



**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021**

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

"Savior of the Nations Come"

A.Vetter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2n7zLLYKRM>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

God willing, we will be celebrating Communion next Sunday

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG8Wj0yODLY>

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Worship Leader: Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. (Light the first candle).

Hear God's promise of hope from Jeremiah 33:14-16:

Elder, Fred Archer

"The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Let us pray:

Elder, Fred Archer

Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

*** ADVENT CAROL "Light the Advent Candle"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FQsnmZSjA>

"Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas Day.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light."

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, welcome. We open our hearts to receive you. We open our eyes to see you. And we open our mouths to sing you praise. We worship you, Lord Jesus. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Blue Hymnal #2**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dmO8UPIWoo>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, God of Grace and God of Glory, for holding on to fleshly patterns and not trusting your gift of creative newness. Forgive our fearful imaginings. Take away our fear! Birth forth in us your courage and trust. Give us yourself as our hope! Thank you, Forgiving and Renewing God, for taking us under your care, again! In Jesus Christ, we live and breathe, and trust and hope, and in his name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Anyone who is in Christ has been made a new creation! The old life has gone, a new life has begun! Friends, trust the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new!

*** 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Advent Week One

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHZ9XPukdng>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit in your grace and mercy look down upon us and touch our hearts, minds, and souls to listen, hear and obey your word. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jerimiah 33:14-16

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jerimiah+33%3A14-16&version=NKJV>

PSALTER READING

Psalm 25:1-10

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+25%3A1-10+&version=NKJV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"The King Shall Come"

Choir

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Thess. 3:9-13

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thess.+3%3A9-13&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:25-36

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+21%3A25-36&version=NKJV>

SERMON

**"The People Who Know Their God"
Daniel 11:32**

Dr. Carlos Baladez

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair" is the first line in the Charles Dickens novel, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

It sounds like it could be a first line to the events we are experiencing on a global level. We have social unrest, narco-traffickers fighting turf wars, human trafficking preying on the innocent, poor and defenseless, political nightmares with half-truths, high level politicians spewing vitriolic attacks against whole groups of peoples, an opioid crises, economic upheavals, Co-vid 19 and YET there are babies being born, first time mothers and fathers, grandparents, uncles and cousins. Weddings too abound. Excitement of another birthday, wedding anniversary, or of beating cancer and other life threatening diseases. Sweet and sour experiences abound surrounding us every day, and yet there is hope, faith and love. The greatest of these being love.

In the passage we are looking at today, you have a glimmer of hope, a ray of sunshine, a golden nugget planted deep within the dirt. Looking at the preceding verses from our central verse this morning, you can see that the enemies of God are out in force. Noticing the events following our central verse you see more of the same. There is war between the kings of the North and the South eventually turning against the people of the covenant and rewarding those who forsake the holy covenant. And here in the middle of this chaos, in the midst of this fear and betrayal stand those who are faithful to the covenant. And these faithful ones are the people who know their God, and because they know their God, they firmly resist the enemies of God. Another translation reads, "But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

The key here is knowing their God, not merely knowing about him. The knowing spoken of here is an experiential knowledge, an intimate and loving knowledge. The difference may appear small but it really is huge. It's like "knowing" how to kiss the love of your life and actually kissing the love of your life. The former is a wish, a desire unfulfilled, the second is an unforgettable experience.

Those who know their God, do so by knowing him by name, personally. His name is his word and action. His actions match his word and his name. All three, his name, his word, and his action are one and the same. All three are one. Thus, to "know" our God, is the kind of knowing which itself produces the faith and action in our lives. There is no need for you or me to try to produce faith, love, hope, or action. No, the experiential knowledge of our God produces this in us as a by-product of our relationship with him. In Christ we become one. One body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. In Christ, God has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them we may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

Therefore, even though it may be the best of times, or the worst of times, or the age of wisdom, or the age of foolishness, or the epoch of belief, or the epoch of incredulity, or the season of light, or the season of darkness, or the spring of hope, or the winter of despair, we will be strong, and carry out great exploits in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Saviour, and God! Amen.

To God be the glory now and forever, amen.

* **HYMN** **"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"** **Blue Hymnal # 8**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTYDOfyW734>

Respond in Love and Service

OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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 Christian Church, the Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

***HYMN FOR OUR NATION** **"Heal Our Land"** **Red Hymnal #800**
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!

* **DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal # 592

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

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Abba, Father, it is because of your goodness and faithfulness that we can live and move and have our being in you. Take these our gifts and make use of them for your name's sake, amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Kind and loving father, hear the prayers of our hearts and answer them according to your sovereign will and loving nature. Hear now as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray, "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 and ever. Amen.

* **CLOSING HYMN**

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Blue Hymnal # 38

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mm-BWsQb1zA>

* **BENEDICTION**

Cresholme saints, The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore. Go forth and live the blessed life God has given you in Christ Jesus. And remember, you are loved and you are valued.

The End This Worship Service — The Beginning of Service to Others

See Weekly Calendar Below

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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