

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
4th Sunday of Easter
April 25, 2021**

At the *, please stand, if you are able

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE: **"What e'er' My God Ordains Is Right"** **Pachelbel**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH386ReJPzw>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord willing, we will be celebrating Communion next Sunday 05/02/2021. Come ready to share in the Lord's Table.

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP **"Come Risen Lord"** **Choir**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USkPTqwZ-mE>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.

All: The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

LEADER: He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

All: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. (NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, we gather as one to praise and magnify your glorious name. You have made us and not we ourselves. We are the sheep of your pasture. Abba, thank you. Amen

*** OPENING HYMN** **"O Christ, The Great Foundation"** **Blue Bk #443**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjyvKMrTJzU>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us when we fail you. Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us when we sin against you. Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us when we turn a blind eye to the one in need. Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us when we turn a deaf ear to the cry of the oppressed. Lord of heaven and earth, forgive us we pray, In Jesus' name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Beloved, hear the Good News, "God is faithful to forgive. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah! Amen!

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal #579

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

*** 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

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqYs30C1uY>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of unapproachable light, grant us eyes to see, and ears to hear. Shine your light in the darkest recesses of our hearts and minds that we may hear, understand, and lovingly obey. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 4:5-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%204:5-12&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING

Psalms 23

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+23&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Carry The Light"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNBJZk1P4MQ>

NEW TESTAMENT READING**1 John 3:16-24**<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+3%3A16-24&version=NIV>**GOSPEL READING****John 10:11-18**<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A11-18&version=NIV>**SERMON*****"Access Granted"*
Luke 24:36b-48****Dr. Carlos Baladez**

Some of you may recall a local store having a commercial with a large gathering of people outside its doors waiting for the store to open, thus giving them access to the merchandise inside. The crowd stands outside the doors chanting, "open, open, open." These customers wanted access to the goodies inside.

For those of you who have lived in San Antonio for some time, you may remember the local store who ran their "Blue Light Specials." The store was equipped with blue flashing lights set atop strategically placed metal poles. The store manager would periodically, throughout the day, turn them on and they would start flashing the blue light as he announced the special of that moment, "For the next 15 minutes item x in aisle four will be on sale." Interested customers would rush to the announced aisle because they knew the supply was limited and it was first come, first served. They were given access by the authority of the store to purchase the coveted item at a discounted rate, meaning more dollars in the customer's pocket to purchase something else.

Access to sensitive information in some governments is only given to a chosen few. "Secrets" are easily converted into conspiracy theories.

You see, access is a privileged position. A lack of access and clarity creates distrust and suspicion giving rise to social unrest and dissention.

In today's text we see a different approach. Here we have two actors, the Risen Lord and his disciples. All throughout the four gospels, these two have been the main protagonists. At the end of the saga (or so it appears because the end was really the beginning) the disciples hopes, faith, and dreams are crushed. There would be no next step. No next level. But, in the midst of their sorrow and despair, two disciples share with the rest a glimmer of hope, "we saw Jesus on the road to Emmaus. He lives!" The reaction of the rest was predictable; doubt, fear, and unbelief. Suddenly, this flicker of hope bursts into flames as Jesus appears to them in flesh and bones asking for something to eat while allowing his disciples to touch and examine his wounds. After reminding them of his life events and reminding them to recall his words, Jesus goes full disclosure on them and allows them access to the scriptures by opening their minds for a specific purpose; to understand what the scriptures said regarding himself. With

that new access, they recognize that all these things; the crucifixion, the suffering, and the resurrection must occur as previously written.

Full disclosure leads to confidence and trust. Their faith, hope, and dreams, along with their aspirations were returned to solid ground – a faith based on scripture which foretold the events of the Messiah. He fulfilled scripture and validated them demonstrating that he indeed was the Risen Lord and it was he who was standing and eating there before them.

Now, a privilege position comes with responsibility. Please consider responsibility in a positive light. Scriptural responsibility simply means receiving a God-given ability to respond to him.

Studies show a stressful mind is a stagnant mind while a peaceful mind is a creative mind, easily imagining the prophetic potential. A fearful mind is a paralyzed mind. And a doubtful mind is a cluttered mind unable to conceive the impossible. No wonder Jesus first bestows his peace upon his disciples!

Since Jesus fulfilled the scriptures he granted his disciples peace, which opened their minds to understand and access the scriptures regarding him.

Today, this same Jesus, by his word spoken in scripture and by his Spirit grants us his peace.

Today, he tells you and me, "Peace be with you." With this God-given ability to respond comes great joy. An overwhelming joy knowing that Jesus IS alive. His peace gives us access to the treasures inside; love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control to name a few.

The disciples were witnesses (martyrs) to these things. They witness the death of their own fears, doubts, and unbelief in the resurrection of the Risen Lord!

Their minds had been opened by the words Jesus spoke. Today, our minds are open by the same spoken and written Word. They were allowed to touch his wounds. Today you and I are invited to let this story touch our wounded hearts, souls, and minds to be made whole. The disciples looked at his hands and his feet. Today you and I are invited to be his hands and his feet. They ate with him. Today you and I are invited to dine with him together in communion as we break the bread and drink the wine, his body and his blood to us.

Like them, we too are invited to be witnesses to the death of our own fears, doubts, and unbelief in the resurrection of the Risen Lord! They saw Jesus in the flesh and we see him in his handiwork of creation, in his image within each other, and by his Spirit working within us collectively and individually. We are blessed, because although we

have not seen Jesus in the flesh, we still believe - therefore we live, and move, and have our being in him. The Risen Lord invites you and I today, as he speaks, "Peace be with you." In this, we have Access Granted.

We are witnesses of these things!

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

* **HYMN** **"O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"** **Blue Hymnal #357**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xoWzpJpyPaQ>

Respond in Love and Service

* **This we believe**

Our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let our feet slip — he who watches over us will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over us — the Lord is our shade at our right hand; the sun will not harm us by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep us from all harm — he will watch over our lives; the Lord will watch over our coming and going both now and forevermore. (Ps. 121, NIV)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray for those in need followed with the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father which 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

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**

Unto thee O Lord do we bring ourselves and these offerings. Take them as a token of our love for you. Bless them and multiply them for your kingdom's use. In Jesus' name. Amen.

* **CLOSING HYMN "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" Blue Hymnal #466**

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

* **BENEDICTION**

Saints of God, your help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; 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.

(Ps. 121, NIV)

* **POSTLUDE**

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service