

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
Baptism of the Lord
January 9, 2022**

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE **“What God Ordains Is Always Good”** **J. Walther**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyoIPjE6dMM>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather” **Choir**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuBs1ukENIE>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved, God chooses us and calls us by name.

All: We belong to God. Alleluia!

One: Our lives have purpose because we belong to God.

All: We are called to be like Christ and follow him.

One: We will find joy, peace, and restoration through God’s amazing grace.

All: Let us worship God who claims us and loves us! Praise be to God!

OPENING PRAYER

God of all time, we praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of your presence. A light which made your love for the world visible in the babe born in Bethlehem—Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. A light which guided those gift-bearing travelers from afar to find and worship the Christ-child. A light which leads us to you, now revealed in Jesus Christ. We pray that you will accept our worship for it arises from hearts and minds in awe over the enormity of your gift to us of pure love. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

*** OPENING HYMN** **“O Come and Sing Unto the Lord”** **Blue Hymnal #214**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZccrBrA7gWA>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in baptism you promise forgiveness and new life, but we confess that we prefer our old, familiar ways. We cling to destructive habits, we harbor grudges, and we are reluctant to welcome a stranger or forgive one another. Nostalgia for the past prevents us from exploring new possibilities. In your loving kindness, forgive us. Have mercy upon us and move among us so that we might pursue new life in Christ together. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Do not be afraid, for Christ has redeemed you.

Baptized in the deep waters of death, he has washed away your sins.

Risen from death, he invites you to be washed in the cleansing tide of God's mercy.

Your sins are forgiven; be at peace with God, with yourself, and with each other.

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal #579

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

*** SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST (From your seats, please)**

Leader: Peace be with you!

All: And also with you!

Leader: As God's forgiven people, share the peace of Christ with each other.

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy Spirit, you blessed Jesus in his baptism, proclaiming him beloved of God. As we give our attention to God's holy Word, descend on us, we pray. Speak to us of God's love for us and renew our faith and commitment to follow Jesus, God's living Word. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43: 1-7

But now, this is what the LORD says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. ³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. ⁴Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. ⁶I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

SECOND READING

Psalms 29

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.

⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶ He makes Lebanon leap like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD strikes with flashes of lightning.

⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the desert; the LORD shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

⁹ The voice of the LORD twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

¹¹ The LORD gives strength to his people; the LORD blesses his people with peace.

CHORAL ANTHEM**"Baptism Hymn"**

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KODRKqH6C7M>**CHILDREN'S TIME**

The Baptism of Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAmwA>**NEW TESTAMENT READING****Acts 8:14-17**

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL READING**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

SERMON**"By Name"****Fred Archer****Written by Janelle Hiroshige**

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine," says God to a community of exiled people.

The promises spoken in Isaiah 43:1-7 give assurance and comfort amid uncertainty. God's people have been exiled. They have been driven away from their homes. They do not know what is next. They have been waiting for a *really* long time. This has probably led to feelings of anxiety and deep disappointment. These are words of hope and comfort to a displaced people — that God had indeed not abandoned them.

In fact, God does not just view them as merely a group of exiles or captives. God knows each one, *by name*. There is great comfort in knowing that God cared enough to know the names of each and every one. God calls this community, which has experienced great loss and oppression, precious. Redeemed. Worthy of knowing their names. God knows them and knows what they are experiencing. God calls them out of exile back home. In this passage, God is telling them, "You can go home now." They have a journey ahead, but God is promising to be with them on the way back home.

Knowing someone's name implies a relationship. It opens the door for acts of care and kindness. When you hear that someone is in trouble, and you know their name, you might be inclined to act. In this case, God acts on behalf of God's people.

Those in power have cast this community aside and spread them apart. God calls them by name and gathers them together. God, as the great namer, claims them as worthy and promises a future where God will be with them at every twist and turn of the journey. Whatever it is up ahead, God will be with them. In fact, the passage says, "*When you pass through the waters*" and "*When you walk through fire.*" God is not promising that they will avoid hardship or difficult times. Yet, God does promise God's presence during those times. Difficult days are not proof that God is no longer present. They are days in which God's presence is felt in ways that stop us in our tracks. They are those days when God's love dances alongside grief and sorrow. In the worst of moments, it can make a world of a difference to not have to be alone.

Whatever community you know that feels forgotten – perhaps it is your own – God is calling by name, gathering up, and gifting God's presence. This is good news!

The passage goes on with prophetic imagery of offspring being gathered from the east and the west, the north and the south. It is like God is a community organizer knowing that there is strength in togetherness. The journey from exile into liberation happens in community. The journey home does not have to be taken alone.

God is still doing that — gathering us into communities of faith in our neighborhoods and cities. From the east and the west, the north and the south, we meet together as God's beloved people. We keep showing up to remind ourselves and each other that God is always redeeming. Whomever God calls precious we are also to value. God gathers God's people together from different places, with different journeys because God knows we need each other. It is a beautiful thing when our paths cross with another. Together we remember those sacred promises:

*"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you."*

Whatever it is up ahead, God will be with you. Whatever it is up ahead, God will be with us.

In the same way that God called God's people by name when they were in exile, God calls each of us by name today.

You might think it isn't that big of a deal that God knows our names. Certainly, God knows our names – God is God, right? The creator of the universe? But if you've ever moved away from home or been in a new place where few people know you — you know the gift of someone remembering your name. In fact, it can be a balm in the depths of loneliness. It can remind you that you are worthy of being loved. There is a sacredness to remembering a name. There is comfort in knowing that God knows the name of that friend you are desperately praying for.

It might seem like a simple thing, but it matters: *God remembers our names.*

People living with dementia may not remember their names at any given moment. Yet, if they grew up in the Church, they tend to remember the lyrics to those old Gospel songs they grew up singing in the choir – or the liturgy they recited Sunday after Sunday at that little country church down the road. It might be the lyrics to *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* or the words to the Lord's Prayer. There is something about those old, long-trodden paths that can bring someone back, if just for a moment. God remembers our names even if we forget. The sacred memory of God makes room for everyone.

The great hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray has a hymn entitled "God in Whose Memory No One Is Lost." Just the title of this song could be an entire sermon! The song reminds us that the God who calls us by name also remembers those names. When we forget these promises, God reminds us. There is an assurance in a God who promises to be with us the whole journey home. We may not always sense God's presence in the present. That's okay. For when we take time to look back, we may realize that God had been there the whole time. In the gift of our friends, in the beauty of the earth around us, or in those quiet moments.

Remember the words from Isaiah when you are far from home, when you've lost your way, or when you are afraid. In loss. In grief. In hope. God will be with you. The divine presence might just be enough to give you the courage and strength you need for whatever lies ahead. **Amen**

*** HYMN**

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

Blue Hymnal #341

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDeiy9-t2GE>

Respond in Love and Service

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe that God has come to us as a little child, making our weakness his strength, securing our salvation by becoming one of us, blessing us with a steadfast savior, filling our hearts with joy to be shared with one another. We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world, giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts, making the cause of the oppressed the highest priority, declaring an everlasting reign of peace, defeating the power of pain and suffering. We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love, inviting us to proclaim Christ's resurrection at the Table, transforming us as disciples to go out into the world, sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace and comfort, challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children. This we believe. This we preach. This we seek to embody in word and deed. Amen

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

In the season of Epiphany, God's gift to us in Christ is revealed to the world. Our gifts to God in Christ's name reveal our commitment to the love and mercy, the forgiveness and hope we have received. Our gifts proclaim that we are beloved to God and God is beloved to us.

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**

God our Maker, we bring our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless what we bring and who we are, so that our gifts will bless the world you love in Christ's name. **Amen.**

*** HYMN FOR OUR NATION**

"Heal Our Land"

Red Hymnal #800

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm_rA54EGw

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray to God, who is made manifest in Jesus Christ.

As the prophet Isaiah rang out, "Arise, shine; for your light has come"; empower your Church, O God, to ring out the Good News of the Light of your son Jesus, which pierces even the deepest darkness.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As a star rose high into the nighttime sky to draw the nations to the Christ-child; send your blessing, O God, on this nation, and every nation, and draw the whole world to your peace and truth.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As John the Baptist guided throngs of people to the edge of the wilderness and baptized Jesus in the River Jordan, we pray that you would guide our country and our leaders to the ways of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Jesus climbed the mountaintop, and proclaimed blessings on the people of the world; we pray for the sick and the distressed, the poor and the lame. We especially pray for those whose names we have brought to you

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

As Jesus called his disciples to leave their nets and boats, and follow him; we pray for those we love and who have answered your call to follow Jesus to your Heavenly Kingdom. Give them your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, hear our prayers, and make us reflections of your Light, that the places of darkness in our world would be pierced by your Light, and that all nations would be drawn to you and be overwhelmed with joy. **Amen.**

Join me now as we together pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

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 those 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**

"O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee"

Blue Hymnal #357

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

*** BENEDICTION**

We have celebrated together that Jesus Christ came not only for Christians, but to be known by every person, every country, every culture on earth. For he is the Savior of all. May we come to

know him better and then make him known to others, especially by the way we live. And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace of Christ and walk in his light.

Thanks be to God.

**The End of Today's Worship Service – The Beginning of Service
Announcements**

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

Next Sunday Dr. Carlos Baladez will present the next sermon message in the series "Knowing God by Name."

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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