

Welcome to **Crestholme Presbyterian Church** 1st Sunday in Advent November 29, 2020 At the *, please stand, if you are able. Large Print Hymnals and Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices, are available

Gather for Worship

"Savior of the Nations Come" PRELUDE Buxtehude https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQxVnNh9v 0

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Creator of the Stars of Night" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG8Wj0yODLY

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

One: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord— and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. We light the first Advent candle as a hint of God's promised light in the darkness.

All: He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. **One:** The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the

Mrs. Alsada Richardson

Choir

knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. We light the first candle as a sign of our hope!

All: In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. May all the promises of Advent be born in Bethlehem, and in us, this season. With a prophet's promise and a living hope, let us worship God.

* ADVENT CAROL "Light the Advent Candle" Choir and Congregation

"Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;

We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas Day.

Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.

Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light."

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, today is the first day of Advent. Today is the New Year in our Christian calendar. In the midst of tormiol, temptation, chaos, and strife you continue to beour hope. You will not grow faint or be discouraged till you have established justice in the earth. Those who never knew you will hope in you. Thank you God of hope because you fill us with all ljoy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope. Amen.

* OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Blue Hymnal #9 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcIIZpnZPgo

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, you have promised to come again as one breaking through the clouds with great power and glory. We confess that we hide our heads in trivial matters. We do not love our neighbors because our ambitions are more important. We do not hear the cry of the needy because we are busy accumulating wealth. We have become drunk with the pursuit of power because we fail to put our trust in your power. Forgive us, we pray. Free us that we may have eyes to see your glory, ears to hear your liberating gospel, and lives to devote to the service of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (http://mastersdust.com/2012/11/27/prayers-and-liturgy-for-the-1st-sunday-of-advent/)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The LORD is our light and our salvation-- whom shall we fear? The LORD is the stronghold of our lives-of whom shall we be afraid? Brothers and Sisters, let us trust the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new! Hallelujah!

* 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 (from your seats, please).

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Abba, Father, make known to us by your Holy Spirit in us how great among us are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in us, our hope of Glory. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9 https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2064:1-9&version=NIV

PSALM

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+80%3A1-7++&version=NIV

NEW TESTAMENT

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Corinthians%201:3-9&version=NIV

CHORAL ANTHEM "The King Shall Come" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B6pquFuGhTU

GOSPEL READING

Mark 13:24-37 https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+13%3A24-37&version=NIV

SERMON "Walking in the Light of the Lord" Dr. Carlos Baladez **Ephesians 5:8**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

Have you ever been in a situation that seemed hopeless and asked yourself "God, where are you?" Would you describe that hopeless place as dark, dreary, or empty? In Genesis chapter 1, the words of Scripture paint that exact picture. "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep..."

Have your ever felt trapped with nowhere to go? If you go forward, a lion awaits you. Yet if you retreat, the serpent is there to bite you. Moses and the Israelites were in this very predicament. The Red Sea laid before them while the rushing troops of Pharaoh were furiously approaching. Hopeless and terrified, the Israelites asked, "Now what? God where are vou?"

Have you ever been in that place where your creditors came up to you and told you to pay up or they were going to take away your car, or you house, or they were going to garnish your wages all because you found yourself in unprecedented circumstances beyond your control? God, where are you?

Have you ever had that unpleasant crash where things were going well in your life and because of a series of bad decisions you made you wound up in the pig pen? Perhaps your pig pen was bankruptcy. Or maybe your pig pen was a nasty ending relationship. Or perhaps your pig pen was a trip to the emergency room because the depression you were experiencing became

Psalm 80:1-7

1 Cor. 1:3-9

Choir

terribly overwhelming that you sought out a fatal solution to a temporary problem? God, where are you?

Hope and hopelessness are like day and night or like light and darkness, respectively.

Hope is birthed when we hear God say to us, "I am here. I am here to light your way. I am here to protect you, to get your safely across and eliminate your pursuing enemies. I am here to give you peace. I am here to provide for you. To multiply the little that you have into a surplus of abundance. Yes, I am here to welcome you home. To make you whole, to redeem you and to give you life. I am Jehovah-Shammah, The God Who Is There. I Am Emmanuel, God With Us. I am the Word Incarnate, Jesus, Jehovah Saves. I AM he. I AM Now. And, I AM for you! You are my children of light! I am that Light.

Advent is the celebration of this Hope, this Light, this Love, and this Life. The difference between light and darkness, or between hope and hopeless is whether you know your Creator as he knows you. Advent! Welcome God Almighty incarnate. We have been expecting you. Amen!

To God alone be all the Glory, now and forever. Amen.

* HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" Blue Hymnal # 8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTYDOfyW734&list=RDfTYDOfyW734&start r adio=1&t=76

Respond in Love and Service

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God also created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Amen.

* HYMN "Heal Our Land" Red Hymnal # 800 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm rA54EGw

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY

Blue Hymnal # 592

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

All Mighty God, God of Hope and abumdance, we bring these gifts to you in honor of you. It is beause you first gave to us that we in turn are now able to give to you. Take these gifts, bless them, andd multiply them for thy kingdom's sake. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

* CLOSING HYMN "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" Blue Hymnal # 38 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ljrf6G1kmto

* **BENEDICTION**

Go, people of God, go in the power of His might and in the fact that Jesus is our Hope, our GREAT hope now and forever more. Go, go share this hope with who so ever will... Amen.

The End of this Worship Service — The Beginning of Service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship 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 Fred, Dick or an Elder about meaningful participation and membership!

We continue to adhere to our Covid-19 protocol. Thank you.

We will celebrate communion next Sunday 12/06/2020.