



**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve
December 24, 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 Little Town of Bethlehem”

Clay Christiansen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grKx1YSeLr0>

THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“Go Tell It On A Mountain”

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsX3tYbai1Q>

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDEL

Jack Cobb

We have watched; we have waited
in hope. (light the first candle)
for peace. (light the second candle)
in joy! (light the third candle)
with love. (light the fourth candle)
Now our redemption draws near! The Christ candle (the center white candle is lit)

Hear the Word of the Lord from Isaiah 9:2-7

Fred Archer

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you

have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. Glory to God in the highest!

All: Alleluia! Amen!

- * **Our Advent Christmas Carol** "Light the Advent / Christ Candle..." Choir and Congregation
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkTWjhjKHjs>

"Light the Christmas candle, now: Sing of donkey, sheep, and cow;
Birthday candles for the King, let the al-le-lu-ias ring.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light."

OPENING PRAYER

RE Fred Archer

Holy God, all-glorious giver of grace, you are light, shining in darkness; you are life, the life of all people. Fill us with the light and life of Christ, through whom all things were made, so that we may be faithful disciples, bearing witness to your grace and truth; through Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

* **OPENING HYMN**

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

Blue Hymnal #35

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

RE Fred Archer

Forgive us, O Lord, when we grow weary in waiting and wane in our expectancy of your coming. Forgive us when we make this season about us and lose focus of you. We repent of our wicked ways and turn to you once again. We are grateful that you are a merciful, gracious and forgiving God. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

RE Fred Archer

People of God, hear the Good News! For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

* **GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal # 579

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

* **SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

RE Fred Archer

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 seats, please)

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

RE Fred Archer

Holy God, Word made flesh, let us come to this word open to being surprised. Silence our agendas; banish our assumptions; cast out our casual detachment. Confound our expectations; clear the cobwebs from our ears; penetrate the corners of our hearts with this word. We know that you can, we pray that you will, and we wait with great anticipation. Amen.

FIRST MEDITATION

The Foretelling: He will Come!
Micah 5:2

RE Fred Archer

Micah was one of the minor prophets of the Old Testament during the eighth century B.C. before the fall of Judah. He was a contemporary of the prophet Isaiah. His messianic prophecy of where the Messiah was to be born, the birthplace of King David, is referred to in the Gospel of St. Matthew. His description of Bethlehem reminds us that good – No, Great- things often arrive when and where least expected. We must be aware of all our blessings and give thanks to the Lord for each and every one. Our greatest gift from God is our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

CHORAL ANTHEM

"The Birthday of A King"

Choir

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

SECOND MEDITATION

The Announcement
Luke 1:28-33

CP Larry Sears

Luke 1:28-33

²⁸ The angel (Gabriel) went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Let's look at somethings from the event where Gabriel greeted Mary and told her the plan God had that through her son God would redeem His people.

Look at the words Gabriel used to describe Mary,
*Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.
Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.*

This troubled Mary. I imagine facing an angel can be a little daunting. We all have pictures in our minds of what an angel would look like. This passage says that Mary was troubled by Gabriel's words, not his image. We don't have a description of what he looked like then. Gabriel was used by God several times in the scriptures to take a message to His children. Daniel, 600 years before Jesus' birth was visited by Gabriel to explain some visions he had been given.

The message.

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

Languages are funny. Some of the languages of people who live near the equator do not have a word for "SNOW" in their vocabulary. On the other hand, many who live in the arctic circle have multiple words to describe what type of snow they are talking about. Human language can only be used to help us describe what we know or experience. In the languages of mankind, I don't think there is a word, or a phrase that can actually describe the relationship between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We talk about Jesus being God's Son, but that does not do justice to the relationship between Jesus and God. It just helps us realize that there is a relationship, and since Jesus was born a man, we use the father/son relationship that we are familiar with.

Who the Messiah is.

he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.

Micah 5:2 gives us a prophecy about Jesus.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans^[a] of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Jesus is from ancient times. The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost took part in the acts of the creation. Jesus reign will never end.

The Son of the Most High's origins are from of old, from ancient times. His has no end and no beginning. His kingdom will never end. He will be returning to us. Amen

* **HYMN**

"Away In A Manger"

Blue hymnal #25

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2ULTkNmIEY>

Respond in Love and Service

* **OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

CP Larry Sears

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (Is. 9:6-7)

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

CP Larry Sears

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**

CP Larry Sears

Lord of light and love, we bring ourselves and these offerings in response to your light upon our lives and your love upon our hearts. Thank you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

* **HYMN**

"Still, Still, Still"

Blue Hymnal #47

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwQAAC31CUU>

* **THIRD MEDITATION**

He is Born!
Luke 2:11-14

Dr. Carlos Baladez

What a glorious God we serve. Here in a few small verses we are told of our Savior's humanity and of his divinity. His humanity is conveyed in the words, "A Savior has been born." Birth is totally a human experience. The one born in the town of David is a descendent of King David. In this birth, we see God being faithful to his promise to David. God gave David a descendent who would rule forever.

Part two, is the divinity side of our Savior. The words, "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel..." Here we not only see an angel but a GREAT COMPANY of the HEAVENLY HOST! The text wants to make sure we get the full picture. This Savior is someone special. This Savior is totally human and totally divine. In his humanity he can identify with Adam's descendants while in his divinity he can do something with the plight of us humans. In him we have hope because this Savior IS our HOPE. Hallelujah indeed!

* **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Dr. Carlos Baladez

Lord of Light, Love and Joy, hear our prayers now. For our loved ones near and far, Lord hear our prayers. For our neighbors near and far, Lord hear our prayers. For the disenfranchised, near and far, Lord hear our prayers. For our military, near and far, Lord hear our prayers. For the Nations of the world, Lord hear our prayers.

* **CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTS ALL CANDLES** (As silent Night is played)

CP Larry Sears

* **CLOSING HYMN**

"Silent Night"

Blue Hymnal #60

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

* **BENEDICTION**

Dr. Carlos Baladez

Take the light of Jesus Christ into the world with gladness, joy, peace and love remembering that you are a blessed people, called by his name, made his very own, purchased by his blood. Amen

* **POSTLUDE**

The End of this Worship Celebration — The Beginning of Service

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 part of our compassionate church family... ask Fred, Carlos, or an Elder about meaningful participation and membership!

Next Sunday, Dr. Carlos Baladez will be leading us in our last Worship Service of the year. Welcome, Carlos!

