

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Christmas
December 26, 2021**

At the *, please stand, if you are able

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

"In Bethlehem's Low Stable"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4abDHN8xg2M>

"Shepherds Came, Their Praises Bringing"

Walcha

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9cWFtcQZqk>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

God willing, we will be celebration Communion next Sunday, 01/02/2022

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "How Great Our Joy!"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8Y4Sn1wm4>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: For this reason we kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

All: We pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen us with power through his Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith.

LEADER: And we pray that we, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

All: and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Based on Eph. 3:14-19, NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING**Hebrews 1:1-12**<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+1%3A1-12&version=NIV>**GOSPEL READING****John 1:1-14**<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A1-14&version=NIV>**SERMON****"Who are you?"
Several Scriptures****Dr. Carlos Baladez**

During the 1970's a band by the name of *Who*, came out with one of their title songs, "Who are you?" This simple question has daunted and haunted mankind since the great and fatal betrayal documented in Gen.3:6..."and he ate."

Quoting Mark Twain. ""The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." And how, pray tell, can we know the "why" unless we know the "who?"

According to Socrates, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Is the examined life worth living if I do not discover the answer to "who am I?" Who you and I are is not discovered but revealed. Yes revealed to each one of us directly by the Holy Spirit of God in the message and in the person of Jesus Christ. You see, there is no other given among men through which we might be saved or through whom we might be made whole. It is through him that we are welcomed home. Home being who we are in Christ and to whom we belong, forever more.

The State tells you that you are a social security number. Culture tells you, you are a Mexican, a Chicano, a Latino, a Hispanic, a Latinx, a WASP - White Anglo Saxon Protestant, or an African-American, a Chinese American, an Italian American, an Arab American and so forth. People in authority may have ostracized you, criticized you, shunned you, marginalized you, or made you disappear.

BUT I am here today to declare to you, who you really are! I will tell you and you will listen and believe when you have the courage to admit you are wrong, and have been wronged. Admit your brokenness, your heaviness, your burden, your failings, your state of misery before a loving, forgiving, and gracious God. Here you go, if you dare and are ready. You, yes you are who God says you are, period. Instead of believing your circumstances, feelings, surroundings, birth certificate, nation, country, people, or culture, believe God! You get to choose what you call yourself and what you will accept others calling you. Choose to call yourself what God calls you in Christ, his beloved child.

You and I get to choose who or what defines us. You can accept the opinions of others, or your own about yourself, opinions which come from overinflated egos, or deflated

ones or what your loving all-knowing perfect truth telling creator says about you regardless of the above.

Men and women are flawed and lie. They make mistakes, perpetuating half-truths from blinded, weaken, hurt egos. Humans can be egocentric with ulterior motives, but the Creator who fashioned you in the womb of your mother is all knowing, all powerful, and ever present, perfect in all his ways! Therefore you are not a mistake, a second thought, or plan B.

No, you are here because he intended you to be here. To be here for one purpose and one purpose alone. And that is to be loved by Perfect Love himself. And that Perfect loves perfects you in the beloved, Jesus Christ.

Therefore do not be fooled. Do not be swayed by the philosophies of men. Don't be persuaded by man-made religions. Don't be taken in by arguments, feeble minds and watered down hearts bent on making you a convert to darkness leading you down a dead-end alley. Resist them all in the all-powerful name of Jesus Christ and take your place in the family of God. Come take your seat at the communion table and partake of the riches of his grace. Take on the name of your creator who is Love. He calls you beloved, loved of God.

Let us look at what God, your loving creator says about you.

You are a creation of God. Gen 1:27, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

You are a very good creation of God. Gen 1:31a "God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."

You are the apple of his eye. Ps 17.8, "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings."

You are love, wanted, appreciated, and valued. Jer. 31.3, The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."

You are not your own, for you belong to the Perfect One who perfects you in the Beloved Sinless One, Christ Jesus. 1 Cor. 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." Or if you prefer in poetic form, terms, and imagery, Ps. 100.3, "Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture."

Therefore, who are you? Answer with all the God confidence available to you in the beloved and only begotten son of the living God Jesus Christ and say, "I am loved!" That is who I am. Hallelujah! Then ask your inquirer, "And you, who are you?"

To God be the glory, honor, and power forever, amen.

* **HYMN** "What Child is This" **Blue Hymnal #53**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UF2jfc4FhWY>

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord of all light, as we lift the prayers within our hearts to you today, Lord, hear our prayers. "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"

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!
Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice.

* **DOXOLOGY** **Blue Hymnal # 592**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uyg6-htOtHU>

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord of love and grace, we bring ourselves and these offerings as a response to your abundant provision. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" Blue Hymnal #31**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICt1s44cfMM>

*** BENEDICTION**

People of God, go, walk, share, and live in his light forever more. Amen.

*** POSTLUDE**

**The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service
Next Sunday, Dr. Carlos Baladez will be leading worship. Welcome Carlos!**