

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
April 24, 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:** "Prelude in B Minor" **Franck**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4R8NoO\\_XSE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4R8NoO_XSE)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Sunday is Communion Sunday. Come prepared to celebrate the Lord's table together in community.

**THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP** "Let's Just Praise the Lord" **Choir**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf\\_WDNTdkW4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf_WDNTdkW4)

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

LEADER: Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

**All: Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.**

LEADER: Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

**All: praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.**

LEADER: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

**ALL: Praise the LORD**

(Ps. 150, NIV)

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob you raised Jesus from the dead after he was crucified and buried. You exalted Him to your own right hand as Prince and Savior, thus bringing repentance and forgiveness of sins. We as your children, by the power of the Holy Spirit, give witness to your glorious triumph. Amen.

**\* OPENING HYMN** "Morning Has Broken" **Blue Bk #469**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlbmNAcoRww>

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord, you are our strength and our defense; you have become our salvation. Your right hand has done mighty things! Yet we can be fickle, moody, and forgetful. At times we can hear the voice of doubt speak and say, "Has God really said?" At times we can hear the voice of anger and demand our rights even when we are in the wrong. At times we can hear the voice of selfishness and yell, "It's mine!" Lord, bring repentance to our hearts and minds and forgive us seventy times seven. Save us, Lord! And grant us success! In the name of Christ Jesus, we ask, 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).

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

**GOD OF WONDERS**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRRf7I58hfk>

## **Hear the Word of God**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Holy Spirit, by the power of your love, enable us to praise the Lord. That we may praise him in his sanctuary and praise him for his acts of power. That we may praise him with trumpet, harp, lyre, timbrel and dancing. In essence, that we may praise him with all that we have and with all that we are. To his glorious, name, amen.

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**2 Kings 7:1-13**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Kings%207%3A1-13&version=NIV>

### **PSALTER READING**

**Psalms 2**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+2&version=NIV>

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"I Love To Tell The Story"**

**Choir**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4Bjnn4\\_yRA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4Bjnn4_yRA)

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Revelation 1:4-8**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1%3A4-8&version=NIV>

## **GOSPEL READING**

**John 20:19-31**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+20%3A19-31&version=NIV>

## **SERMON**

**"El Oseh Phela"  
God Who Works Wonders  
Psalm 77:13-14**

**Dr. Carlos Baladez**

Have you ever wondered about life and the different types of lives which exist? We have the physical life, the life of the soul, and the spiritual life. All have their uniqueness and yet we experience them all in our bodies throughout our lifetime.

I can recall the first time I wondered out loud with my parents about life. I ask the dreaded question and caught my parents completely off guard. I must have been about five or six. We were standing in our living room and out of left field, I asked my parents, "Where did I come from?" They looked at each other in silence. Then a clearing of the throat was heard. And then the answer came. "You will know when you're old enough." Bummer. What a disappointment. I would have to wait to know the answer to my existential question.

Growing up, there were some classic movies that were a must-watch during the year. "It's a Wonderful Life" was one of those movies.

This movie captures the essence of Psalm 77 where our central verse is located.

In the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life," the main character, George Bailey is thinking of ending it all. He is overwhelmed by all the responsibilities of running his father's business. This onus intensifies when his uncle loses the company's \$8,000 dollars compelling George to believe that his family is better off without him.

Clarence, an angel who is trying to earn his wings, tries to help George see the wonder of life and appears to George as a result of his family's prayers.

Clarence shows George the value and wonder of life, specifically his. Without George living his life, the lives of others would have been tragic. He realizes his life has not been a waste but rather has made a difference in the lives of other people. He returns to his wife and children and finds the people of his town rallying around him to save him from financial ruin.

The Christmas story seems to repeat itself in the lives of many today. Looking at the Psalm from which today's verse is found gives witness to this pattern.

The Psalmist cries out to God, even shouting out to God. His cry, "Oh, that God would listen to me!" His soul is not comforted and he moans with overwhelming longing. He

suffers from insomnia and is too distressed to pray. He longs for the "good old days," and ponders six questions. He then comes to a conclusion. The first question is, "Has the Lord rejected me forever?" The second, "Will he never again be kind to me?" The third, "Is his unfailing love gone forever?" His fourth, "Have his promises permanently failed?" Then, "Has God forgotten to be gracious?" His sixth and last question is "Has he slammed the door on his compassion?" And his conclusion to all this inquiry? He concludes, "This is my fate; the Most High has turned his hand against me."

Sound familiar? We have all been blinded by discouragement, anxiety, and doubt. Who has not asked the question, "God where are you?" Followed by silence. "God, do you even care?" And we succumb to self-focused and problem focus thinking. With a sigh, we too conclude, "This is my fate; the Most High has turned his hand against me."

When we fall into this despair, the Psalmist points to the way out. First of all, notice his change of focus leads to a change in attitude. What does he do? He recalls.

The BIG turnaround happens at the intersection of a small conjunction, "but." But then I recall. He takes personal responsibility for his attitude and his outlook and he recalls, brings to mind, and focuses on all that the LORD has done!

He remembers God's wonderful deeds of long ago and constantly keeps them in his thoughts. He cannot stop thinking about God's mighty works.

Notice the personal interaction between creature and creator as expressed in the terms, I/Thou. This interaction and reflection bring a renewed conclusion: O God, your ways are holy. The Psalmist's question marks are turned into exclamation marks as he switches from self-focus to God-focus. His conclusion changes too. Now he declares, "O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you? You are **the God of great wonders! ("El Oseh Phela- God Who Works Wonders)**. He continues, "You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations. By your strong arm, you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. When the Red Sea saw you, O God, its waters looked and trembled! The sea quaked to its very depths. The clouds poured down rain; the thunder rumbled in the sky. Your arrows of lightning flashed. Your thunder roared from the whirlwind; the lightning lit up the world! The earth trembled and shook. Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters—a pathway no one knew was there! You led your people along that road like a flock of sheep, with Moses and Aaron as their shepherds."

Go back and read this Psalm for yourself and notice the verbs, the question marks, and see those question marks turn into exclamation marks as he changes his focus from self to God. A wonderful life is good, but the wonder of life is better and best because we come to know that our God is El Oseh Phela, the God Who Works Wonders and he himself is the Wonder and the Life.

Therefore, let us do as the Psalmist did and come to know the God Who Works Wonders by name; let us recall, then let us remember, and then let us allow the wonders of God to constantly be in our thoughts. Then, we too will experience our God as El Oseh Phela – The God Who Works Wonders! Alleluia.

To God be the glory now and forever, amen.

\* **HYMN**

**"Fairest Lord Jesus"**

**Blue Hymnal #306**

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

### **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**

Leader: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**The People: Lord, allow us to recognize our poverty.**

Leader: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**The People: Lord, hear our mourning and comfort us.**

Leader: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**The People: Lord, create in us your meek spirit.**

Leader: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**The People: Lord, quench our hunger and thirst for righteousness as only you can.**

Leader: Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

**The People: Lord, fill us with your mercy and allow us to show others the mercy you have shown us.**

Leader: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**The People: Lord, place within us your heart of purity and we will see God.**

Leader: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**The People: Lord, as your children, fill us with your Holy Spirit afresh and be the peacemakers you have called us to be.**

Leader: Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**The People: Lord, fill us with your loving courage and allow us to be on the side of righteousness no matter the personal cost.**

**ALL:** "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!

**\* DOXOLOGY Blue Hymnal # 592**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q5ojehA78c>

### **\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God who works wonders, you have made each of us. You allow us to experience this miracle called life. We are the evidence of your creative hands and grace that amazes us. You have made us unique individuals, never to have another replica of ourselves. Your son's sacrifice is proof of your love for us. Therefore we who are your children now bring these gifts to you. We come to you bearing gifts of love. Amen

**\* CLOSING HYMN "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" Blue Hymnal #310**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wF1cFxJ2Yhw>

### **\* BENEDICTION**

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. Therefore, go in peace sharing the Good News with those you meet.

**\* POSTLUDE**

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

**Next Sunday, Dr. Baladez will continue with our sermon 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.

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**Crestholme Presbyterian Church Officers**

Session

Class of 2022

Irene Thomas

Class of 2023

Katie Lamb

Class of 2024

Netsy Williamson

Steve Tovar

Clerk of the Session: Dick Crist

Church Treasurer: Fred Archer

Trustees

Class of 2022

Fred Archer

Class of 2023

Tommy Rudwick

Class of 2024

Penny Christoff

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**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

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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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