

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 26, 2022**

At the *, please stand, if you are able

Large Print Hymnals and Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices, are available

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE: "Lord, I Want To Be A Christian" **Russell**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZUq1Ruj9dE>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Communion Sunday, July 3, 2022

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" Choir
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhbTXFHv5UC>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds

All: Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

LEADER: The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.

Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked. Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen.

All: You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron. (Ps. 77:11-20, NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

Righteous Judge, every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. For such glory and splendor in your righteous judgments, we praise you. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN "Open My Eyes That I May See" Blue Bk #324**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDceaG7kFOA>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, your word states that you do not want us to be uninformed about the gifts of the Spirit, and yet we are. We listen to men arguing against them instead of listening what your Spirit has to say of them. We know that when we were pagans, somehow or other we were influenced and led astray to mute idols and yet at times we refuse to leave Egypt. We also know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. We repent of our foolishness and hardness of heart. We confess our blindness, deafness, and ignorance of your Spirit. Therefore, we repent and ask that you in your loving mercy give us the pleasure of being informed to speak your truth in love. Amen. (From the PCUSA Book of Common Worship Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993; p. 88)

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=X-ZS4jUy2Dc>

*** 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

The Righteous Judge

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

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Righteous Judge, you who do not treat us according to what our sins deserve but according to your loving mercy. In this loving mercy, Lord, touch our hearts as we listen to your Word this morning. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Kings+2%3A1-2%2C+6-14&version=NIV>

PSALM READING

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+77%3A1-2%2C+11-20&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Somebody 's Knocking at Your Door"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jVbkBAjI1A>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+5%3A1%2C+13-25&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:51-62

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+9%3A51-62+&version=NIV>

LEADER: The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

SERMON

"Shophet Tsaddiq, Righteous Judge" Elder, Fred Archer
Psalm 9:7-8

Written by Dr. Carlos Baladez

"The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity." (NIV)

Have you ever been called for jury duty? Have you ever been chosen from the pool of jurors to serve on a case? Was it a criminal case? Or was it a civil one? Maybe a federal case? Do you remember the rules given to you by the judge presiding over the trial? Do you remember the term "the preponderance of the evidence" or any other terms?

What image does the word "righteous" conjured up in your mind? Does your image fulfill a legal motif? A moral one? Or perhaps a religious idea? Maybe all three images can be filtered down to "doing the right thing?" And what exactly is the right thing? Who determines what is right? I'll let you ponder this.

Moving on to the second word, "judge."

What does the term "judge" paint in your mind? Harsh? Mean? Power? A man or a woman dressed in a black robe seating high above all the others in the courtroom behind a large desk? Do you see the court reporter typing away and the bailiff with his holstered gun standing beside the judge to help keep order and protect the judge?

Well, this particular name of God, **Righteous Judge**, is found within a song, a Psalm, Psalm 9 to be exact. Within this Psalm, the psalmist sings about this just God.

Up until now, the people of God had understood "retributive justice" but the concept of "restorative justice" was foreign to them. They had interpreted "an eye for an eye" as permission to do to the other what he or she had done to them instead of seeing it as the limit placed on anger. Do not let your anger lead you down a path of destroying your fellow man. It placed limits on retribution. Therefore, in the New Testament story, when the woman was caught in the very act of adultery, her accusers were expecting Jesus to give the okay to have her stoned according to the law.

To their dismay, the **Righteous Judge** took them by surprise. He said, 'The one who is without sin let him cast the first stone.' In response to this, all her accusers went away leaving Jesus alone with the woman. He asked her, "Where are all those who accused you? Didn't even one condemn you?" She replied, "No, Lord." He then tells her, to go her way and sin no more.

What was the right judgment? Death? Condemnation? Stoning? No, life and forgiveness! The **Righteous Judge** judged rightly. How does God deal with sinners? He forgives and restores them, encouraging them to choose life. "For the wages of sin is death but the free and righteous gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. God wants you and me to live. He made us to live with him forever, righteously, just like his name! Now that's a huge Hallelujah! We too can sing as did the Psalmist, God is just, God is righteous, forever more, Amen!

To God be the glory!

* **HYMN** **"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"** **Blue Hymnal #392**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z41WKwMKA>

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 AND HYMN OF INTERCESSION

Righteous Judge, we intercede for your will to be done.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Righteous Judge, we pray that Our Father's will be done here on earth as it is done in heaven.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Righteous Judge, we pray that the nations lay down their weapons of destruction and make them into plowshares.

Lord, hear our prayers.

*** BENEDICTION**

May the Righteous Judge who is perfect in his being and in all his ways pour out his Holy Spirit on you that you may dwell with him in safety. May your home and house overflow with his love, joy, and laughter over your enemies all the days of your life. May all the days of your life on this earth be blessed as you come and go. In the name of Jesus, you are blessed. Amen.

*** 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."

