

Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 2020
At the *, please stand, if you are able.
Large Print Hymnals, Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices are available upon
request.

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE "In Bethlehem's Low Stable" "Shepherds Came Their Praises Bringing" Walcha
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9cWFtcQZgk>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Birthday of a King" Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12X3BDaqqbI>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above
All: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
LEADER: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
All: Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.
LEADER: Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you are the Alpha and the Omega. With you we began 2020 and with you we wrap it up.
Thank you for your faithfulness. Amen.

* **OPENING HYMN** "Joy to the World" Blue Hymnal #40
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30OaM6b48k8>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, forgive us when we fail to glorify you by not rejoicing in you as our savior. We confess that at times our minds do not entertain humble thoughts but are troubled by fear, worry, or shame. We repent by your great mercy and love. It is you who works in us to will and to do your good pleasure. We remember that your mercy extends to those who fear you, from generation to generation. In Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the GOOD NEWS! God's mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. Because of God's GREAT LOVE for us, we through Jesus Christ, have been forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

* GLORIA PATRI

Blue Hymnal # 579

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

* SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST (From your seats, please)

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

One more time this year Lord. One more time. Open our heart, soul, mind, and strength to your Holy Word. It is you who works in us to will and to do your good pleasure. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2061%3A10-62%3A3&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING

Psalms 148

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ps+148&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"The Hands That First Held Mary's Child"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2005BD0pZ2U>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 4:4-7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+4%3A4-7&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke: 2:22-40

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+2%3A22-40&version=NIV>

SERMON

"Thank you, Lord!"

Dr. Carlos Baladez

Psalm 118:1

As we look back on 2020 and look forward to 2021, let us shout, "Thank you, Lord!"

Yes, thank you Lord.

For he is good.

This goodness is expressed in his love for us.

This love for us endures forever!

Israel give witness to this God, to this Lord, to this goodness, and this Love.

The House of Aaron gives witness to the same.

We give witness to the same, too.

This witness turns personal in verse five.

I was in distress and called on the Lord. What happened?

The Lord answered me. He not only answered me, he placed me in a broad/spacious place. To be in a broad place implies a move. A move from the narrow to the broad. It is a move, a trip, a journey that the Lord initiates for us, accompanies us, and completes in and with us. A movement that takes us from here to there. It is to be delivered from a narrow, constricting, binding place or situation. It is to be taken out of self and placed into Him. It is to be taken out of the limited into the unlimited, out of the natural and into the supernatural, out of distress into the peace he gives which passes all understanding. This move that God designs takes us out of fear and into faith. Not a faith that we try to generate. No. His faith. His faith given to us, placed in us, operating in us through His Holy Spirit. To be in a broad place is to be taken out of bondage and the curse which sin brings and be placed into the Blessing. It is to be placed in Christ, abiding in Christ now and forever more!

At this point of my distress, I do not fear. Why? Because I now know that the Lord is on my side and not on the side of what was distressing me.

My distress, my fear turns to peace and faith. I come to realize, to personally experience that with the Lord on my side, I have no need, no reason to fear mortals. God trumps their obscene schemes and nefarious plans against me.

Realizing that the Lord is on my side to help me, I took courage and saw my situation in a different light. I saw in the light of the Lord. I saw things differently. I saw from the Lord's perspective and took noticed. My position of distressed turned to triumph! I was not the victim, but the victor!

With this new perspective, this new attitude, this new confidence and faith I agreed with the Lord and realized that it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to try to figure it out myself. I was unburdened of my self-righteousness, my self-effort, my government, my education, income... you get the point. The Lord God is infinitely better than anything this world can offer. God Almighty offers me himself.

He indeed has lifted me up and out of the miry clay and placed me upon the solid rock. That rock is Jesus! Immanuel has come. Immanuel is here. And, Emmanuel is for me. He is for you. He is for us. And in turn we are for him. Together we say, "Thank you, Lord!" Amen. To God be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

* **HYMN**

"Away In A Manger"

Blue Hymnal #25

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WisMfuTZva0>

Respond in Love and Service

* **This we believe:** The LORD is our shepherd, we lack nothing. He makes us lie down in green pastures, he leads us beside quiet waters, he refreshes our souls. He guides us along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though we walk through the darkest valley, we will fear no evil, for you are with us; your rod and your staff, they comfort us. You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies. You anoint our heads with oil; our cups overflow. Surely your goodness and love will follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may mail any contributions to the following address, thank you:

Crestholme Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 23919
San Antonio, TX 78223-0901

* DOXOLOGY

Blue Hymnal # 592

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, unto thee we dedicate these gifts. In giving what is rightfully yours, we recognize you and the source of all good things. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, as we close out the year in your presence we pray for our world. Into your hands we commit our world leaders, this world's countries and governments. We pray for our first responders, our medical personnel and educators. We intercede for the lost, hurting, hungry, and dying. You are the savior of the world and all human kind. Lord, hear our prayers. Father, now we pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray, Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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.

* CLOSING HYMN

"Hark The Angles Sing"

Blue Hymnal #31

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqooC4ZG75Y>

* BENEDICTION

The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over

your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen.
(NIV)

The End of today's Worship Service — The Beginning of Service

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 Tom, Carlos, Larry or an Elder about meaningful participation and membership!

Next Sunday, January 3, 2021 — Communion will be celebrated!