

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
Palm Sunday
April 10, 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

"Ah, Jesus, Dear"

Brahms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jz1EujbHLg>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
This is the day the Lord has made. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Let us rejoice and be glad. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "In The Name of The Lord"

Choir

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

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Leader: We despise our fragility.

All: God is our hope in life and in death.

Leader: We are terrified by shapeless threat.

All: In Christ we are held, in life and in death.

Leader: God chooses redemption and releases the bonds of fear.

All: May God prepare our hearts and minds to be renewed in Christ.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, shaper and ruler of all creatures, we pray for your great mercy, that you guide us towards you, for we cannot find our way.

And guide us to your will, to the need of our soul, for we cannot do it ourselves. And make our mind steadfast in your will and aware of our soul's need.

Strengthen us against the temptations of the devil, and remove from us all lust and every unrighteousness, and shield us against our foes, seen and unseen.

Teach us to do your will, that we may inwardly love you before all things with a pure mind. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever. **Amen**

*** OPENING HYMN**

"Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

Blue Hymnal #89

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8VgZTC0FS0>

We come with our praises, yet we fall short of the glory of God. Sin stains even our best intentions, but God refuses to let sin have the last word. With faith and hope, let us seek God's forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Triumphant God, we join the crowds of the ages in shouting your praises. While our lips give you glory, our lives seldom reflect your purposes. We sing easily of your greatness, but living faithfully is often beyond us. We hear of your salvation, yet sin is still close and real, daily leading us away from you. Have mercy on us. Ride into our hearts with healing grace. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall be. Lord, save us. Hosanna! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

He who rode into Jerusalem, struggled on the cross, and was sealed in a tomb is risen from the dead! Jesus Christ has defeated sin forever. This is good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*** 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.

Children's Time

God's Story: Palm Sunday

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

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of all Wisdom and Glory, grace us today with the presence of your Spirit that we might hear today's word with understanding and imagination. This we pray in your holy and good name. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50: 4-9a

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2050%3A4-9&version=NIV>

SECOND READING

Psalms 31: 9-16

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+31%3A9-16&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Ride On King Jesus"

Choir

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 2: 5-11

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+2%3A5-11&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke 23: 1-49

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+23%3A1-49&version=NIV>

SERMON**"The Man of Sorrows"****Fred Archer****Written by Katerina Katsarka Whitley**

There are times when the enormity of the Passion Story, in all its stark simplicity, pushes us to our knees and breaks our hearts anew. Yes, we do read portions of this drama whenever we celebrate the Holy Eucharist, but hearing it whole, from the somber moments of the Last Supper to the burial, becomes almost unbearable. This is a retelling that uses no adjectives and only a scarce number of adverbs; it doesn't need them. The unfolding of the story of God's tragic love revealed in the Son needs no embellishments. This is a story of inclusion and abandonment, of trust and rejection. Listen to the power of the verbs:

They brought Jesus before Pilate...

Pilate sent Jesus to Herod...

He questioned him...

They mocked him...

They blindfolded him...

They kept heaping insults on him...

The Lord of the Universe allows himself to be moved from place to place, to be questioned by corrupt politicians, to be mocked by a fickle mob. Just a few days ago, they were praising him as he entered Jerusalem. How quickly praise turns into abuse and celebration into tragedy when human beings regard as valid only the triumph of the military and the victory of armies instead of the truth of God. Now the mob, urged on by lies, spit on him and slap him on the face. Isaiah's words find their painful realization: "I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting." We are horrified. "Why did God allow this?" we cry from the distance of the 21st century as we have done through the ages.

And then we remember Paul's words to the Philippians: "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave." Paul has understood the promise and the tragedy in the heart of creation. He writes of Jesus, "though he was in the form of God, [he] did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross."

We now watch as the evangelist continues his stark description of Jesus who is not responding to the mockery, not calling on his followers to defend him, but allowing the evildoers to continue their gruesome march as they push him to the cross. Up to the point of his arrest, he has been in charge of the drama; now he relinquishes his power. We watch the abandonment, the utter loneliness of the Lord of life as he is being led to his death. Throughout the long, terrible night of Thursday, we feel his profound love for his friends at their last supper together, we weep at the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and hear his painful question at his arrest: "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!" We too enter with him into the darkness that seems to triumph throughout the night and the day that follows. All hope has departed from those who loved him best and from us. The power of darkness has engulfed us.

And so, we enter Holy Week, as participants, not observers. Let us watch and let us listen. We too are feeling the weight of darkness in a world torn by strife and hatred. We wait. We hear

his words, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." But we also hear the words of utter faith as he dies: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

In November 1940, Coventry Cathedral in England was bombed to destruction. The city has allowed the bombed frame to remain as it was found on the days that followed, while the new cathedral stands next to it, rebuilt. After the bombing, the faithful found two charred beams of wood as they had fallen in the shape of the cross. They tied them together and the cross stands today at the altar. Behind it, these words are engraved, words that stand unto eternity as a testimony to the events of the Passion:

"Father, forgive." **Amen**

* **HYMN**

"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

Blue Hymnal #88

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

Respond in Love and Service

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Let us declare our faith in God.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

A// We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

A// We believe and trust in him.

Leader: Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

A// We believe and trust in him.

Leader: This is the faith of the Church.

A// This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* **DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal #592

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

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Heavenly Father, thank you, you satisfy us in every possible way. We give honor to you with our wealth. Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to you. Receive, and multiply what we give for the benefit of your kingdom. As Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, we are rooted and grounded in love. By grace we have come to know your love for us in Christ. Fill us again, and again, and again with all the fullness of your Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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

God of new possibilities, we give thanks for your constant reminder that you have a vision for our world that far exceeds our present realities.

You call us up out of our cynicism, apathy and fear to keep our eyes on the life you would have us live.

We are grateful for the courage and determination you make available to us to sustain our efforts to work for better relationships, justice and peace.

Help us to find the language and the courage to share our own faith stories with each other, and to be open and honest and humble in all of our interactions.

God, we pray for our world and those nations where violence and tyranny cause so much suffering.

We pray for people driven out of their homes and their homelands, and struggle to survive in refugee camps. And for those First Responders and Military who defend those who cannot defend themselves.

We pray for those who do not have enough food to sustain them or water to quench their thirst.

We pray for those who are victims of slavery, even in this 21st century; God, we feel so helpless at times.

Help us to enact your command to love and to feed your sheep.

For those who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, we ask for healing and peace.

Be our light in this world, God. In Jesus' name we pray; **Amen.**

*** CLOSING HYMN "Ride On! Ride On In Majesty" Blue Hymnal #91**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MD9rMkIS1yw>

*** BENEDICTION**

May God bless you with Discomfort ...
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with Anger ...
at Injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless you with Tears ...
to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough Foolishness ...
to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done. **Amen.**

. **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 his next sermon in the series "Knowing the Name of God".

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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