

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
June 27, 2021**

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

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

---

**Gather for Worship**

**PRELUDE:** "The Lord's My Shepherd" **W. Held**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udgwXj5vqrU>

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Next Sunday, God willing, we will be celebrating Communion.**

**THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" Choir**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqnKnU5yKIU>

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** We wait for the Lord, our whole being waits, and in his word we put our hope.

**All:** We wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**LEADER:** Crestholme, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

**All:** He himself will redeem Crestholme from all our sins.

**OPENING PRAYER**

The Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditation of our hearts, be alway acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. (Hab. 2:20, Ps. 122:1, Ps. 19:14)

**\* OPENING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Blue Bk #464**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMY3jvdNzwe&t=97s>

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Out of the depths we cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear our voice. Let your ears be attentive to our cry for mercy. If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. Lord, we confess our sins, transgressions, and iniquities to you and gratefully and humbly receive your loving forgiveness. We thus reverence your name. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Beloved, hear the Good News, 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**

We're all amazing!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbHQ-OS9\\_G0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbHQ-OS9_G0)

## **Hear the Word of God**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

O Holy Spirit, send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead us, and bring us unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling. Amen. (Ps. 43.3)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** **2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27**  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+1%3A1%2C+17-27&version=NIV>

**PSALTER READING** **Psalm 30**  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+30&version=NIV>

**CHORAL ANTHEM** **Choir**  
"Promised Land"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKS8sVGBHtU>

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** **2 Cor. 8:7-15**  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Cor.+8%3A7-15&version=NIV>

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Mark 5:21-43**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+5%3A21-43&version=NIV>

## **SERMON**

### **"The Goal is Equality" 2 Corinthians 8:14**

**Dr. Carlos Baladez**

Our high school football team consisted of young teenage boys. They came in all shapes and sizes. The bigger huskier ones were the linemen. Some played both defense and offense. The skinnier and lanky ones were receivers. The more muscular ones were the running backs. And the quarterback was tall, muscular, and quick, with a rocket arm. He was able to launch that football at least half the football field. At the end of the season, they were crowned, District Champs. They all provided what the others did not have, but what each had, they shared it with the team. In this manner they were able to defeat the other teams to bring home district bragging rights. They gave it their all, 100% on every play. It was a collaborative effort.

In today's passage, Paul is speaking on the grace of giving. It sounds to me like he is speaking with tongue in cheek, as he tells the Corinthians, "since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you... see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

We have modern-day terms which express this same sentiment, "the proof is in the pudding." Or, "walk the talk," or as my father-in-law likes to put it, "actions my love, actions!"

Paul is testing the sincerity of their love. The measuring tool for this test is a comparison. Paul compares their sincerity with the earnestness of others.

Paul brings out the "big ruler" in the example of the Lord Jesus Christ's giving. He does not mince any words and goes straight for the juggler, "though he (the Lord Jesus Christ) was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

He commends their initiative for they were the first to give last year and the first to have the desire to do so, but the work was unfinished. This did not reflect the nature and character of God, for he is faithful to complete what he starts. The church at Corinth was failing to reflect the nature and character of God to the world. Paul therefore encourages them to complete their giving according to their means. Paul is not calling them to a vote of poverty, but to a willingness to give and to give to completion. He is also not calling them to give until they themselves find themselves in the poor house. No! Like the football team example at the beginning of this message, Paul is calling them to all pitch in according to their ability, according to their abundance, according to their gifting. And for what reason? Certainly it is not to glory in themselves. In some respects it is so they may experience equality. Yet ultimately,

there is a greater reason for giving. Please take notice of how this passage ends by referring back to a story in Exodus. God had delivered the Israelites from Egypt. The people of God complained of the lack of food to eat in the wilderness. God heard their complaint and provided for them Manna. Food from above. They were to gather about three pounds per person and eat it all. No leftovers and no waste. Some gathered more, some less, but at the end of the day no one lacked.

This is the purpose of God - that no one lack. God cares for all of us, equally. He seeks for all of us to be satisfied with and in him. God IS love. Unconditional love. Abundant love. Everlasting love. And this love comes with action. Congruent words, deeds, and actions paint the clearer picture of our Risen Lord. We, as the Body of Christ are called to reflect the nature of God. His nature is generous. His nature is loving. His nature is caring about the other.

Therefore, this grace of giving is not about us in the least. It is about God and his love, his nature, and his character. God is rich in mercy, love, grace and so much more. We, as his "called out ones," best reflect him in doing what he does, giving according to our abundance, giving generously, giving faithfully, finishing what we start. We can never out give God, but we can give according to the bonanza of his blessings upon our lives.

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

\* **HYMN**

**"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"**

**Blue Hymnal #321**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZG7iupL-OU>

### **Respond in Love and Service**

\* **This we believe**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man: Who for us, too, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, suffered, and was buried: the third day He rose according to the Scriptures, ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father: He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son: Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified: Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy, Christian, and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and life of the age to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, in your mercy, hear the prayers of our hearts. We thus pray as Jesus taught his disciples to pray: 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](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!  
Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! (Ps. 103:1 ESV)

### **\* DOXOLOGY Blue Hymnal # 592**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyg6-htOthU>

### **\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Father of Abundance and Grace, who provides for all of your creation, to you we bring ourselves and these gifts. Receive us and them as tokens of our love for you. Bless them and us again and make it all profitable for your kingdom and for your glory's sake. Amen.

### **\* CLOSING HYMN "Arise, Your Light Is Come!" Blue Hymnal #411**

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

### **\* BENEDICTION**

Crestholme, may you always dwell in the shelter of the Most High and rest in the shadow of the Almighty. May you always say of the Lord, "He is our refuge and our fortress, our God, in whom we trust." For surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Amen.

### **\* POSTLUDE**

## **The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service**