

**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 8, 2022  
Mother's Day**

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

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**Gather for Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**"Offertoire"**

**Dubois**

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

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Good and loving Shepherd, you call us by name. Lead us, by your Word, in paths of righteousness, that we may have life, and have it abundantly; through Jesus Christ, the gateway to salvation.

**THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Happy Our Home When God Is There"**

**Choir**

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

**RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: God is our guide and our companion, supplying us with all our need.

**ALL: God refreshes us beside still waters and restores our souls.**

Leader: Worship God with glad and generous hearts.

**ALL: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives!**

Leader: And God will always keep us in the goodness of God's love. Let us worship almighty God!

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, we are the sheep of your hand, the people of your pasture. You know us; we are yours. You call us; we listen for your voice. Protect us from false leaders and hired hands who would seek to snatch us from safety. Keep us in the security of your fold and unite us with your people in all the earth. By your Spirit, make us one flock, one people; through the one who laid down his life for us, Jesus Christ, the good shepherd. **Amen**

**\* OPENING HYMN "For The Beauty of The Earth" Blue Hymnal #473**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zy7t2Uasqe8>

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**

Loving God, forgive us our sins. Forgive us the times when we have done things we should not have done and the times we have not done things we should have done. You ask that we love others as you love us. Yet, we find it hard to love those who are different than ourselves. We have not been overly concerned about injustice as long as it didn't affect our lives. Let the power of the Holy Spirit be present in us. Forgive us in the name of the living Christ. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. This is good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

### **\* GLORIA PATRI**

**Blue Hymnal #579**

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

### **\* 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**

**Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4qZ2KSbdxI>

## **Hear the Word of God**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

O Wisdom Divine, just as you inspired the mothers of our faith grant us your knowledge and discernment so that we can learn how to be clever in our compassion and courageous in our faith, through Christ and in the Spirit. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Acts 9: 36-43**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%209%3A36-43&version=NIV>

### **SECOND READING**

**Psalm 23**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+23&version=NIV>

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Hymn of Promise"**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RHek8k5WoY>

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Revelation 7: 9-17**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+7%3A9-17&version=NIV>

### **GOSPEL READING**

**John 10: 22-30**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10%3A22-30&version=NIV>

**SERMON****"Pointing to God"  
Written by Rev. Danée M. Ashley****Fred Archer**

Have any of you heard of the game *Marco Polo*? Not the app – that is something different. This game can be played in a swimming pool or on land. The person who is "It" is blindfolded and placed in the center of a group of people. They call out, "Marco!" while the others call out, "Polo!" The "It" person tries to reach one of the group members and touch them. When they do, the person touched becomes the person who is "It" and the other rejoins the group.

Now, if you haven't played Marco Polo, you may have done a trust walk before, which is kind of similar. You are blindfolded and led through an unfamiliar place by a person who can see. You are completely at the mercy of that person. You have to trust them and have faith that they will keep you from falling or getting hurt. Now, if a random person asked to blindfold you and play Marco Polo or do a trust walk, would you do it? What about if someone from our faith community asked you? You would probably be more likely to say yes to them than to a stranger.

This can be a fun game, but it is more about the trust you have in the person or people with whom you are playing than in playing the game itself. It speaks to the relationship between the vulnerable person who cannot see the way ahead and the person who is responding to their call. There is always a call and a response, just like in our relationship with God. Like being a lost lamb in the night, we call out to God. When we hear a voice respond, we call out again, and again the voice responds. We go back and forth like the Marco Polo game so that we draw closer and closer to one another. We trust the voice to lead us through the valley of the shadows and guide us along right pathways. In goodness and mercy, God pursues us, and, in that relationship, we are cared for like the sheep of a shepherd. God draws near to us – but are we drawing near to God?

In Lent, we wandered in the wilderness, following Jesus all the way to Golgotha. In Eastertide, we find ourselves seeking the resurrected Jesus in a completely different landscape. In our own lives, practicing resurrection daily means that we pay attention to different things than does the rest of the world. In our Gospel story today, Jesus does works in God's name and makes it clear that he and God are united in the work that they do. The Gospel of John reinforces that this is about purpose, not about the metaphysical relationship. The Greek word in verse 30 for "one" is neuter, not masculine, suggesting that, in this particular context, Jesus is not stressing that he and God are one person, but instead that they each have the same call—being united in their work. What would it mean if we take this example to heart? How would our lives be changed if we were seeking to unite ourselves with Jesus' work, which is ultimately God's work? Do we know our shepherd's voice and follow him daily into this landscape of resurrection?

This image of the good shepherd is poetically captured in Psalm 23, so often read at funerals, but it is certainly not to be confined to that threshold. The imagery is rich, meaningful, and comforting while we gambol like lambs in the landscape of practicing resurrection. As we play Marco Polo with God, the psalmist reminds us of how we need to move through transition in our lives—any transition—whether it be death, divorce, job loss, moving, loss of health, or

anything with change. Knowing that when we cry out, "Marco!" God inevitably responds, "Polo!" guides us through those times where the only way out is to live through them – one trusting step at a time. Draw near to God and God will draw near to you. Even when we are having a dark night of the soul, God is still closer than our breath. We must continue to be faithful even when we feel forsaken because God is still with us.

Human beings want to see signs—something measurable—but John's Gospel tells us that even the signs that Jesus does aren't enough. Eventually, we need to act as though believing is a choice—it is a free will action, rather than the goal of an argument. The time comes when evaluating the evidence must end. There is the immeasurable act of faith that must happen. Thomas Keating writes, "The chief thing that separates us from God is the thought that we are separated from [God]. If we get rid of that thought, our troubles will be greatly reduced."

This is how we are called to continue God's work in the world: One small step in the darkness toward the voice – a soft shuffle in the right direction that brings us closer. As we respond to God's voice, others who are also lost hear us and are able to call out to God themselves. The things we do when we follow Jesus in our daily lives matter, and the ripple effects are clear.

In today's reading from the Book of Acts, Peter is called to the deathbed of a devout disciple of Jesus, Tabitha, who did many acts of charity. This is the only time that the feminine form of "disciple" is used in the New Testament, which clues us in to how vital she was to her faith community. She is also called Dorcas in our passage, the dual name indicating she is a Greek-speaking Jew. When he gets there, he kneels down and prays, then asks her to get up. Miraculously, she does, like the little girl in the story from Mark 5. There is great rejoicing as she is restored to her community—another aspect of God's healing. However, no one bows down to worship either Peter or Tabitha. It is because of Peter's relationship with Jesus and his confidence in that relationship that he is able to heal and share the Good News. Peter's focus was on God and because of his faithful act in Jesus' name, "many believed in the Lord." How would we be different if we behaved this way?

Jesus is clear and Peter's example is clear: everything must always point to God. Jesus' signs, Peter's healing, the neighbor we help, the communities to which we contribute, and the lives across the world that we touch in this digital age—all tell of the glory of God, so that people may come to know and *believe*. This is the Good News. This is practicing resurrection daily. Alleluia! **Amen**

**\* HYMN**

**"Lord Speak to Me, That I May Speak"      Blue Hymnal #426**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvYSoGP7pwM>

**Respond in Love and Service**

**\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast; that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first**

**to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

### **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=Uyg6-htOtHU>

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

Holy God, you work wonders beyond our imagination. Thank you for all the faithful people you have inspired in the history of the church. You have sent into our lives kind Christians who have encouraged us in beautiful ways. Help us to keep growing as disciples led by your Spirit. May we become more devoted to good works and acts of charity, so that others will be blessed in turn. We pray in Jesus' name. **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)

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: Like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly,  
You push us to stretch our wings and risk falling,  
yet You do not abandon us  
but lift us up protecting us from evil.

**ALL: We thank You, mothering God.**

Leader: Like a mother bear, furious when her cubs are in danger,  
You bring justice on those who oppress the young.

**ALL: We thank You, mothering God.**

Leader Your Spirit comforts us as one whom a mother comforts.

**ALL: We thank You, mothering God.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, You are everywhere the Lord and Giver of life.  
We praise You for the gift of mothers  
through whom You give us life.

**ALL: We thank You for their willingness to nurture life,  
for their trust in You to guide them  
through the labor of childbirth,  
the uncertainties of youth,  
the letting go of young adulthood.**

Leader: We thank You for all those women,  
who did not give us birth,  
but through whom You give us abundant life:

**ALL: We thank You for school teachers, aunts, grandmothers,  
sisters, pastors, elders, Sunday School teachers,  
supervisors, and friends who share wisdom.**

Leader: We ask Your tender mercies on all those  
whose mothers now sing with the heavenly chorus,  
for those whose tears are not yet dry.

**ALL: Grant them Your peace, which passes understanding.**

Leader: We ask Your comforting presence on those mothers  
who have buried sons and daughters.

**ALL: Grant them the grace to trust their loved ones  
to Your never-ending care.**

Leader: We pray for those who are alienated from their mothers  
by harsh words, distance, misunderstanding.

**ALL: Grant them Your grace to forgive and to love again.**

Leader: We pray for mothers whose children met a violent death.

**ALL: Deliver them from anguish.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who work but cannot earn enough  
to feed and clothe and educate their children.

**ALL: Wake us to our responsibility for common welfare.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who are dying of AIDS  
and other diseases for which we know no cure.

**ALL: Raise up among us caregivers for their children  
and expand our compassion.**

Leader: We pray for mothers who are guardians for grandchildren whose parents are unable or unwilling to care.

**ALL: Grant them courage and strength and patience for the living of each day.**

Leader: We pray for mothers whose children face limitations of intelligence, emotional, or physical ability.

**ALL: Deliver them from hovering; grant them wisdom to encourage each child's full potential with You.**

Leader: We pray for mothers whose sons and daughters defend our way of life as firefighters, officers of the law, and in the military.

**ALL: Grant them confidence in Your presence with their children in life, in death, in life beyond death.**

Leader: And now with the bold confidence of beloved children, we pray as Jesus taught his friends to pray:

**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 our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever.**

and all God's people say: So be it! AMEN.

**\* CLOSING HYMN "How Happy Is Each Child of God" Blue Hymnal #239**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOzdVSPySRU>

**\* BENEDICTION**

May God's blessings surround you each day as you trust Him and walk in His way.  
May His presence within guard and keep you from sin.  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love. Go in peace, go in joy, go in love. **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 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

<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

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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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