

All: Thanks 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

Jesus Heals the Paralytic

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd89iS_VVko

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Your love, O God, is ever giving. You have opened heaven and given of yourself to us. Open your word to us this morning. Teach us love as you love, to give as you give, to love in mercy and kindness, to share in grace and peace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

FIRST READING

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=job%2023:1-9,16-17&version=NIV>

PSALTER READING

Psalm 22:1-15

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+22%3A1-15&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Oh, How I Love Jesus"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfi6MbQmOGs>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 4: 12-16

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4%3A+12-16&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Mark 10: 17-31

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10%3A+17-31&version=NIV>

SERMON

"Blocks"

Fred Archer

Written by The Rev Danáe M. Ashley

Peek-a-boo! [Cover eyes with hands and then remove them as you say the words if you wish]

Have you ever played this game with a baby or toddler? Or perhaps you have heard this from a child: "If I close my eyes, you can't see me!" Developmentally, children are extremely concrete thinkers. That's why they have their hands, mouth, nose, feet, and basically, their entire bodies into everything they can see, smell, touch, hear, and taste. They are learning about the world and what it means to be in it with all their senses. It is how we learn the world still, although we have more life experience and abstract thinking to help us out. However, when we

encounter something that is new and unfamiliar, something we don't understand, the first thing we do if we are not fearful, even as adults, is we want to see, smell, touch, hear, and taste it, in order to find out what it is. We want to make sense of our experience in the world and our bodies are wired to do so.

This happens with our experience of God, too. How about that Job passage today? In essence, he's been playing peek-a-boo with God. "Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling!" How many of us have been where Job is, asking, "Where are you, God? If I close my eyes, are you still there? If I open them, why can't I see you?" We don't understand what God is doing or what God is up to and so we try to figure it out with our human limitations. It is difficult to rely on the God of peek-a-boo.

In our Gospel today, a man asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" That strikes as an interesting phrase. Is there anything that the man could do on his own to inherit eternal life? Jesus answers this question by reminding him that only God is good and of the commandments that pertain to community relationships. The man replies that he had kept all those commandments since his youth. Jesus didn't doubt his sincerity—he looked at him and loved him—and because he loved him, he tells him the truth: the one thing that he lacked was full reliance on God. He needed to sell everything, give the money to the poor, and follow Jesus.

Notice that Jesus didn't condemn the man for being wealthy. Jesus knew that wealth in itself was not bad, but it made things more difficult for a person who was wealthy to realize their full dependence on God. If you think about it, many times, when we have an ample amount of money and we feel things are going our way, we feel self-sufficient. After all, we have worked hard for a good life, haven't we? It's ours. But that attitude can block us from responding wholly to the gifts that God alone can give us – a full, whole life now and eternal life in the future.

We're going to do a little Godly Play here and wonder together. Let's wonder what would happen if we looked at this story as a healing story. If you think back across Mark's Gospel, any person who comes to Jesus kneeling, asking for a blessing, is either deathly ill or demon-possessed. And almost every time Jesus orders someone to go away afterward, it's in relation to healing. I wonder what would happen if we saw this man as Jesus saw him—heartsick. Maybe the perfect life the man was trying to lead created a distorted sense of self, God, and neighbor? Let's wonder together...

This is also the only story in the Gospels when a personal call of Jesus is rejected. The rich man walks away grieving because he wasn't able to give up the one thing that kept him from giving himself completely to God. But even though it is the only story in the Gospels when this happens, it has been repeated over and over again in the centuries to follow. Each of us has "one thing" (often more than one) that we refuse to let go of so that we can be more fully in relationship with God. It doesn't have to be money at all, although it can be. Our spiritual dysfunctions can take the form of other things—any idols that come between us and our loving God. We all have them. Becoming aware of them and having the courage to address them doesn't have to be overwhelming. As Jesus says, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." What would it take for each of us to give up what is blocking us from relying on God with our whole lives—the loving God in which we live and move and have our being?

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
*Amen.***

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*** DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal #592

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. 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

King of all the earth,

Creator of the universe,

Holy Triune God,

From everlasting to everlasting, you are Lord.

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another;

Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

You are unchanging and constant from the dawn of time;

Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

In the midst of our frail and fleeting hold on this world, you remain our sure hope and confidence;

Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Your ways are good, O Lord, and our sin rightly brings your indignation;

Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

You satisfy us with your steadfast love and everlasting joy.

Teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

This is our God. Praise him, all you people, for he is our help and our salvation. I invite you to add your own praises to the Lord.

Silence.

You are worthy, Holy God, to receive all our praise. We worship you in the glory of your perfect Trinity and ask for grace to steadfastly believe and proclaim your unity.

We pray for your holy church;

Train our hearts to hate evil and love good.

May your people be marked with your righteousness;
Give us a will to seek and to establish justice.

You, Lord Christ, understand our weaknesses and the nature of our temptations.
Grant us mercy and grace in time of trouble.

I invite you to add your own prayers for the worldwide church.

Silence.

Creator of the earth, you spoke the world into existence and sustain all things by your life giving word. Consider the toil and sorrow of the people of the earth and, in your compassion, have mercy on the world.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

We pray for the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer;
For the refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger;
Relieve and protect them, O Lord, and grant them eternal hope in you.

Teach us how to rightly steward the gift of your creation,
That the resources of the world would be used to your honor and glory.

I invite your prayers for the needs of the world.

Silence.

God of all love and peace, we come to you in faith, offering you access into every area of our lives.

Almighty God, you have seen the secret sins of generations;
You, Lord Christ, bear the weight of the world.

We offend you grievously with our iniquities, and our sins keep us far from your kingdom;
Perform the impossible in us, and save us from ourselves.

We pray for our world, riddled with injustice and unrighteousness.
Quicken our hearts to receive your reproof.

We pray for the oppression of the poor and the corruption that turns aside the needy;
Open our ears to hear your truth.

We pray for those who have great possessions;
Free us to follow hard after you.

Thank you for the gift of your living and active word;
Pierce our souls with your truth.

You discern the intentions of our hearts, and no part of our lives remains hidden from your sight;

We draw near to your throne of grace.

We look to you, Lord of all, mindful of our helplessness;

Glorify your name in the midst of our need.

I invite you to cast all your cares and concerns on the Lord, remembering that He cares for you.

Silence.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

We believe in you, Lord Christ.

We cry out to you, Father God.

We receive your witness, Holy Spirit.

Abide with us as we abide in you this week and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Now join me as we pray the prayer He taught on the mount:

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 those 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 and ever.

Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN**

"Lord I Want to be a Christian"

Blue Hymnal #372

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZUq1Ruj9dE>

*** BENEDICTION**

May the God of peace who raised Christ from the dead Strengthen your inner being for every good work. And may the blessing of God Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit Rest upon you and dwell within you This day and evermore. Amen.

The End of Today's Worship Service – The Beginning of Service

Announcements

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday October 24th,2021 for the purpose of electing an Elder and Trustee for the class of 2024. This meeting will also ratify the revised By-Laws for Crestholme.

Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio Video. A must see!

<https://vimeo.com/618237759>

Also, Holy Smoke Lite, see below:



HOLY SMOKE LITE

Sunday, October 17, 2021 3:00PM at Covenant Presbyterian Church

IN-PERSON

Covenant Presbyterian Church
211 Roletto Dr. San Antonio
Socially-Distanced in Sanctuary

VIRTUALLY

Click link for
"Holy Smoke Lite" at
www.CovenantCares.Org

Donation checks must be made out to "Presbyterian Cluster Habitat**"
and mailed to Covenant Presbyterian Church, C/O Martha Flores:
211 Roletto Dr. San Antonio 78213**

Benefiting:



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. Welcome, Larry!

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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