

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
April 18, 2021**

At the \*, please stand, if you are able.  
Large Print Hymnals, Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices are available upon request.

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**Gather for Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**“Reflections”**

**Mendelssohn**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to this Sunday Worship service of Crestholme Presbyterian Church. As you worship with us, may the Lord bring peace to your heart and a song of praise to your lips.

**THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wfKzTuV9r8>

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Peace be with you.

**All: How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.**

Leader: Receive the Holy Spirit.

**All: It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Living God,

long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

**\* OPENING HYMN**

**“Morning Has Broken”**

**Blue Hymnal #469**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5D3LEjGF8A>

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

We have an advocate with God – Jesus Christ, the righteous one – who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

## **\* GLORIA PATRI**

**Blue Hymnal #579**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nplylz-EEE0>

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

Leader: Peace be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

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

## **Children's Time**

Jesus Proves His Identity

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

## **Hear the word of God**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

God of all who doubt and believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands your Word of life – Jesus Christ – our Lord and our God. Amen.

## **FIRST READING**

**Acts 3:12-19**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3%3A12-19&version=NIV>

## **PSALTER READING**

**Psalm 4**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+4&version=NIV>

## **CHORAL ANTHEM**

**“ Jesus My Lord, My God, My All”**

**Choir**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qO\\_BP\\_JWAU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qO_BP_JWAU)

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3:1-7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+3%3A1-7+&version=NIV>

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:36b-48

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24%3A36b-48+&version=NIV>

## SERMON

“Peace Be with You”

Larry Sears

“*Peace be with you!*” – The first words the Lord spoke to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.

The disciples had locked themselves in the upper room because they were fearful of the Jewish leaders and of all society. They saw what the people had done to an innocent man and were worried that they would be next. Suddenly, they are confronted with a new set of fears, because Jesus has just entered a locked room. They forgot all that He had told them about what was going to happen in Jerusalem. He would be turned over to the authorities, beaten up, and crucified. They forgot that He told them that 3 days later He would rise from the dead to life. All of the scriptures that told of His coming and His sacrifice had to be fulfilled.

When He entered the room, Jesus knew they would be frightened. His first words were to address the new fears they would have. “*Peace be with you.*” Then He told them to look at the wounds, touch them. Don’t be troubled, because I am alive. Then He ate something in their presence. Eating was so important to a community in Jesus’ day. Food bound the community together. So many of the stories about Jesus included having a meal with “sinners and tax collectors.”

“*Peace be with you.*” He was telling them to not be troubled, and don’t question in their hearts what they see before them.

So - what is Peace?

According to Jewish tradition, peace was one of the great gifts given to the world by God. In the Old Testament Aaron personified peace: *he walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many away from iniquity.* (Malachi 2:6b) The traditions say that Aaron loved peace, pursued peace, and made peace between man and man.

I went online to see what I could find in the Jewish tradition about peace. The website <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/shalom/> says the Hebrew word for peace, shalom (שלום) is derived from a root denoting wholeness or completeness, and its frame of reference throughout Jewish literature is bound up with the notion of shelemut - perfection. Its significance is thus not limited to the political domain — to the absence of war and enmity — or to the social

— to the absence of quarrel and strife. It ranges over several spheres and can refer in different contexts to bounteous physical conditions, to a moral value, and, ultimately, to a cosmic principle and divine attribute. Most biblical references refer to an inner completeness and tranquility when using the word shalom.

As Christians, peace comes from the confidence we have that God has saved us and is with us in all aspects of our lives. As a gift of the Spirit, peace is not dependent upon circumstances, it is dependent upon Emmanuel, God with us.

Peace is an abstract gift we can share with others. Jesus sent the disciples out to minister to the lost sheep of Israel. He told them, *“11 And into whatsoever city or village ye shall enter, search out who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go forth. 12 And as ye enter into the house, salute it. 13 And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.”* (Matthew 10) In the business world, at times I have been called upon to calm down an irate customer or client. My bosses all seemed to think I could do that. When called upon for that task, I always pray and ask the Lord to help me. There was not a single time I can recall that God did not calm them down and let me take care of the problem they had. Jesus shared His peace with the disciples. Such a simple scripture with powerful results for all of us: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.* He shared His peace with us so we could share it with our families, our neighbors, and our friends.

Peace can strengthen faith. Sometimes a calm comes over us during a rough time in our lives. We have trouble pinpointing why we should feel peace when things are crazy around us. That peace is the Lord reminding us that He is there taking care of the situation. If you are like me, you might even think it dumb to have peace at that time, and then the Lord reminds me that He is in control. Let Him have His way. Rest in the peace He gives.

When Jesus was in the boat with the disciples and a storm came up, the disciples became fearful and woke up Jesus because they thought they were going to drown. *“And he awoke, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”* The One Who can calm the wind and the waves is the same Who is able to quiet our hearts in the midst of the storms of life.

Psalm 46:10 tells us to *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.* Be still, another way to say have peace.

Listen to these words. *For thus said the Lord Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.* In rest, in quietness – both terms describe a state of being at ease with no anxiety or stress. Something that is hard to do in today’s societies. Rest, quietness, being still are things the Holy Spirit brings to us from God. When things around you begin to grate on your nerves and your anxiety level builds just stop - take a deep breath - and be still. Peace comes in the stillness.



\* **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)

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, God invites us to bring our doubts and fears, our joys and concerns, our petitions and praise, and offer them for the earth and all its creatures.

\* **CLOSING HYMN**      **“Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord!”**      **Blue Hymnal #392**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxGUTTP5lc>

\* **BENEDICTION**

Beloved children, may the peace of the holy Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - abide with you forever. Go forth in Jesus’ Name, remembering His new commandment to love one another just as He loved us. Amen

**The End of Today’s Worship Service – The Beginning of Service  
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 a part of our compassionate church family... ask Carlos, Larry or an Elder about meaningful participation and membership!

Next Sunday Dr. Carlos Baladez will lead the service.

A Memorial Service for Faye Crist will be held at Crestholme on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 3 pm. Masks will be required and social distance protocols will be in place. Please continue to keep Dick and his family in your prayers.