

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 05, 2021**

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

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

H. Iseek

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Come To The Table”

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMa5pWwm3z0>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.

All: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore.

LEADER: The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil.

All: Lord, do good to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart.

LEADER: Amen! (Ps. 125:1-4, NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Bread Life sent from heaven above, it is because of you that we live. In gratitude, we offer you our love, praises, and worship. You are our reason for our existence. We live, Lord, because you live. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN “Praise , My Soul, the King of Heaven” Blue Hymnal #478**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyRIVbdsi4c>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, forgive us. Our love is not always visible to the world. Sometimes we allow threats to blind the church, making it hard to see that we are your community. We act as though we do not love each other. We do not always help one another. We do not care and bear one another's burdens. We fail to build each other up. We do not always willingly and joyfully give ourselves to one another. Forgive us, and strengthen us so that we may live in the unity that you grant us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News, because God is love, beloved, in Christ Jesus we are forgiven. Amen!

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal # 579

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtaqhMPI8Y0>

*** 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

Bread of Life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZD6U21E6mQ>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of all mystery and life, we receive your Holy Spirit by your grace once again, today. Your Spirit gives light to our path. It is the path that leads us to you Father God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs%2022%3A1-2%2CProverbs%2022%3A8-9%2CProverbs%2022%3A22-23&version=NIV>

PSALM READING

Psalms 146

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+146&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"The Power and The Glory"

Choir

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING**James 2:1-10, 14-17**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+2%3A1-10%2C+14-17&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING**Mark 7:24-37**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+7%3A24-37&version=NIV>

SERMON***"Children's Bread & Children's Crumbs"*****Dr. Carlos Baladez****Mark 7:27-28**

She was an outsider looking in. She was a woman. He was a man. He was a Jew. She was not. Her primary language was Greek, his was Aramaic. He was a holy man. She was lost. He was God's chosen and beloved, she an outcast.

Of course she heard the whispers and felt the glaring stares. "What is SHE doing here?" said one. Another spoke out saying, "She is way out of place." While someone else chimed in, "The Rabbi does not have time for such rabble." Most agreed when some self-righteous oaf huffed out loud, "The nerve of such dogs!"

But she had a need. A pressing need. She was a mother. And her young child was taken over by a demon. She had tried everything. She had consulted with her people's shamans. She had tried cultural and cultic remedies. Charlatan's and their remedies proved to be nothing more than empty promises.

So yes. She was desperate. The racial epithets of the "in-crowd" failed to dissuade or discourage her. Their icy stares did not faze her. She was there to consult, "The One." The one whose words proved to be true. She was at her wits end before hearing of him but now she had hope. She saw a new future. A future filled with hope, one driven by the courage birthed by faith and love - born within a mother's heart. She could not leave his presence. Not until the Wiseman said, "yes!"

Let us look at today's passage and notice the progression of this encounter. Jesus set out from his own turf. He went into Gentile territory to "get away," hoping to rest in a place where he would not be recognized nor disturbed. But, his fame proceeded him. For there was a woman there who heard about him. She took action and came to him. She checked her ego out at the door and bowed down at his feet. And then she begged him. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. The Wise man finally spoke to her. On the surface his comments seemed harsh, even cruel, especially coming from the Rabbi whose message was one of love, forgiveness, and acceptance. His words to her were, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She could have taken offense. She could have spent her time discussing the issue of fairness. But she was not there for herself, nor for a theological debate, nor for a philosophical discussion. No, she was there as an intercessor, a mediator for another, her daughter; the one with an unclean spirit. The little daughter whose innocent childhood was being stolen by a demon.

This woman, this Gentile woman, this Gentile Syro-Phoenician woman with a little daughter who had an unclean spirit did not hear an insult but an invitation to believe, encouraged to enter into dialogue with the Rabbi. It took more courage for her to speak to him than it took Abraham to speak to YHWH. He, at least was a man, and an insider. She, she was a woman, a gentile, a foreigner, and outsider, a "not my people" person. And yet she spoke. She even played on the words spoken by the Rabbi. He had spoken about order, "First, and then..." She agreed with him and did not dispute order. Her response was telling, for Jesus had said, the order is this, "the adult children eat first. It is not fair to take the adult children's bread and feed it to little dogs." (The word dogs, in the Greek is in the diminutive, therefore, "little dogs, or puppies").

Her response is brilliant and on point, faith filled, and "in order." She, first of all agrees with him, which is to bring glory to God. Bringing glory to God is agreeing with God. She then keeps in line with the order, "Yes, Lord, the adult children are given the bread on the table, and yet the little dogs, or puppies below eat the scraps, or the little morsels reserved for the infants." She in essence is not requesting him to give her what belongs to adults but what is rightfully hers as an infant of God.

You see, the ministry to the Jews was over 2000 years old. Those people were the "adult" children of God. They had been given the adoption to son ship; the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs were the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah. While the ministry to the Gentiles was in its infant stage.

It is of interest to note that she came to Jesus for him to cast out the demon from her daughter, yet Jesus basically told her, "You, just cast out the demon yourself." He said it this way, "For saying this..." What saying? The saying of recognizing her place as an infant of God. And for this, "the demon left her daughter." She had recognized her place in God's Kingdom. And in this kingdom, darkness and light cannot occupy the same space. Therefore, darkness leaves when light shows up. And along with this light as an infant in God's kingdom came the authority given to those in the Kingdom of God, power to become the adult children of God. She was free to go. And she went home. When she arrived she found two things; first, she found the child lying on the bed, and second, she found the demon gone! She had just entered and experienced the Kingdom of God within her. The Kingdom of God was at hand.

She had heard of Jesus. She came to Jesus. She saw Jesus. She worshiped him, she gave him his place, for she prostrated herself in relation to him, giving him homage. She recognized God's order and her place in that order, and as she spoke in that ordered authority she conquered her enemies through her place in Jesus and in God's plan. In God's plan for his creation and specifically, for his plan for her and her child. Amazing! Grace, upon grace, upon grace; abundant and overflowing.

We too are invited into this Kingdom of God. Let us too hear of Jesus today through this biblical passage. Let us come to Jesus in hope, faith and love. Let us come in worship of him, giving him his place - prostrating ourselves in relation to him giving him homage. Let us too recognize God's order and our place in that order and speak in that ordered authority and conquer our enemies, through our place in Jesus and in God's plan for his creation and specifically, in God's plan for us and our families. We come as infants and grow up to become God's adult children in Jesus Christ through his Holy Spirit. Hallelujah! Indeed.

To God be the glory and praise, amen.

*** HYMN** **"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"** **Blue Hymnal #326**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=igV63aKSqb8>

Respond in Love and Service

*** This we believe**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit; Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate; Was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into Hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father, we come before your throne today in the name of Jesus. In his name all your promises are, "yes and amen!" It is your love which gives us boldness to intercede for the needs of our world. It is the world that you love so much. And because you love it, we love it too. Therefore, we ask you to intervene in the affairs of humankind and make things right. Allow that peace that the angels announced to the shepherds many years ago manifest in our affairs today. In the All Powerful name of Jesus, we believe and ask, amen.

***HYMN FOR OUR NATION** **"Heal Our Land"** **Red Hymnal #800**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNDYTQgX0rg>

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, "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."

* **DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal # 592

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q5ojehA78c>

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous Father, you are the creator of heaven and earth. All things were created by your word. All things exist for you and through you. We bring ourselves and these gifts as tokens of thanksgiving with heartfelt gratitude. We and all these things are rightfully yours. Accept us and these gifts as a pleasing aroma. May your peace continue to reign in our lives, may your love saturate us, and may your Holy Spirit empower us to joyfully magnify you. Amen.

***COMMUNION**

Invitation to the Table

***Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

* **CLOSING HYMN "Lord, We Have Come at Your Own Invitation" Blue #516**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_mKDO0nH5k

* **BENEDICTION**

Holy people of God, as you have been fed, go forth and feed your fellowman. Give freely as you have been freely given. Go, in the grace of the Son, in the love of the Father, and in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service

Next Sunday, Elder Fred Archer will be leading worship. Welcome Fred!

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.

Telephone: 210-333-1301 **FAX: 210-333-1301**

Email: crestholmepc@satx.rr.com

Web Site: www.crestholmepc.com

Email: foodpantry@crestholmepc.org