

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter
June 12, 2022
Trinity Sunday**

At the *, please stand, if you are able.

Large Print Hymnals, Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices are available upon request.

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

"All Glory Be To God On High"

Zachow

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zii4CuFqXRA>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be still and know that God is here.
Be still and know that God is near.
Be still and know that God is here.

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"Glorify Thy Name"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1JiIxU-F7o>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord all glory and honour.

ALL: Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: Come and worship the Lord in holy splendour.

ALL: Lord, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: To the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

ALL: be all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy, triune God, all that is, all that was, and all that ever will be belongs to you alone. You have spoken to us through your Word made flesh. Now guide us into the truth by the gift of your Holy Spirit, so that we may glorify you forever and ever. **Amen**

*** OPENING HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" Blue Hymnal #138**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwuDSw-9cUQ>

Beloved of God, We celebrate in faith the sacrifice of Jesus Christ once and for all For the sins of the whole world. God has reconciled us to himself and to one another; God has covenanted with us by the presence of the Holy Spirit, Who gathers us together and transforms us to new life. Let us repent from our sins, And may the mercies of the Lord inspire us to wholeness and grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Gracious God, the psalmist declares that you have given human beings dominion over the works of your hands. All too often, though, we confuse this holy charge with having ownership. We then treat your creation as a resource to be used for our needs and our profit.

We find ourselves reluctant to count the cost of our failure to be your faithful stewards until disaster strikes. And so we pray, show us another way, O God.

ALL: Show us another way.

Leader: Holy God, your cry for wisdom and understanding echoes in our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our church committee meetings, our legislatures and our courts. We confess we don't always want to hear that cry, deciding instead to rely on familiar habits, comfortable assumptions, and quick conclusions. We ask you to show us another way, O God.

ALL: Show us another way.

Leader: Merciful God, the apostle Paul proclaims peace, hope, and grace are your gifts to us. And yet there are times when grief overwhelms us, anxiety holds us captive, and suffering leaves us numb with despair. We wonder how, even *if* you are at work in our lives, and we long for you to show us another way, O God.

ALL: Show us another way.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear this great good news: God continually shows us another way. God's mercy is as wide as the ocean. God's desire to forgive is as strong as the mighty wind. So let your hearts receive the outpouring of God's love through the Holy Spirit.

*** 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

What is the Trinity?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-1AdUwbWLw>

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of Word and wisdom, reveal the mysteries of faith to us this day by the power of your Holy Spirit. Through the Scriptures, show us how to witness to the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. **Amen.**

FIRST READING**Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+8%3A1-4%2CProverbs+8%3A22-31&version=NIV>

SECOND READING**Psalm 8**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM**"My Lord of Light"****Choir**

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

NEW TESTAMENT READING**Romans 5: 1-5**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+5%3A+1-5&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING**John 16: 12-15**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+16%3A+12-15&version=NIV>

SERMON**"You Are Three, We Are Three"
Written by Rev. Bertie Pearson****Fred Archer**

In 1804, Thomas Jefferson had already drafted the Declaration of Independence, built Monticello, and was nearly halfway through his presidency, but in that year, he decided to take on his most ambitious project of all: President Thomas Jefferson decided to rewrite the New Testament! Well, not rewrite exactly — he didn't want to add anything, just remove all the stuff that didn't make sense. There were inconsistencies, implausible stories, and most of all, there was all that confusing stuff about God being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

For Jefferson, an Enlightenment-era intellectual who was president, not only of the United States but also of the American Philosophical Society, the Trinity just didn't make sense — how could one God exist in three persons? It was, he might have said, a simple matter of addition: you could be one being or three beings, but not both at the same time!

And this is not an uncommon response to the Christian worship of a Triune God. The Trinity is illogical, it's unmathematical, so why don't we just straighten it out once and for all? We could go back to the religious drawing board and proclaim ourselves absolute adherents to the singleness of God, *or* we could throw in the monotheistic towel and embrace a great plurality of gods — either way makes good sense. Aren't we just creating unnecessary confusion by sticking with this poorly constructed math problem? The problem here is that Christianity is not an equation or a theorem: Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ.

"In the beginning," wrote St. John, "was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God," and the world said, "Wait, what? What do you mean the Word was *with* God *and* the Word *was* God? Which is it?" But rather than clarifying this doozy of an introduction, John goes on to tell us that this very same Word of God — the One who is both distinct from God and who is God — took flesh as a tiny, helpless baby in middle-of-nowhere Palestine. That God the Son was the loving friend of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, that the Word of God himself died on a cross, and in so doing, destroyed death itself.

And if that weren't complicated enough, we also have to wrestle with today's Gospel in which Christ speaks of the Holy Spirit. This is the life-breath of God, the active love of God, and yet Jesus doesn't call the Spirit "it," as though speaking of an energy, an activity, or a force. Instead, Jesus says of the Holy Spirit, "*He* will guide you into all the truth." This is the same Spirit of God whom we see hovering over the waters of creation in Genesis, transforming judges and prophets in the Old Testament, the Spirit who, St. Paul tells us, can be grieved by our actions, who speaks in the hearts of his faithful people, teaching us to pray, and coming alongside us as advocate and guide.

What do we make of all of this? What do we make of the Father, the source of all that is, spoken of, not as a theory about why there is something instead of nothing, but as a person who loves each of us infinitely, who grieves with us over our smallest worries, who numbers every hair upon our heads? What do we make of the Word of God, who is not an inspiring message or an important set of instructions, but a person who gives himself to us in his incarnation and gave his life for us on the Cross? What do we make of the Holy Spirit, who is not the Star Wars force, or a warm fuzzy, but a person, who takes up his abode in our hearts; who offers to make our lives living signs of his goodness and love? We are sometimes tempted to think of the Holy Trinity as a piece of technical theology, or the misguided math of a primitive age, but in fact, the belief in one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the living heart of the Bible's revelation of God.

And yet, what impact does faith in the Trinity have on our lives? Isn't it something we can reflect upon one Sunday a year and then safely shut back in the catechism where it belongs? We often confuse knowing and knowing; if I say to you, "You know Joe Biden, right?" You'll say, "Of course, he's the president!" But if I then say, "Can you text him and let him know that I won't make it to the White House for dinner tonight?" You'll realize that I didn't mean, "Do you know about him?" but, "Do you *know* him, do you have a relationship with him, are you pals?"

We sometimes imagine that the doctrine of the Trinity is useful for knowing *about* God, as though it were necessary to get the facts straight, but understating the Trinity is not about holding the correct opinion on God's nature. Instead, it is the starting place for truly *knowing* him. To believe in abstract forces, explanatory hypotheses, or good or bad math problems, is to hold a set of opinions on the truth; but to come into relationship with God the Holy Spirit, to feel him praying in your heart, to feel him pulling you up into a life of ever-increasing selflessness and joy, this is to begin to build a real friendship with God.

To know the love of Jesus, fully God and fully human, to see how much God incarnate cares for you, to feel the living Word of God walking with you, helping you to transcend all that keeps you from living a life of love for God and neighbor, this is to begin to fall in love with God. To worship our Heavenly Father, to know that we now stand, not as infinitesimally unimportant myriads of mortals, but as his beloved children, as coheirs of his Heavenly Kingdom: as the beloved creatures to whom he gives all that he has, this is to truly know God the Father.

The Eastern Orthodox Bishop Kallistos Ware tells an old Eastern European story about a bishop of a large diocese who decided to visit every single one of his parishes. After spending years on horseback, he thought that he had seen them all, when someone told him about a tiny chapel, on a remote island in the sea. Faithful to his mission, he chartered a boat and set out for the island. Upon landing, he found it to be a desolate spot, inhabited only by three old men. He greeted them and began to question these isolated Christians about the orthodoxy of their faith. "Tell me," said the bishop, "how do you pray?" They replied, "We simply stand, holding hands like this." And the three old men clasped their hands together, saying, "You are three, we are three, have mercy upon us."

"What?" said the bishop. "This will never do. Don't you know the Lord's Prayer?" "No," said the hermits, "Please teach us, O holy man of God!" The bishop spent all afternoon teaching the absent-minded old hermits the Lord's Prayer, and when they had finally gotten it, he said his goodbyes, returned to the boat, and headed back out to sea, puzzling over these odd, old men and their island.

It grew dark as he mused on the deck of his boat, looking out over the sea, when from far away he began to see a tiny point of light coming from the island. As it drew nearer, the light grew brighter and brighter, until he could see that it was the three hermits, holding hands, running swiftly on top of the water, beards flying in the wind, their faces radiant with the light of Christ. "O holy man of God, holy man of God!" said the hermits, "We have forgotten the prayer you taught us! Please teach us again so that we may pray rightly!" "On second thought," said the bishop, "I think that your prayer must be fine."

You are three, we are three, have mercy upon us. To the holy and undivided Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, be honor and 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

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in one God, The Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, Of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, The only Son of God, Eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from true God, Begotten, not made, Of one being with the Father; Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; Was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary And became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again In accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven And is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, And his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father [and the Son], Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy

catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The season of Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of God's Spirit upon the Church with the gifts needed to serve others in Jesus' name. Let us offer God our gifts this day with grateful hearts and the generosity revealed in Christ himself.

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**

Generous God, thank you for all your gifts which bring us hope and joy. Bless the gifts we bring and work with them to establish your reign in the world you love. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. **AMEN**

*** HYMN FOR OUR NATION**

"Heal Our Land"

Red Hymnal #800

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm_rA54EGw

PRAYERS AND HYMN OF INTERCESSION, THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Holy God, Holy One and Holy Three, we bless you for bringing us into communion with you, offering us the same unity in love you share as the blessed Trinity. Help your church in all its branches discover the unity for which Christ prayed. May our unity in Christ show the world how to overcome divisions and enjoy the diverse gifts you have created in us. By your Spirit, equip us to explore unity in diversity through local mission and ministry. God, the Three in One,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God of one loving heart, draw the human family together in the love that unites us with you. We pray for our nation and our local communities in this time when different experience and opinions so easily divide us. Where we have acted without regard for the needs of others, inspire us to work for justice and fairness. Where we have been blind to the pain of the oppressed, open our eyes to opportunities for reconciliation and caring. Guide the peoples of Canada to establish relationships of mutual respect and honour with indigenous communities, and celebrate our diverse gifts together. God, the Three in One,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God who wears the many faces of hope, we pray for all who feel despair or anxiety in these challenging days. Lift up in love those who find their illness unrelieved. Comfort those who grieve the loss of someone dear or some important opportunity. Support those who are denied dignity by the attitudes or actions of others and sustain those who long for healing of some kind. Hear us in this time of silence as we name before those on our hearts this day:

Keep silence for at least 15 seconds.

May they know your loving care upholding their lives. God, the Three in One,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Leader: God in community, thank you for the fellowship we share in our congregation. Strengthen us in faithful worship and equip us for service in changing times and challenging days. We offer our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as the Spirit prays within us, in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together, saying

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: AMEN.

* **CLOSING HYMN** **"Go With Us, Lord"** **Blue Hymnal #535**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dFzcBEUjvLU>

* **BENEDICTION**

God Almighty, Creator of all things, build your kingdom among us. Jesus Christ, son of the living God, give us your grace. Holy Spirit, breath of the living God, renew all things. Let us serve you willingly and joyfully to the benefit of each other, to share one faith and respond to your calling.. **Amen.**

Now...Go out into God's world as those born of water and Spirit. Go as those inspired and excited to know that "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world". No, in fact, our God sent Jesus into the world so that the world might be saved through him. Go as those living in the mystery of the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit. Go knowing you are loved and are called to love each other. **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 Elder, Fred Archer will present our 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.

Crestholme Presbyterian Church Officers

Session

Class of 2022

Irene Thomas
Steve Tovar

Clerk of the Session: Dick Crist
Church Treasurer: Fred Archer

Class of 2023

Katie Lamb

Class of 2024

Netsy Williamson

Trustees

Class of 2022

Fred Archer

Class of 2023

Tommy Rudwick

Class of 2024

Penny Christoff

Crestholme Presbyterian Church Staff

Stated Supply Minister
Pulpit Supply Preachers

Choir Director
Organist

Secretary/Coordinator

Vacant
Dr. Carlos Baladez
Elder Fred Archer
Robin Bernhard
Cathie Owen
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.

Telephone: 210-333-1301

FAX: 210-333-1301

Email: crestholmepc@satx.rr.com

Web Site: www.crestholmepc.com

Email: foodpantry@crestholmepc.org

