

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
Day of Pentecost
May 23, 2021**

At the *, please stand, if you are able

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE: "Come Holy Ghost, God and Lord" **Zachau**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3ACDqwmIYM>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Like The Murmur of the Dove's Song" Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHen2sA5waU>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

All: Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

LEADER: They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Spirit of the Living God, thank you for coming down from heaven as Jesus said you would. You are the one who seals us until that day and continue to be with us as our comfortor. We worship you. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN "Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us" Blue Bk #129**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdMikSiLn0I>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Breath of God, it is you who gives us life. Forgive us when we refuse to use our breath to speak as you speak. Forgive us when we speak what you do not speak. Forgive us according to your eternal mercy, grace, and love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Beloved, hear the Good News, Jesus Christ has died, Jesus Christ is risen, Jesus Christ will come again. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah! 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 Sends the Holy Spirit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

Hear the Word of God

Holy Spirit, the words that Jesus spoke are spirit and they are spiritually discerned. Touch our spirits to lovingly listen and obey; loving God, ourselves and our neighbor. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Ezekiel 37:1-14**
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ez+37.1-14&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING **Psalm 104:24-35**
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+104%3A24-35&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM **Choir**
"Every Time I Feel The Spirit"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6AcJWPhSnI>

NEW TESTAMENT READING **Romans 8:22-27**
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+8%3A22-27&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING **John 15:26-27; 16:4-15**
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15%3A26-27%3B+16%3A4-15&version=NIV>

Do you know the first question in the Bible? Do you know who posed it and to whom? Let me give you a hint, it was not God. The first question in the Bible is found in Genesis three verse one and the question is, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" This question was posed by the serpent to the woman in the garden.

Do you know the first question posed by God and to whom? The first question posed by God was, "Where are you?" and it was asked of the man.

Another famous question is found in Exodus 16 verse 15. This is when the Lord provided food for the Israelites to eat while in the desert. "When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was." It was manna. You can read the whole story for yourself by reading chapter 16 of Exodus.

Once, my family and I were heading back home to Texas after spending Christmas with family up in Colorado. It had snowed pretty hard. As we drove into Abilene, I saw an unfamiliar sight off in the distance which I had never seen before. I wondered what it was, and as we approached the unfamiliar sight I realized the four towers I had seen in the distance in the middle of the road were actually four pillars of snow at the four corners of the intersection which the snow plows had piled up.

Unfamiliar things or events tend to give rise to questions seeking for an explanation.

It is no different in today's passage. Jesus had risen from among the dead 50 days earlier after being crucified, died, buried, and resurrected on the third day. He had instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem where they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit of God in power. True to his word, as the disciples were chilling out in the upper room, it happened. The gift of God had come in a grand manner. Acts 2:2-4 tells us, "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

There was a crowd in Jerusalem assembled from many parts of the Roman Empire. These were God-fearing Jews and converts to Judaism. They were there celebrating the Jewish holiday of Pentecost, a celebration of thanksgiving for the first fruits of the wheat harvest.

The Holy Spirit made his grand entrance in power enabling the early disciples to speak in languages declaring the wonders of God. The crowds heard mere Galileans speaking in their own languages and began asking, "What does this mean?"

Strange and unusual events tend to raise the great questions of all time. We are still speaking of this event and this question 2000 thousand years later.

Peter stands to his feet and begins to give a discourse as to its meaning. He reaches all the way back to several hundred years earlier and begins to quote the Prophet Joel. He tells the crowd, "This event is the fulfillment of a prophecy spoken years earlier by this prophet."

It has been my experience that many erudite men and women, some of them theologians, Christian and non-Christian, believers and non-believers have muddied the waters by giving their spin on these inspired words focusing on the manifestations instead of on the Gift: the Holy Spirit of Truth. Many have attempted to bring down these elevated and glorious words to a mere human level. Do you honestly believe God gave his Holy Spirit so the disciples could skip language school? No! Many people were in the city from different nations. And these people were already worshippers of the one true God. These Jews were God's covenant people called to be a nation of priests to share his love to the world. Here at Pentecost, as decedents of Abraham they were given a second chance to bring the good news: the God of Love and his kingdom is among and within us. They were given the privilege to hear in their own language the wonders of God and the fulfillment of their own Old Testament Prophet's prophecy being fulfilled in their very presence.

I am proposing to you this morning to allow scripture to explain itself. For when we take a look at the end of Peter's discourse referring back to Joel, we see something startling. In verse 21 of Acts chapter 2 we see a wonderful promise. Verse 21 reads, "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You see, God is not a parochial God with a limited interest in a "few chosen people." No, the Father's desire is that no human should perish. He has sent the Holy Spirit to tell us in our own language the wonders of God in an effort to cause us to believe and be saved, be made whole, to be at peace and at one with God. In other words, the Holy Spirit has been sent to bring us home. Home where we belong, with God. You and I were created with a purpose. We do not need to seek and to wonder, "What is my purpose in life?" Our purpose is plain and clear, we were made to enjoy God forever, even today. More startling, even now.

God seeks to make it clear that we are loved. We belong to him. We were made for him. He wants us, he desires us, he cherishes us, he adores us, and he cleanses, heals, forgives and accepts us. He created us to experience Him. He is Love, Light, a Consuming Fire, and Spirit.

EVERYONE! EVERYONE! Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord WILL BE SAVED!
No ands, ifs, or buts, **EVERYONE!**

Yes Lord, by your grace, and your mercy, and your love, WE say YES! Amen. In simple terms, "What does this mean?" It means God has made salvation available to all. The Holy Spirit has been sent to invite us, to compel us, even to woo us, "Whosoever, come!"

Lord Jesus, today, we call upon you name. Amen forever more.

To God be the glory, the honor, and the praise forever, amen!

*** HYMN** **"Let Every Christian Pray"** **Blue Hymnal #130**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-6whEKUNSE>

Respond in Love and Service

*** This we believe**

In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lift your prayers unto the Lord and followed by 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**

Almighty God, you are our provider. You have provided us with life, strength, intelligence, fruitful labor. Out of love we bring ourselves as gifts and these fruits of our labor to you. We ask you to multiply them as only you can and make them beneficial to your kingdom's work. Amen.

* **CLOSING HYMN "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove" Blue Hymnal #126**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZZ2Ddq6Yfo>

* **BENEDICTION**

The Holy Spirit has come to inhabit us forever. He will not leave us nor forsake us. He will guide us into all truth. Go forth with the confidence of God, in the grace of the Son, the love of the Father, and the communion with the Holy Spirit, amen.

* **POSTLUDE**

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service