

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
16th Sunday of Pentecost
September 12, 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

"Pastorale"

C. Wesley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aO5xBz0hmkc>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2Qhk8zl7Jo>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

ALL: The wind of God, the breath of Life.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

ALL: Our Advocate, our Counselor.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

ALL: Teacher of Wisdom, Reminder of Christ.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit,

ALL: Granter of forgiveness, giver of peace.

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit.

ALL: May we feel God breathing through our worship.

May we receive the Holy Spirit in this place. Amen.

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.

Lord, today we recall your faithfulness. Thank you that you walk with us every day, that you are with us always. We proclaim that your promises are true and your goodness and love never fail. In this moment we come to you and lay our lives before you. May we honour, worship and adore you with every fibre of our being. Father, we proclaim that you are the Holy One, the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Your beauty and majesty are beyond compare. On this day we join with all those who worship and confess you as Lord, from generations past and present, and with all the angels that sing in heaven of your greatness and splendour.

Lord we adore you.
Lord we love you.
Lord we bow down and worship you.
Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" Blue Hymnal #288**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Hx_Baw0YUk

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news!

Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun

Believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

All: Praise be to God!

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal #579

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

*** 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

Who You Say I Am

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNrEDc5iXpk>

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Liberator Christ,
you came into a holy place and read the sacred word about sight for blind folk and freedom for prisoners. Come to this place now. Read these words to us till our own eyes are opened, our faith is unlocked, and we can see the world as it is, and as it could be; till the yearnings of ordinary people are taken seriously, and the visions of the young are valued, and the potential of the old is released; till your kingdom is celebrated everywhere, and your church is good news to the poor. Amen.

FIRST READING

Proverbs 1:20-33

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%201%3A20-33&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING

Psalm 19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+19&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwOPwAVDN7s>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 3:1-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+3%3A1-12&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Mark 8: 27-38

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+8%3A+27-38&version=NIV>

SERMON

"Ending"

Fred Archer

Written by The Rev Kellan Day

There are countless ways we expect the story – our stories – to end.

"And they lived happily ever after."

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

"And one day there will be an incredible and victorious military overthrow of ancient Jerusalem...."

Wait. What?

This might not be your favorite ending to the story, but it used to be a favorite ending a long time ago. There was this really popular story that got passed around through word of mouth and eventually through written word in the ancient Jewish world. This story sprouted from a people in exile, in hopes of a restored and united Israel; it sprouted from empire after empire controlling *their* land, *their* city, centuries of forced occupation, many failed rebellions, and a longing for peace. A longing to be at home. A longing for a place of worship. A longing for God's kingdom to come in full.

And this grand story pivoted on the coming of a Messiah. Now, all the stories about this Messiah were not the same. Some Messiahs were angelic, some were human, some were born of God. Sometimes there was one Messiah and sometimes there were multiple Messiahs. But one oft-repeated theme among these many stories was that the Messiah would overthrow whatever empire was in power and deliver the Israelites from oppression. And this Messiah was sometimes painted as a military champion, someone who came with power and force. They were the hope of a downtrodden nation. You can see why this story would be so hopeful, so needed for a people who had lost so much of what seemed to have been promised to them by God. We are all looking for a way out of our messes.

So, when Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" and Peter responds, "You are the Messiah," might it be the case that Peter had heard some stories of who the Messiah was supposed to be as he grew up a Jew in a Jewish world? Might it be the case that he had a particular image and vision of this Messiah?

When Jesus continues the conversation, and he predicts his own personal overthrow, betrayal, suffering, and death, maybe we can understand why Peter rebukes him. Peter's exact response is not supplied in our text but it's as if he is saying to Jesus:

"No, no, no that is not how the story goes! You're getting it wrong. There is only supposed to be suffering for our enemies and there is only supposed to be an overthrow of the Roman occupation and you are supposed to single-handedly bring about the reign of God through the triumph of Israel! You are supposed to be a king who reigns. We need a triumphant Messiah!"

The stories just do not add up, Peter thinks. And if Jesus is the Messiah, which Peter obviously believes, then why is Jesus predicting this awful future of suffering and death?

If we could see inside Peter's mind, it might look like a demolition site: futures of a restored Jerusalem suddenly trampled into dust. Futures of the reign and power of God

no longer made sense. Futures where Peter stood next to Jesus as his right-hand man, combatting the army of enemies... well, that seemed impossible now.

On one hand, Peter professes an enormous amount of faith in Jesus. And on the other hand, Peter's faith is still very much on his own terms, his own vision of reality, his own understanding of God's plan.

Sometimes, we must learn that faith is relinquishing our own terms, our own realities, our own idea of God's plans. Sometimes, the demolition and destruction are just the beginning of a more real, more honest discipleship.

And so, the question that Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" is a question that soars across two thousand years and lands in this room. It is a question posed to you and to this community.

You see, who we believe Jesus to be and how we enact our discipleship are so tightly connected. There's a reason Mark narrates this scene about Jesus' identity and then quickly reminds us that to be a disciple is to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

It matters what kind of Messiah we have faith in.

If we think Jesus is a Messiah who will overthrow all our enemies and topple the empires of this world with the force of a military commander, might we be enticed into a violent and self-serving discipleship?

If we think Jesus is a Messiah who is distant and untouchable, might we become disciples who build walls around us to distance ourselves from "the other" and secure our own tribe?

If we think Jesus is a Messiah who won't touch the dredges of death and the hardships of this life, might we also be disciples tempted into every form of escapism possible? Resisting dying to self and death itself at all possible costs?

But if we behold Jesus for who he is, a Messiah who suffered, was rejected, killed, and then rose again – well, then, what in the world might our own discipleship look like? If our own lives are to be molded after his life, if we are really united to him through our baptism, how might our days unfold?

The stories we tell of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, might just be the stories we live out. This Christian life – this cross-shaped life – is not an easy road. It is a serious story. It is the truest and most powerful story.

And so dear Christians, are we a people who resemble a crucified and suffering Messiah? Does our collective body resemble his? Are we afraid of our wounds? Have we learned to bear the beautiful yet costly marks of resurrection? Do we look like Jesus?

We should not be surprised if and when we suffer. We should not be shocked that we will have to lose our lives to find them. We should not be bowled over by the fact that we will have to relinquish our control of God and let God hold us in his wounded hands. Instead, we should be ready to take up our cross and follow Jesus: every day, in all circumstances, through the valley of the shadow of death, as our bodies age and our cells mutate, as we go about the mundane struggle of daily business and work, as we grieve, when we rejoice, through losses and gains, through seasons of blessings and seasons of wanting, as we learn to give and as we learn to receive, as we are burdened and as we help others carry burdens.

For in every cross-shaped experience of our lives there is a promise. It is not a promise we can always feel or sense or appreciate at first glance. But the promise is still there. And it is a promise that your ending, our ending, the world's ending is a beautiful one. All of our endings find meaning in that early morning on Easter. When that cross lost its sting and became a sign to us that God had triumphed over the greatest enemies: sin and death. The cross becomes a promise of the best kind of ending. An ending where God has come near and saved us and loved us and delivered us and proclaimed to every particle of creation, as Julian of Norwich phrased it: "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

* **HYMN**

"This Is My Father's World"

Blue Hymnal #293

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeJw_Lm9ohY

Respond in Love and Service

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: We say together in faith

**All: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

Leader: We believe in God the Father, who created all things:

**All: for by his will they were created
and have their being.**

Leader: We believe in God the Son, who was slain:

All: for with his blood,

**he purchased us for God,
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

Leader: We believe in God the Holy Spirit:

**All: the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'
Even so come, Lord Jesus! 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!
Remember this, "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."

*** DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal #592

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Your love, O God, binds us together in ways we could never achieve on our own. We give thanks for all your gracious activities in people's lives over the centuries and we offer these gifts and the service of our lives as signs of our gratitude and willingness to make your love known through our witness to, and love for, neighbors nearby and far away. 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

Everlasting God hear us as we pray in faith and focus on the needs of others as well as ourselves. We pray for the whole family of your church here at Crestholme and all other churches as well. May all your people be built up in faith and demonstrate in their lives the gospel of Jesus Christ. Give courage to those who find it hard to follow you. Give us encouragement when we, like St Peter, find the teachings of your Son difficult to take on board.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, Your Son entered creation that all might be made new. Look in mercy on our broken world and speak to all people that they may hear the message of peace. Guide and

guard those who speak out for justice and mercy and face the wrath of undemocratic leaders and governments.

We pray for our National Government, for our State and Local Leaders and the leaders in the rest of the world. Sharpen their consciences and give them courage to make wise decisions, making wrongs right and meeting the needs of all who suffer.

We pray for the defenders of our nation, for our military and the first responders and their families, for the health care providers who heal and comfort the suffering.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Lord God we pray for family and colleagues, friends and lovers, for neighbors and strangers, for those with whom we break bread at home, at work, in the church and in our community. We pray particularly for those among our friends and families who do not know you, or whose faith has been shaken or fallen away.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father you gave your prophet Isaiah an "instructed tongue to know the word that sustains the weary" help us to comfort the weary and those who are ill with a call, a visit, an email or through the post with a get-well-card. Help us also to be constant in our prayer for friends and family in any kind of need especially any suffering from Coronavirus.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, Lord God we pray for those kept fresh in our memory and for those long forgotten; for all who shared our homes, our places of work and our church life; for all who helped to shape our lives. We pray too for the recently departed asking that they all find rest in your Heavenly Kingdom as we commend them to your keeping forever.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Almighty God, as we move into another week, deliver our eyes from tears and our feet from stumbling and walk with us on our journey of faith as we carry the cross of Christ into the world.

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen**

*** CLOSING HYMN**

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

Blue Hymnal #392

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z41WKwMKA>

*** BENEDICTION**

God will not let you go. There is no place you can be lost, nowhere so deep and dark that light cannot shine in the shadows. God loves you madly, and God is with you. Breathe, and know the Spirit is alive in you. Love, and know that you are loved by God. Live, and know that Christ lives in you. As Christ has died, Christ has also risen, and death will never have the final word. Go forth with this knowledge, wisdom, and insight: God's steadfast love endures forever. You are forgiven, loved, and restored. 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	Dr. Carlos Baladez CP 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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