

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
6th Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021
Mother's Day**

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

“Offertoire”

Dubois

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vV1CrE0Zjgg>

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Happy Our Home When God Is There”

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFYc9MICVCE>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God of music, we come to celebrate you,

All: To praise you with song, and hymn,

Leader: To rejoice with lips and voices,

All: To raise hands and hearts,

Leader: And be raised up ourselves.

All: You are greatly to be praised, Yahweh,

Leader: Lord of lords,

All: King of kings,

Leader: The one and only God.

All: We love you.

Leader: We thank you.

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Father of life, may all of us have ears to hear your word in scripture, song, and sermon. Speak to us words that affirm who we are; remind us of who we ought to be; and encourage us to continue our sojourn from one to the other. Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 10:44-48

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+10%3A44-48&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING

Psalm 98

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+98+&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Love”

Choir

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 5:1-6

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+5%3A1-6&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

John 15:9-17

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15%3A9-17&version=NIV>

CHILDREN’S TIME

The Vine and the Branches

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

SERMON

“ABIDE IN LOVE”

Fred Archer

Written by The Rev. Lucy Strandlund

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

“Abide” is not a word we use much these days. We do not often ask people, “Where do you abide?” You will likely come across the word more times while

reading the Gospel of John than you ever will in real-life conversation. In fact, if you read through just the first eleven verses of John 15 (NRSV), you will find the word eleven times.

This sheer repetition reminds us of its importance as a theme in John's Gospel. It revisits an idea that emerges in the Prologue to the Gospel of John; John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and lived among us," though, as Cynthia Briggs Kittredge points out in *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of John*, the Greek is more literally that the Word dwelt among us as in a tent. The Word pitched a tent or "camped out" among us and showed us the embodiment of God's love. In Jesus' life, God's love walked and talked among the people of first-century Galilee and Judea. And in the passage we read today, Jesus is teaching his disciples how to walk in those shoes, too, especially once he is no longer walking around with them. He is preparing them to continue to dwell in that same love.

Today's passage is part of the long dialogue Jesus shares with the disciples after he has washed their feet and before he is handed over to the authorities to be crucified. He is trying to prepare them for his absence and instruct them in how to continue to live into his ministry, even when they can no longer see him. "Abide in my love," he says. "Make my love the house, the tent, the shelter in which you dwell and move around in," he seems to say.

The word translated as "abide" can also be translated as "remain," or "stay," and after the year we have had, we are very familiar with those words. After a year of lockdown, quarantine, and physical distancing, we know what it means to remain. To shelter in place. To stay. We have become intimately familiar with the inside of our own homes and maybe with the interior of our own minds in ways we likely haven't before. And we've had time to think about what kind of place we want to shelter in. Priorities shifted or became clearer, which prompted changes both small and large. Many people moved in the past year; some left bustling, crowded cities in search of a quieter, slower pace of life and a little more space. Some moved closer to family or closer to wherever feels like "home," when the need for connection and a support network became impossible to ignore.

And we have had more than a little time to think about what *kind* of home we want and need to abide in. Maybe you've added onto your patio to allow for a socially distanced visit with a neighbor. Perhaps you've converted some corner of your home into an office or virtual school space. Or maybe you have simply been faced with how unsuitable your space is for all the demands placed upon it this year.

No matter our circumstances, this year has trained us to have a sense of the depth of the word "abide" in the Gospel of John. We have become uniquely aware of the importance of home, of where we dwell, and of how we live within it. This year, home has made all the difference, for better or for worse.

To listen to Jesus' words in this passage with 2021 ears is to be reminded that our homes reflect our priorities, and our home base affects how we live our lives. Jesus' invitation to abide in his love becomes all the more striking. We can imagine Jesus elaborating, "Let my love be the foundation under your feet, let my love permeate the walls that shelter you, and let my love form the roof arching over your head." Jesus' encouragement is not only to rest and nest in God's love but also to live our lives in such a way that reflects that love built the house we live in—to live in such a way that when others see our interactions, it's clear that love drew the blueprint.

And yet just as building or making a home takes time, so does learning to let love be our home base. The disciples hid away in a locked room for a while before they ventured out to share the good news and carry on Jesus' ministry—before they realized abiding in Jesus' love wasn't so much about the physical space they inhabited or his physical presence with him as it was about the way they lived among others.

For us too, this passage can serve to remind us that whether home has been a refuge and comfort in the past year or a place we couldn't wait to leave, we also have a home in the love of God. It's a home we carry with us, like a tent, and it shows up when we remember God's love for us and when we treat others as God's beloved.

**born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Leader: Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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**

Victorious Lord, we offer these gifts to be used in celebration of your steadfast love. We give joyfully so others may join our unending common voice of praise. Let all people sing a new song of thanksgiving that is not merely noise but is a faithful celebration of your love and grace. Thanks be to God! **Amen!**

* HYMN FOR OUR NATION

“Heal our Land”

Red Hymnal #800

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gTm_rA54EGw

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Let us pray to our victorious Savior on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people.

A brief silence

Lord Jesus, thank you choosing us to love you, to love one another, and to bear your love into the world. The world needs you so much! Make us faithful and fruitful, so our words and actions nourish hearts starved for your love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless your Church with the power and presence of your Holy Spirit. Fill it with your love. Nourish it with Word and Sacrament. Through it, let the world see, desire, and dwell in your love forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Cheer the hearts and strengthen the spirits of all who are persecuted for your Name’s sake, and use their witness to cause many to repent and believe in you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the people of this congregation with faith, hope, and charity. Fill us with wisdom and prudence. Through the gift of your Holy Spirit, make us glad to obey your commandments.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give a double portion of your Spirit to all mothers, and to everyone who acts with a mother’s love toward your little ones. Grant them patience, wisdom, and a good night’s sleep. Forgive them when they falter in their high calling. Renew their spirits, and make them a perpetual blessing to their children. Comfort all who have lost a child, and all who long to have children but cannot.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the leaders of the nations with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might. Teach them to love justice; to act with mercy toward the poor and hungry in their lands; and to walk humbly before your Father. Grant to all people the blessings of peace and unity on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who safeguard life, health, and freedom. Grant them wisdom and integrity. Guide, protect, and strengthen them. Let their labors help create a safe, just world where the innocent may live in peace. Help us to honor their work and sacrifice on our behalf.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant the refreshment and joy of your life-giving Spirit to all who cry to you for help, especially: {List}. Grant them wholeness of body and mind; a joyful and confident hope in your goodness, and the peace which the world cannot give them.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, thank you for choosing, forgiving, and saving the faithful who have gone before us. Grant that in this life, we may bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Gather us into your Kingdom, where that fruit will fully ripen and be perfected, to your glory and to the delight of all whom you have redeemed.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant to us all that is in accordance with your will, dear Jesus, and accomplish your salvation among us; for you are risen from the dead and dwell in majesty with your Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Join me now in the prayer Jesus taught the disciples saying:

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, The power, and the glory, For ever. **Amen.**

* **CLOSING HYMN** **“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”** **Blue Hymnal #343**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVXHxVMgA8>

* **BENEDICTION**

Listen to the promise Jesus makes:

I will never abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Even though the world will not be able to see me, I will never vanish from your sight. And since I live, you will also live.

Go from here in the knowledge that you do not go alone: the power and presence of God goes with you. **Praise be to God!**

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 CLP Larry Sears will lead the service.