

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
3rd Sunday in Lent
March 20, 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 on Wondrous Love" **G. Young**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_oo-urQEDQ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our annual Congregational and Corporate meeting today immediately following worship.

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "O for a Closer Walk with God" **Choir**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY_8SLWa2MI

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: You, God, are our God, earnestly we seek you; we thirst for you, our whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

All: We have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, our lips will glorify you.

LEADER: We will praise you as long as we live, and in your name we will lift up our hands. We will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips our mouths will praise you.

All: On our bed we remember you; we think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are our help, we sing in the shadow of your wings. We cling to you; your right hand upholds us. (Based on Ps. 63:1-8, NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful and True God, we come at your invitation. We come because we are thirsty, and we come to the waters. Although we have no money, we come and eat. At your invitation, we come to buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Instead of spending money on what is not bread, we listen to you and eat what is good and delight in the richest of fare. We come and listen to you that we may live since you make an everlasting covenant with us. We thank and worship you O LORD for you have endowed us with splendor. Amen (Based on Isaiah 55:1-2, NIV)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 20

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+20&version=NIV>

SERMON

**“Emet Elohim Emet - Faithful and True”
Deuteronomy 7:9**

Dr. Carlos Baladez

“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God”

There are many gods but only God is God. When you look at other writing, cultures, or religions around the world and throughout time, you come to see that the God of the Bible is different. This God loves his creation. Elohim is declared in Genesis 1 but not explained. This begs the question, what kind of God is Elohim? How will I come to know God? Is it possible to really know?

To “know,” is a term of intimacy. Personal and up close. So close that two become one. United. Together.

One way to “know,” is by experience. You “know” someone to be faithful when they are not a fair-weather friend. No, faithfulness is expressed in the events of our lives where actions and words match. Where actions and words are congruent giving resonance in our hearts.

As we look at scripture, starting with Genesis and traveling on through Revelation we see a progressive revelation of Elohim.

Elohim creates male and female in his own image and likeness. He blesses them. He declares his handiwork, “very good!” And then he commissions them with the task of caring for the earth and for each other.

Unfortunately or fortunately, depending on how you see it, humans make and chose independently of God. This led to hiding, covering up, and fear. How would Elohim react? Or would Elohim respond? And if so, how? Elohim responds by, first calling out to his human creation. Then he asks questions instead of assuming with accusations. He allowed the man and the woman to express their individual voices. He then pronounces the consequences of their choices and lastly, he provides them with appropriate clothing. He then puts them out into the vast expanse outside the garden to experience life with and without God.

Humanity progressively makes things worse after this event. Things get so bad that all they think and do is evil. Will Elohim now destroy all of humanity off the face of the earth? No

The flood does come, but Noah finds grace in the eyes of the LORD and he and his family are spared destruction and Elohim starts anew and afresh.

As humanity continues to multiply, another man is chosen, Abram. And then Moses. And then David. All fall short of the glory of God until the very son of God, Jesus Christ comes in person, incarnate, in the flesh. Finally, there is one who fulfills the image and likeness of God.

Throughout this process, God could have quit at any time, so we think. It is like Elohim is being challenged to his core, to his character. Either that or he is given an opportunity to reveal his core, his character, his faithfulness, his glory. It is one thing to reveal your faithfulness from "up" there, but it is quite a different thing to reveal your faithfulness in flesh and blood. What THE One True and Faithful God does is take it all upon himself revealing his faithfulness to the degree of experiencing death in the body of his son Jesus Christ, who is God incarnated. Even the threat of death could not deter him from being faithful.

There is a saying, "The proof is in the pudding." The psalmist invites us to ascertain this and do just that; "Come, taste and see (for yourself) that the LORD is good."

Our faithful God, Elohim, did not turn away from death and the grave but instead tasted death on our behalf so that we could become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

There is no more proof needed. This is a mike drop! God, Elohim, the creator of the universe will never, ever leave you nor abandon you. Therefore, take a deep breath and rest in this comfort. Amen

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

* **HYMN** **"O Master, Let me Walk with Thee"** **Blue Hymnal #357**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxwXQnsaL3A>

Respond in Love and Service

* **This we believe**

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Amen. (Based on 2 Cor. 5.16-21, NIV)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of all mercy and compassion, because you invite us to cast all our cares upon you, and because you instruct us to pray without ceasing, and because you have given us the boldness to enter your throne room of grace and receive help in time of need, we obey and present our prayers, needs, desires, and requests before you in faith.

Lord, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the world.

Lord, thank you, for you hear our prayers.

Lord, we pray for wisdom on behalf of national leaders to work towards peace and reconciliation.

Lord, thank you, for you hear our prayers.

Lord, for those who are sick, we pray for healing.

Lord, thank you, for you hear our prayers.

Lord for those who lack, we pray you to supply the needed provision from the abundance of your storehouse.

Lord, thank you, for you hear our prayers.

Lord, for the lost, we pray you to bring them home.

Lord, thank you, for you hear our prayers.

Lord for the fearful and the anxious, let them know your comfort and care.

Lord, thank you, for you hear our prayers.

Lord for our neighbors, let them know your love as we know your love.

Lord, thank you, for you hear our prayers.

Lord, we ask, pray, believe, receive in and through the almighty and precious name of your dear son, Christ Jesus.

And now, Abba Father, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught his first disciples 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

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
Thank you!

*** DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal # 592

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of mercy and grace, it is because of your overwhelming love that we respond to you in like manner and offer you these gifts and offerings. They are a sign of your abundance poured out over us. Thus we are grateful and say, "Thank you!" Please accept them, multiply them as only you can, and use them for your glory. Amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory" Blue Hymnal #420**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9rWrw3XB08>

*** BENEDICTION**

Crestholme Saints, you are the apple of God's eye, he has carved your name in the palm of his hand, and he will never forget you, nor abandon you. Instead, he carries you in the hollow of his hand. He has declared you Blessed in his Son, Christ Jesus. Therefore, go in peace, travel in joy, and share the good news of Jesus Christ with love. Amen!

*** POSTLUDE**

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service

Next Sunday, Dr. Carlos Baladez will continue the series of, "Knowing God by name.

