

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
11th Sunday of Pentecost
August 8, 2021**

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

"Concerto Grosso No. 12"

Corelli

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Let All Creation Bless The Lord"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MsMnIqcN804>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Only the hungry search for bread.
Only the thirsty look for water.

All: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

Leader: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.
Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

All: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

Leader: So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,

All: and let the God of life satisfy our souls.

OPENING PRAYER

The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merit of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*** OPENING HYMN**

"Praise Him! Praise Him!"

Red Hymnal #12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BB27OjUFZjs>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, as your followers we are called to be people shaped by your ethical and selfless life - one that is so much at odds with accepted lifestyles of today. We confess how easy it is to be drawn into these worldly lifestyles and we need your constant help to make our behavior consistent with yours.

Forgive us when our words have been less than truthful -

Inform us with your Spirit so that we speak the truth - your truth - at all times.

(time of silence)

Forgive us for using anger to manipulate and to control -

Direct us with your Spirit that we might handle our anger responsibly.

(time of silence)

Forgive us when our actions have lacked total integrity -

Mold us with your Spirit so that all our dealings are carried out honestly and ethically.

(time of silence)

Forgive us when our words have been thoughtless and offhand -

Instruct us with your Spirit so that our words truly bring grace to those who hear.

(time of silence)

Renew us with your Spirit so that our words and actions bring you pleasure and not pain.

(time of silence)

Fall afresh on us, O Holy Spirit, and make our lives true reflections of Jesus' life, so that we live, love, and forgive as graciously and compassionately as he did. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: If God kept track of all our mistakes—
the harmful things we say and do,
the callous way we sometimes treat the people around us,
the selfishness that puts our needs ahead of the needs of others—
if God kept track, what chance would we have?

But with unfailing love, God offers us forgiveness—
complete forgiveness that erases our sins completely,
and allows us to begin again.

So be at peace – your sins are forgiven!

All: Praise 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

God Loves Us

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npVjEIt4fHM>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of wisdom, you have taught us that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Send us your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts to receive your Word, speaking through the scriptures. Strengthen us to live that Word as our daily bread. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Samuel%2018%3A5-9%2C2%20Samuel%2018%3A15%2C2%20Samuel%2018%3A31-33&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING

Psalms 130

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalms+130&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"This Is The Threefold Truth"

Choir

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A25-5%3A2&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

John 6:35, 41-51

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+6%3A35%2C+41-51&version=NIV>

SERMON

"Abide In My Love"

Elder, Fred Archer

Written by The Rev Kirk Alan Kubicek

Chapters 13 through 17 of John are by far the longest treatment of the Last Supper of any of the four gospels. These five chapters proclaim the heart of the Good News for John. And yet, have we ever noticed that from the opening of chapter 13, where Jesus strips down, gets on his knees, and washes feet, to chapters 15 through 17, where he does some mighty fine speechifying, in all of this longest portrayal of his last night with those he now calls friends, there is scarcely a mention of bread and none of wine? It's as if John decides that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and even Paul have covered the blessings over the bread and the wine more than adequately, and I will, says John, tease out what it really means to "do this in remembrance of me," to live a Eucharistic life.

Enter our words from chapter 6, where John appears to set the institution of the Last Supper. That is, to place the institution in the midst of Jesus' ministry and day-to-day life. The chapter begins with the feeding of "about five thousand" people with a few loaves of bread and some fish. John pictures Jesus before a hungry crowd, a crowd that has taken to boats to cross the sea to find the One who is going about the countryside doing marvelous and miraculous things. They have heard about water becoming wine at a wedding reception in Cana. Some heard from the Samaritan woman herself about living water, and how she became the first person in John to recognize Jesus as the One who is to come. The One who takes, blesses, breaks, and gives away bread. The very same way we still take, bless, break, and give away bread in the Holy Eucharist.

Later, in the synagogue in Capernaum, he says astonishing things like, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." He also says, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." And he says again, "I am the bread of life... the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." I am the bread. Feed on me. And as it was in his hometown synagogue, the people are now scandalized, forgetting all about the twelve baskets of leftovers after feeding the five thousand. "We know his mother and his father!" they say. "How dare he say these things!"

He urges them to stop complaining. I cannot help saying these things for I am the manna. I am the bread of the Eucharistic meal. I give my life, my body for the life of the world. All this in chapter 6 is John's institution of the Eucharist: bread is taken, blessed, broken, and given away – just as on Good Friday, Jesus will be taken, blessed by his Father, broken by us, and given away, handing over his Spirit to his community as his last act of charity, generosity, and love. Yet, it's all too much, the love that's shining all around him. It's all too much.

Now jump ahead to the Last Supper chapters, especially chapter 15, where Jesus makes two even more astonishing declarations about who we are and whose we are. First, Jesus says, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love." It is impossible for us to imagine just how much the Father loves Jesus, let alone begin to grasp the reality that Jesus, in turn, loves us that much! We hear it, we read it, year after year after year. We want to believe it is true. That just as God says Jesus is his Beloved Son at his baptism, so Jesus says that we too are God's Beloved. That God is well pleased with us. We hear this, and like the people in the synagogue, we wonder, "How can this be? How can we abide in this love of his?"

Jesus then doubles down on this love, as if the Great and Second commandments to love God and love neighbor are not quite enough to get to the heart of living a Eucharistic life. Jesus issues a new commandment: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." That, as Led Zeppelin reminds us, is a Whole Lotta Love. Love. For their Greek-speaking, Greek-hearing audiences, Paul and the four evangelists had a number of words to choose from. There is *eros*, that frenzied, passionate, ecstatic, and all-consuming love. There is *philia*, the love of equal for equal, friend for friend. But they all chose the word *agape*, which speaks of love in which the one who is loved is raised to the level of the one who loves. Jesus' love for us raises us to the level of his love, just as he has been raised to the level of the Father's love. We need to ponder the depth and breadth of this love we are to become as we abide in his love.

About this love, he says, "Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life." He speaks not of immortal life or a future in heaven. Rather, this is "a metaphor for living now in the unending presence of God," what he sometimes calls the Kingdom of God. John places the institution of the Eucharist way back in the day-to-day life of Jesus and the things he does for others: feeding, healing, teaching, sharing meals. These are the things, and "greater things than these" which we are to do to abide in his love.

He calls us his Beloved. To accept our belovedness is to abide in his love. Once we accept this, when we look upon the host at communion, we no longer see just bread or the body of Christ. Rather, we are called to say, "Amen," as we receive what we are to become. What we are to become is the Body of Christ, and this is to shape our lives every moment of every day. Eucharist is not what Jesus does on one night near the end of his life, or what we do on Sundays. It is what he did, and we are to do, every moment of every day. This is what it means to abide in his love: to accept our belovedness and live a Eucharistic life as he lived. Eucharist means "thanksgiving" – lives of thanks and giving – giving his love to others.

Nothing can be more important or more powerful than accepting this Eucharistic life. Every time bread is taken, blessed, broken, and given to us, he calls us once again to abide in his love so we may live his love for others – all others, no matter what. This, he says, is eternal life. Here and now. Every day. By placing the institution of the Eucharist in the midst of Jesus' life, not on his last night among us, John suggests that our participation in the flesh and blood, the bread and the wine, belongs to all the days of

the Christian life, not just Sundays or special days, but every day we are to share the love and the abundant presence of God in the world – the whole world.

May God help us all to abide in this love of Christ, and of the Father. Amen.

*** HYMN**

“O, How I Love Jesus”

Red Hymnal #92

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8fKX3xZaMM>

Respond in Love and Service

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God the Father, God almighty, by whose plan earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Saviour, Son of God in human frame, virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came. Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead.

We believe in Jesus risen, heaven’s king to rule and reign, to the Father’s side ascended till as judge he comes again.

We believe in God the Spirit; in one Church, below, above: saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love. So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The stories of scripture speak of God’s goodness and generosity, over and over again. So we keep offering our gifts to God, over and over again, trusting that God will bless them. May the gifts we bring continue feeding the world with God’s goodness, in mission and in ministry, for the sake of Christ, the Bread of Life.

*** DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal #592

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, we joyously place before you our offerings. May these gifts support our ministry so that others may gather in your name and follow your path of love and peace. We, your beloved children, seek to be “imitators of God” and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

*** HYMN FOR OUR NATION**

“Heal Our Land”

Red Hymnal #800

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm_rA54EGw

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

One: What will you require of us, O God?

All: We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

One: God of all generations, we look back over the past few months, and we are grateful for your steadfast presence with us through uncertainty and upheaval. We have witnessed tragedy and courage; generosity and selfishness, resentment and resilience, fear and faithfulness. We ask that you show us the lessons of this pandemic and make us wiser people. What will you require of us, O God?

All: We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

One: God of church and community, we look back over the past few months, and we are grateful for your inspiration and support through transition and times of testing. We have witnessed isolation and new ways to connect, old traditions set aside and new opportunities emerging. We have seen decisions and dissent, noticed people drifting away and others reconnecting, called on the skills of many generations to maintain our life together. Show us the lessons of this pandemic and make us more faithful people. What will you require of us, O God?

All: We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

One: God of nations and neighbors, we look back over the past few months, and we are grateful to you for cooperation and creativity in our leaders in politics, education, health care, in business, labour and community life. We have witnessed both energy and indifference, selfless dedication and harsh criticism, deep differences and important collaboration. We know some neighbors and nations have lost much and need help to re-establish well-being. We know some have felt deep anger within and others have had that anger targeted at them. Show us the lessons of this pandemic and make us more engaged citizens. What will you require of us, O God?

All: We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

One: God of family and friends, we look back over the past few months, and we are grateful to you for sustaining relationships. Those nearby and those supported by computer and phone call. We have witnessed both loneliness and loving kindness, arguments and appreciation. We know some families have been torn apart by distance or dispute and others have renewed their life together. Show us the lessons of this pandemic and make us better able to honour our important relationships. What will you require of us, O God?

All: We will do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you.

God of healing and hope, We look back over the last few months and know many are still suffering in body, mind and spirit; many are grieving and others do not know what the future holds for them. Hear us in this holy silence as we name in our hearts those people and situations that concern us deeply.

(Keep silence for 20–30 seconds.)

Remembering all you have done for us, with us and through us, O God, we pray the words that Jesus taught:

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

*** CLOSING HYMN**

"Living For Jesus"

Red Hymnal #605

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12Tww_FPthc

*** BENEDICTION**

May almighty God fill you with the Bread of Heaven so you will grow in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

May you lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to God in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. 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 CP Larry Sears will lead the service.

Weekly Calendar

TBD	TBD	Food Pantry
TBD	TBD	Clothes Closet
Sunday	10:00 AM	Sunday School
Sunday	11:00 Am	Worship Service

Holy Communion is observed the First Sunday of each month.

Crestholme Presbyterian Church Officers

Session

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Cathie Owen	Irene Thomas	Katie Lamb
Netsy Williamson	Steve Tovar	

Clerk of the Session: Dick Crist
Church Treasurer: Fred Archer

Trustees

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Penny Christoff	Fred Archer	Tommy Rudwick

Crestholme Presbyterian Church Staff

Stated Supply Minister	Vacant
Pulpit Supply Preachers	Carlos Baladez Larry Sears Elder Fred Archer
Choir Director	Robin Bernhard
Organist	Cathie Owen
Secretary/Coordinator	Vacant

Membership in the Presbyterian Church is open to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Every member and officer will be more than happy to visit with you about salvation by faith in Jesus and membership at Crestholme.

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