

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
5th Sunday of Easter
May 02, 2021**

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

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

"Andante"

C. Franck

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xvP7NF69S4>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Christ, Whose Glory Fills The Skies" Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=chnIE-CnZYU>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: We love you, Lord, our strength.

All: The Lord is our rock, our fortress and our deliverer; our God is our rock, in whom we take refuge, our shield and the horn of our salvation, our stronghold.

LEADER: We called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and we have been saved from our enemies.

All: Hallelujah!

LEADER: Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

Love incarnate, we gather in your name. We are the sheep of your pasture. We shout for joy and worship you with gladness. We come before you with joyful songs. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN "O Come and Sing Unto The Lord" Blue Hymnal #214**

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, when we fail to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Forgive us, O Lord, when we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, Father, when we fail to love ourselves. We confess our sin to you and ask you to pardon us in the name of Jesus, the Risen Lord, amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News, the kingdom of God is at hand. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Beloved, in Christ Jesus we are forgiven. Amen!

*** 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 seat please).

CHILDREN'S TIME

God Loves Us | God's Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npVjEIt4fHM>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Father God of Love and Hope, cause our hearts, souls, minds, and strength to respond to your wooing us home. Amen.

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 8:26-40

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%208%3A26-40&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING

Psalms 22:25-31

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2022%3A25-31&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"For The Bread Which You Have Broken"

Choir

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 4:7-21

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%204%3A7-21&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

John 15:1-8

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2015%3A1-8&version=NIV>

Places. Places are like bellybuttons, we all have one. Where is your place to go to when things aren't going your way? Where is your place to "just get away from it all?" Maybe it's a mental place where you imagine your favorite setting doing your favorite activity sipping on your favorite drink. Or maybe it's a physical place where you walk to, drive to, or fly to in order to refresh yourself back to "normal," to regain your peace and your "center."

I recall, as a child I would love to be in the water whether it was at the beach, a river, a swimming pool, or an old fashion irrigation canal. Water was fun. It cooled me off. It made me lighter than I was and I could do things in the water that I could not do while on land. For example, stand on my hands, or float on my back while looking up at the night sky and seeing all the stars as pin pricks in the dark blue blanket above. Even today, water is one of my favorite places on earth. I could never get enough of being in the water. It is one place where I could stay and remain forever.

In today's passage, we see Jesus speaking to his disciples. This scene occurs just before his kangaroo court, conviction, and crucifixion.

Unfortunately, this passage has often been preached in a way to scare the heebie-geebies out of people or sending them to hell. It has been used as a scare tactic in an attempt to modify behavior. A, "you better or else," message and interpretation.

Allow me to suggest that this is not the case. A careful reading of this passage will allow you to see it as an invitation. Yes, an invitation to stay. To come. To belong. It is an invitation to make Jesus your favorite place to be. Or as the scriptures say, "to abide or to remain." To remain "in Christ," is a place where you can do things that you cannot do otherwise. Much like me not being able to do a handstand on Tierra Firme. Yet, even to this day I can do a handstand in the water.

You see, abiding or remaining in Jesus Christ, we experience things we cannot on our own, like new life. In Christ we experience eternal life, which is knowing God and Jesus intimately, personally, and eternally. Jesus is inviting us to stay, to remain in him. To live. To enjoy his presence, his power, and his personhood forever. To make him our preferred place to be. It's like a branch attached to the vine. It can only produce grapes as it remains attached to the vine, receiving its life-giving, life-producing sap.

Likewise, we too can only experience the Life of Christ being connected to Jesus, remaining in Jesus, staying connected to him by his Holy Spirit and his teachings. Only in Christ do we find forgiveness, pardon, acceptance, and everlasting joy.

Today, I invite you to join me and a whole cloud of witnesses and say, "Yes, Lord, by your grace we abide, stay, be, live, act, and remain in you forever more." Amen!

To God be the glory and praise, forever. Amen.

* **HYMN** "There's A Wideness in God's Mercy" **Blue Hymnal #298**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfyZIJUHkPU>

Respond in Love and Service

* **This we believe**

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please lift up your request to the Lord in loving expectation. Amen

***HYMN FOR OUR NATION** "Heal Our Land" **Red Hymnal #800**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm_rA54EGw

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. Thank you!
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice.

* **DOXOLOGY** **Blue Hymnal # 592**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyg6-htOthU>

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of all creation, you are the source of all good things. In you we live, and move, and have our being. Accept us and these gifts we bring to you. Use them and multiply them for the sake of your Holy Name and Glory. Amen.

***COMMUNION**

Invitation to the Table

***Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

* **CLOSING HYMN** **"I Come With Joy"** **Blue Hymnal #507**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVGjrMgiH5U>

* **BENEDICTION**

Saints of God, we love God because he first loved us. Go forth in that everlasting love and share with all those near and far. You are blessed in the Grace of the Son, in the Love of the Father, and in the Communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service

Next Sunday, Elder Fred Archer will be leading worship. Welcome Fred!