some of the king's slaves. An enraged king then sent his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town down. Is this really what the kingdom of heaven may be compared to?

What happened to mercy and grace? Isn't that important and overriding?

I told someone this week that the sermon was on Mercy, Grace and Responsibilities and he asked what about God's responsibility? He created mankind the way we are and knew that we would mess up. Does He accept responsibility for that? God created all of us and gives us the privilege to respond to His love anyway we want. He hopes we will respond to His love with love both for Him and for our fellow human beings. To give us the ability to do that He sent His only Begotten Son to die on the cross for us. It did not end there. He then sends His Holy Spirit to dwell in us and be with us so we can have the ability to live the lives He created us for. I believe that God did accept His responsibilities to us.

Let us look at the Old Testament law. The prophets told us of different parts of the law.

Amos – Act justly (Amos 5:24)

Hosea – love mercy (Hosea 6:6)

Isaiah – walk humbly with your God (Isaiah 29:19)

Micah formulated these into a single scripture - Micah 6:8

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?  
To do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

When you look at Micah 6:8, for me, the first thing that stands out is the fact that these actions are done from the heart. They start internally. They come from a heart that has been given to God. The Jewish sacrifices were actions that didn't need a heart turned to God. To offer a lamb or a dove at the temple could have just been something people knew they had to do. It was the law, and most of the time it was treated that way. What God wants is a heart turned over to Him so He can love others through that heart.

The word "Responsibilities" may be the wrong word to use in the sermon title. Responsibilities implies "yet something else I have to do." It sounds more like the LAW. Maybe the word "assignments" would be better. In school, you could do an assignment or not, but you had the choice. Of course, not doing an assignment didn't help your grade, but you were free to do as you please.

There are 66 books in the Bible. 27 in the New Testament, 39 in the old. Depending on the size of the print, there is a large number of pages with God's laws written on them. But Jesus condensed those laws down 2 commands - Love God, and love your neighbor. By the power and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can begin to do exactly what God has asked of us. In loving God and our neighbor, we can do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Amen

- \* **HYMN** "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee" Blue Hymnal #357  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0u4wSiQG94>

**Respond in Love and Service**

\* **This we believe**

Jesus, you are the bread of life. Whoever comes to you will never go hungry, and whoever believes in you will never be thirsty. All those the Father gives you will come to you, and whoever comes to you, you will never drive away. For you have come down from heaven not to do your will but to do the will of him who sent you. For your Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and you will raise them up at the last day. Amen

**PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

- \* **DOXOLOGY** Blue Hymnal # 592

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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- \* **CLOSING HYMN** "O Jesus I Have Promised" Blue Hymnal # 388  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svgHDdzP5xY>

\* **BENEDICTION**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. As we close our service of worship, go in the power of the Holy Spirit, to love one another in word and deed. Amen

**The End of Worship — The Beginning of Service**

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**Welcome to worship with us this morning! We're glad that you're here! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become part of our compassionate church family.**

**Next Sunday, Fred Archer will lead the service. Join with him from home or at church.**