

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
4th Sunday after Epiphany
January 30, 2022**

At the *, please stand, if you are able

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE: "Prelude in D minor" **J.S. Bach**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0s2Glv_IXFg

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday is Communion Sunday. Have your elements prepared to take at home. Thank you!

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "The Lord Is In His Holy Temple" **Choir**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkP3H-IN30c>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: In you, Lord, we have taken refuge; let us never be put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue us and deliver us; turn your ear to us and save us.

All: Be our rock of refuge, to which we can always go; give the command to save us, for you are our rock and our fortress. Deliver us, our God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel.

LEADER: For you have been our hope, Sovereign Lord, our confidence since our youth.

All: From birth we have relied on you; you brought us forth from our mother's womb. We will ever praise YOU. (Based on Ps. 71:1-6, NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we continue to speak well of you and are amazed at the gracious words that come from your lips. We are amazed at your teaching, because your words have authority. We recognize that your word is a lamp for our feet, and a light on our path. Shine on, Lord. Shine on. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN** "O Come, and Sing Unto The Lord" **Blue Bk #214**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwMsiEBRDNM>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, here we are, your broken people. We sin, we transgress, and we hide our iniquities in denial. Yet you see all. There is no place we can go where you are not. We say one thing and then we do another. We promise something and then we fail to keep our word. We are all messed up as we give in to worldly pleasures, our flesh, or capitulate to the enemy's lies once again. Lord, in your mercy forgive us. In your grace accept us, and in your love restore us. For in you we trust to overcome our flesh, the world and even the enemy. It is finished. 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=X-ZS4jUy2Dc>

*** 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).

CHILDREN'S TIME

Lord I Thank you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cYIMZa1QmU>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, you are the first and you are the last and there is no other God but thee. In your awesomness, we are overwhelmed with your beauty and light. We invite you to shine your glory upon us once again to warm our hearts, touch our minds, and heal our broken bodies. In Christ's name of Jesus we ask and receive. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+7&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Leaning On The Everlasting Arms"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4g81BVNgWY>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 8

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+8&version=NIV>

SERMON

"Rishon Va-Acharon, The First and the Last"

Dr. Carlos Baladez

Isaiah 44:6

“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.” (NIV)

As I prayed, prepared and did research on this dear name of our God, I encountered our creator in a new and spectacular way. I am here to report to you what I witnessed. No more, no less.

Our God is Rishon Va-Acharon, (if you wish to hear how this name is pronounced, click here, (https://forvo.com/word/rishon_va-acharon/). The First and the Last. He is the first, the alef and the last, the tav, the first and last letters of the Hebrew alphabet. This means all the words ever spoken, all the thoughts ever conceived by humans, and all ideas imagined or ever expressed since the creation of our first parents has been within the boundaries of these two letters. Think and recall all the books ever written and you start to get an idea of the enormity of this task, in relation to the name of God.

Then I read in a book stating the earth was a one to two millimeter dot in relation to our sun when built to scale on a football field.* In this scale, our sun would be the size of a softball while the earth would be the size of a mustard seed 12 yards away.

To give you an idea of this size, a grain of rice is anywhere between 3.5 – 4.5 millimeters in diameter, while a grain of mustard seed is one to two millimeters or 0.039 – 0.079 inches in diameter. This scale does not even include the other planets beyond the earth in our solar system!

Next, I read that our closest star in our model would be Alpha Centauri, a whopping 1,800 miles away from our “softball” sun. What? Wow! And we are not even out of our Milky Way Galaxy, yet. On a side note, “The Milky Way Galaxy is home to the solar system and at least 200 billion other stars and their accompanying planets.”**

I started to see the insignificance of my size in relation to our solar system and now to our galaxy. A puff of smoke, a dew drop on a flower petal in the morning, a blade of grass, a wisp of dust. I then started to see the size of our universe, which by the way continues to expand as you read this. Our earth rotates on its axis. It revolves around our sun. Our Milky Way galaxy tumbles away spinning in its spiral whiz, and the universe continues to grow. With all this movement you’d think we’d be flung out into orbit, and yet here I sit at my desk writing this witness.

Taking all this in, I recall the Isaiah 40:12 passage which states, “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on a scale and the hills with a balance, (BSB)? Who? Our God, that’s who. God measures the waters, not the oceans, but the waters as described in Gen. 1.7, “Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament.”

I was given a glimpse into the immensity of our God. God's enormous incalculable size overwhelmed me and I was no longer afraid of him.

I laid my weapons down. "My weapons," laugh out loud! How ridiculous... As I confessed the loss of my fear out loud, it just up and went. I sat there, on the side of a hill looking outward into the horizon and thinking, "now what?" What is this being going to do? What brings comfort is to be assured by God saying to us, "beside me there is no God." God has made it easy for us. One.

Now what? Stay tune. I will report as we continue this journey of knowing our God by name. Yet, I'll give you a hint, He became one of us. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. No wonder he had to divest himself of all his glory. How else would he have fit into one of our human suits?

Crestholme, behold our Great God! By his grace, his faith, and his love for us in our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory, now and forever, amen.

*"Knowing God by Name by Rachel Kassian, p.26.

** <https://sos.noaa.gov/catalog/datasets/milky-way-panorama-alpha-centauri-label/#:~:text=Alpha%20Centauri%20is%20made%20up,are%20favorable%20to%20terrestrial%20life.>

* **HYMN** **"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"** **Blue Hymnal #298**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfyZIJUHKpU>

Respond in Love and Service

*** This we believe**

Then the angel showed John the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. Amen. (Rev. 22:1-5, NIV)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, you are our shepherd, we lack nothing. You make us lie down in green pastures, you lead us beside quiet waters, you refresh our souls. You guide us along the right paths for your name's sake. Before you formed us in the womb you knew us, before we were born you set us apart; you have appointed us as prophets to the nations to

declare the good news of Jesus Christ. We take these good news and declare to all that Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. God, you are Love. Therefore Lord, we intercede for our world, our families, our military and their families, our government leaders and our fellowman. We this 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

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!
God is love. Rejoice!

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of all mercy and grace. You who are the beginning and the end. To you we bring these freewill offerings. It is you who is our source and we recognize you as such. You are our God of goodwill and bonanza. Take, break and multiply for your glory alone, once again. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" Blue #426**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY_JvaGdKcc

*** BENEDICTION**

Crestholme as you lift up your eyes to the mountains—where does your help come from? Your help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you—the Lord is your

shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Now, in the confidence of God and his holy and faithful word, go and spread his love to all you meet. Amen. (Based on Ps. 121, NIV)

*** POSTLUDE**

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

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 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Irene Thomas	Katie Lamb	Netsy Williamson

Steve Tovar
Clerk of the Session: Dick Crist
Church Treasurer: Fred Archer

Trustees

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Class of 2024</u>
Fred Archer	Tommy Rudwick	Penny Christoff

Crestholme Presbyterian Church Staff

Stated Supply Minister	Vacant
Pulpit Supply Preachers	Dr. Carlos Baladez
	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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