

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
20th Sunday after Pentecost  
October 18, 2020**



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**PRELUDE**

*"Morning Prayer"*

Tchaikovsky

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXcrRhZ1UWg>

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**

*"He Has Made Me Glad"*

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGf9vqrkCo8>

**OPENING PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, today we gather together to give to you what is yours. In Jesus' name, amen.

**\*OPENING HYMN**

*"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

Blue Hymnal, #466

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nx0rCabJ16c>

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God-with-us, we confess that we have not embraced your love.

Christ has come into the world, and yet we do not know him.

He has called us to be his own, and yet we do not accept him.

Forgive us, God of grace. Show us your mercy and truth until we know in fullness your good news of great joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Hear the good news: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, and so I declare to you: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: THANKS BE TO GOD!! Praise his name!!

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal, #579

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKL\\_IswBRbU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKL_IswBRbU)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING****Exodus 33:12-23**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2033%3A12-23&version=NIV>

**Psalm 99**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm99&version=NIV>

**NEW TESTAMENT READING****1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+1%3A1-10+&version=NIV>

**ANTHEM*****"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"*****Choir**

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

**GOSPEL READING****Matthew 22:15-22**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22%3A15-22+&version=NIV>

**SERMON****Ministering****Elder Fred Archer****The Bad Boys Were Trying****J. Hugh Mager****Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22**

<https://episcopalchurch.org/library/sermon/bad-boys-were-trying-proper-24-1999>

The bad boys were trying to trap Jesus. Actually, in the eyes of the society, they were supposed to be the good guys. They were the brightest and best. The Pharisees were people who observed all of the traditional standards and rituals of Judaism. They tithed. They were compassionate. They were moral. They were at the heart of virtue in the culture. The Herodians were politically powerful. Had there been an institution such as the "Presidential Prayer Breakfast" in those days, the Pharisees and the Herodians would have been present. They were the brightest and the best. They were trying to trap Jesus.

The trap was simple but brilliant. If Jesus answers the questions, "Is it right to pay taxes, to render tribute to Caesar?" with ayes, then the Pharisees had him for committing blasphemy. The ritual priority or holiness laws of the Pharisees forbade a Jew from touching Roman money. Roman coins had the image of Caesar on them. The Romans regarded Caesar as a god. So if Jesus paid tribute or taxes to Caesar, then he would be guilty of both idolatry and blasphemy.

If, on the other hand, Jesus said, "No, don't render tribute, pay taxes, to Caesar," then the Herodians could turn him in to the Romans authorities as a revolutionary. In short, they thought they had him.

Jesus answered by asking for a coin and turning the question around and asking them, "whose image is on the coin?" They answered, "Caesar's." He said, "Render that which is Caesar's to Caesar and to God that which is God's."

Christians have been trying to figure out how to do that ever since.

A conservative man said, "I believe it is my duty to God to help protect this nation from the Democrats."

A liberal Christian man said, "I just can't see how a Christian can be a Republican. Oh, I know that it is possible. I even have a Republican friend who is a Christian, but I just don't understand how it can be that way."

A Christian woman said, "I don't vote. I think about it and can't see how voting can honor God. So I just don't vote."

Another Christian said, "I believe it is my Christian responsibility to vote. I try to vote as intelligently as I can. Frequently it means choosing between the lesser of two evils. One humorist described voting as choosing 'the evil of two lessers.' I think that is funny, but it still hurts. I believe God wants us to do the best we can in an imperfect reality."

Most of us are somewhere in the middle, trying to honor God and trying to be good citizens of our country.

But Jesus is saying something deeper. He ends his response with "render to God what is God's." This suggests to us that there are some ultimate citizenship issues. In the scriptures Jesus makes many references to the "Kingdom of God." We all say that we believe it. In the Creeds we use the phrase "whose kingdom will have no end." We have never seen this kingdom. Many contemporary theologians don't even like the image of kingdom. They feel that it doesn't speak to us since most of us don't live in monarchies. Some of them like the phrase, "Commonwealth of God;" others like the phrase "Realm of God." But whatever term we prefer, there is a sense in us that somehow our ultimate citizenship is not in this world.

One man, old enough to remember the Nixon Presidency, said, "I supported the President with my vote, influence, and money. Then when the Watergate mess became public and he resigned, I felt betrayed. Then suddenly, I realized that while I get to vote, pay taxes, and enjoy the benefits of being a citizen of this nation, my real citizenship is in heaven. And God will not betray me."

Jesus is calling us to our true, ultimate, and permanent citizenship. He makes that possible for us through his life, teaching, death, resurrection, and continuing presence with us. Our true citizenship will be at the heavenly banquet. The seating arrangements at the heavenly banquet are going to be interesting. It is quite possible that a French Huguenot Christian murdered in the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre will be seated next to a Roman Catholic Christian who may have been the murderer. It is quite possible that a Roman Catholic who was burned to death in England may be seated across the table from one of our Anglican Christian forebears responsible for the burning. Stalin, who was baptized and even went to theological seminary, may be at that banquet. Most of the soldiers who slaughtered each other in our Civil War were Christians. Most of the Russians, Germans, Austrian, Serbs, Italians, French, English, and North Americans who slaughtered each other in World War I were Christian and undoubtedly will be gathered at the heavenly banquet.

The ticket into the heavenly banquet is salvation, by grace, through faith. It is not connected to our works, either good or bad. It is a free gift from God. The passport to heaven is not something of this world. We receive it when we surrender to the love of God and claim Jesus as Savior.

When it comes to voting, you are on your own. Do the best you can for the best reasons you can summon up from the political debates, speeches, and televised sound bites.

But when it comes to heaven -- be with God! We know that this is true; we know that this is where we really belong.

**\*HYMN**

**"Open My Eyes"**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo6gZAUuQ3E>

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed (traditional) Blue Hymnal, p. 14**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, as we lift up our requests to you, Hear our prayers. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on 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, forever. Amen

**\*HYMN FOR OUR NATION**

**"Heal Our Land"**

**Red Hymnal #800**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm\\_rA54EGw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm_rA54EGw)

#### **PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**Blue Hymnal, #592**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8TkUuKIh84>

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Almighty God and Gracious Provider, we humbly and gratefully bring to you what is rightfully yours. Please accept this offerings and multiply them for your glory and kingdom. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**"Called As Partners In Christ's Service"**

**Blue Hymnal, #343**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9XmJ\\_dv5rM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9XmJ_dv5rM)

**\*BENEDICTION**

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

The end of worship - The beginning of service  
\*Those who are able please stand.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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... ask an Elder about meaningful participation and membership!

Dr. Carlos Baladez will lead our Sunday morning worship next Sunday. Welcome Carlos!

### **COVID-19 Reminder**

COVID-19 is still alive and, unfortunately, well. Therefore, as we worship, we are reminded to adhere to the rules of "social distancing", and facemask wearing. We have, to the best of our ability, cleaned and disinfected the sanctuary. Please cooperate by not sitting in the "skipped rows". Hymn Books, Bibles, and Bulletins are pre-distributed to indicate where to sit. Families are allowed to sit together.