

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
January 16, 2022**

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

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

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**Gather for Worship**

**PRELUDE**                      **"Soul Adorn Thyself With Gladness"**                      **J. Walther**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSoDKRDdojg>

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**    **"Arise, Your Light Is Come!"**                      **Choir**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7K2D72AAY9w>

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

**All:** O Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals. How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

LEADER: They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

**All:** Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart. (Based on Ps. 36:5-10, NIV)

**OPENING PRAYER**

Creator God, we acknowledge you in all that you are. We are the sheep of your pasture. You are our creator and there is no other. To you we come this morning to honor you, to give you glory, and to magnify your name in our midst. Amen.

**\* OPENING HYMN**                      **"Praise Ye The Lord, the Almighty"**                      **Blue Bk #482**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlkUeSIA2F0>

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, your word states that you do not want us to be uninformed about the gifts of the Spirit, and yet we don't obey. We listen to men arguing against them instead of listening what your Spirit has to say. We know that when we were pagans, somehow or

other we were influenced and led astray to mute idols and yet at times we refuse to leave Egypt. We also know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. We repent of our foolishness and hardness of heart. We confess our blindness, deafness, and ignorance of your Spirit. Therefore, we repent and ask that you in your loving mercy give us the pleasure of being informed to speak your truth in love. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Beloved, hear the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah! Amen!

\* **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 (from your seat please).

## **Hear the Word of God**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Creator of heaven and earth, you who called out light from the darkness, speak to our darken places and bring forth your light of love, hope, and faith filling us with your Word. Amen.

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** **Revelation 3**  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%203&version=NIV>

**CHORAL ANTHEM** **"The Hands That First Held Mary's Child"** **Choir**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2005BD0pZ2U>

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** **Revelation 4**  
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+4&version=NIV>

**SERMON** **"Elohim, GOD"** **Dr. Carlos Baladez**  
**Deuteronomy 10:17**

Looking back, I can remember how in vogue it was to have a "how to" for everything Christian. There were programs, curriculums, training sessions, and seminars on "How to Pray," on "How to evangelize and share your faith," also on, "How to share the gospel in four easy steps." If you can believe it, there were even charts showing you all

you ever wanted to know about the "end times" with timelines and precise sequence of events.

So, here I am today left with a bunch of outdated curriculums. Outmoded 1,2,3 easy steps books to \_\_\_\_ (you fill in the Christian blank). I also have past relics of tried and failed church growth textbooks which left many feeling frustrated, disappointed, and discouraged. We were left with feelings knowing we had been led short by those we trusted most. I don't believe it was intentional, yet intentional or not the results were the same, emptiness!

And then, as if by magic, 40 years later, I stumbled across a tiny piece of scripture in Daniel chapter 11. In the second half of the thirty-second verse, in the middle of adversity, there it is in print; "but the people who know their God will be strong and do exploits" (KJV).

The crux to having faith, prayer, church growth, and even knowing about the end times is based on "Knowing God." Yes, knowing God is the key to life, to living, to making a life, and to being alive! Knowing God as Love allows you and me to experience Love in its purest essence. Knowing God as Joy gives us the greatest pleasure. And knowing God as super over-the-top provider, overflowing all boundaries compels us forward to share with others and invite them into this glorious relationship available to all.

Let's look at today's verse and the name of God we will focus on this morning, Elohim. Deuteronomy 10:17 states, "For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes." The English term "God/gods" translates the Hebrew term "Elohim." In this verse, we are informed that Elohim is above all other gods and is Lord of all other lords. He is great, mighty and awesome. His character is to be just as he is not partial and cannot be bought with bribes.

Yet, this is not the first time we encounter this term, Elohim. The name first appears in Genesis 1-2. Here, in Genesis, the creator combines two of his names, YHWH which we saw 2 weeks ago with Elohim. YHWH is the name he uses when entering into covenant. Some theologians state the first covenant YHWH Elohim made with humankind was the Edenic covenant. In this covenant, God promises Adam life and blessings conditioned upon Adam's obedience to not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam fails. Elohim, in turn, does not. Instead, he provides a unilateral unconditional covenant which is not dependent upon human ability but on God's merciful character. Elohim himself will fulfill this covenant on behalf of his creatures and creation. All by himself!

Through a mindful reading of Gen 1-2 we see that Elohim was before time began. We take notice that he creates. He creates by speaking and by running his hand through dust to create man. He evaluates his own creation and declares it not only good but

very good. He speaks with his creation. He seeks out companionship. Just look at all the actions verbs attributed to YHWH Elohim. YHWH Elohim speaks, sees, separates, calls, makes, gathers, sets, allows, blesses, gives, forms, breathes, plants, takes and places, instructs, evaluates, causes, and fashions.

Did you take notice of the kinds of verbs attributed to God? Both action verbs and state of being verbs? As you take time to behold, you will see a beautiful and wonderful collage of Elohim form right before your eyes.

This, in part is knowing Elohim. Your God. This intimate, personal kind of "knowing," gives you strength to be strong and do exploits.

This kind of knowing gives you light and sight to see and speak, testify, and share the eternally Good News. We are loved and we are valued by God, by Elohim himself nonetheless!

Knowing Elohim personally, individually and in community is the essence, heart, and core to church growth, to evangelism, discipleship, faith, prayer, love, hope, peace and much, much more. Knowing God, leads to experiencing his heart, mind and acts. This experience of him leads to us to being endowed with his knowledge, wisdom, and understanding knowing that he is the source of all good things.

Elohim acts. Notice the action verbs in the verses that follow today's verse: "He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Knowing God causes us to act too. Look at the action verbs assigned to us: "And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt. Fear the Lord your God and serve him. Hold fast to him and take your oaths in his name. He is the one you praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes. Your ancestors who went down into Egypt were seventy in all, and now the Lord your God has made you as numerous as the stars in the sky."

Remember when you fell in love? You did not take a curriculum, or a seminar, or a class on how to fall in love. No, you saw, you liked what you saw, and courage swelled up within your heart and you went over to speak with the subject of your love. You took time to know the individual. And from there love led you. You then experienced a heart to heart encounter. As you came to know your mate you started to share the good news with others. You even went public and invited guests to the wedding.

When we know Elohim, we do the same.

Therefore, to know Elohim is to love God, is to serve him bringing others to know him, to love him, and to serve him so that they in turn will do the same for others and on and on it goes till he returns in "the end times!" Glory be to God.

Thanks be to God, now and forevermore, amen.

\* **HYMN**                      **"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"**                      **Blue Hymnal #403**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SCorW9r\\_Is](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SCorW9r_Is)

### **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**

The author of Hebrews issues this invitation: "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (NIV). Heavenly Father, we accept this invitation and therefore we beseech thee, Heal our land, Lord hear our prayers. Heal our bodies, Lord hear our prayers, Heal our fractured relationships with you, with others, and with ourselves, Lord hear our prayers. Care for our military personnel and their families, Lord hear our prayers. Form Christ in us our hope of glory, Lord hear our prayers. And now heavenly Father we join our voices in prayer with those of past years as we continue to pray: "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](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!  
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. (Ps. 136.1, NIV)

\* **DOXOLOGY**

**Blue Hymnal # 592**

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

\* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

O Lord, we give you thanks for you are good. For your mercy endures forever. We give you thanks for you are the God of Gods and your mercy endures forever. We give you thanks for you are the Lord of Lords. And your mercy endures forever. You alone do great wonders. Your mercy endures forever. We therefore bring these tithes, offerings, and ourselves to you as a sign of gratitude. For your mercy endures forever. Amen.

\* **CLOSING HYMN "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" Blue Hymnal #392**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z41WKwMKA>

\* **BENEDICTION**

Elohim, the creator of the heavens and the earth, and all that is there in it blesses you. He has called you by name and made you his own. Therefore, you are a blessed people. Go forth and declare the good news and share God's blessing wherever you go. Amen.

\* **POSTLUDE**

**The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service**

