

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 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

"Prelude"

Franck

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro81AgLYrk8>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "When Morning Guilds The Skies"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkkTB617sDU>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Lord, open unto me—

ALL: light for my darkness, courage for my fear, hope for my despair.

ONE: Lord, open unto me---

ALL: peace for my turmoil, joy for my sorrow, strength for my weakness.

ONE: Lord, open unto me—

ALL: wisdom for my confusion, forgiveness for my sins, and love for my hates.

Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all beginnings, we come today with praise on our lips and in our hearts. We stand in awe of all you have created: the vast expanse of a starry night and the tiny beauty of a raindrop together reflect your glory. You have blessed creation with life and meaning. Your love makes a beginning in us, too, O God, in each new life born into the world, in each new friendship formed, in each kindling attraction, in each kind word and act for neighbour or stranger. We praise you, O God, for your love moving in the world around us, lived out in Jesus and by the Spirit at work in us. All praise and glory belong to you, Source, Saviour, and Spirit of Love, one God, now and always. **AMEN**

*** OPENING HYMN**

"To God Be The Glory"

Blue Hymnal #485

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed by your Holy Spirit. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. Let us give thanks for God's mercy and be at peace with God, with ourselves and each other.

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal #579

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

*** 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.

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

O God, our trustworthy teacher of truth, by your Spirit, reveal your will for us in the reading of your Word. Stir in our hearts and minds, and strengthen us to respond in faithfulness. **Amen**

FIRST READING

Amos 8:7-17

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Amos+8%3A7-17&version=NIV>

SECOND READING

Psalm 82

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+82&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"It Is Well With My Soul"

Choir

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHe_qmo3gX4

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 1:1-14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%201%3A1-14&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:25-37

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10%3A25-37&version=NIV>

SERMON

An Alternative Consciousness

Fred Archer

Written by Rev. Charles Hoffacker

Flashing through the Bible and beyond is a lightning bolt known as prophetic ministry. What prophetic ministry does, according to Bible scholar Walter Brueggemann, is generate "a consciousness and perception alternative to the consciousness and perception of the dominant culture around us." This is not a small order.

Whatever the dominant culture happens to be in a particular place and time, prophetic ministry comes along and overturns the apple cart by promoting an alternative consciousness, a different way to see the world. This biblical witness to the God of life, when faithfully accepted, proves too hot for any dominant culture to control.

Today let's investigate three instances of prophetic ministry and the alternative consciousness it generates. The first comes from the prophet Amos. Another is found in a story Jesus tells, one of his best-known parables. The third instance of prophetic ministry and alternative

consciousness appears whenever we celebrate the Eucharist together.

Amos the prophet is the figure behind the brief Old Testament book that bears his name. He was a herdsman and field hand who lived more than seven hundred years before Jesus. While not the earliest of the biblical prophets, he is the first whose name goes with a book entirely concerned with his life and message; we know nothing of him from any other source.

Today we heard perhaps the most memorable passage from the book of Amos. The prophet sees the Lord standing beside a wall, and in the Lord's hand, there is a plumbline. A plumbline is a cord that has attached to it a weight, known as a plumb weight. Simply put, a plumbline functions as a level, but in a vertical way. It is used to ensure that a structure is built right. This presupposes the grim possibility that a structure can be built wrong.

So, in the vision of Amos, the Lord, holding a plumbline, denounces his people because they do not measure up. They are built wrong. There's a divine standard of righteous dealing which differs from both royal decree and popular opinion. The nation and its rulers and its populace do not meet this standard.

The movers and the shakers in the kingdom where Amos lives understand what he is saying. Amaziah, chaplain at the royal sanctuary, wants Amos to get out and prophesy somewhere else, *anywhere* else. His plumbline prophecy is not welcome there at the royal sanctuary because it subordinates the status quo to a God of justice.

In the time of Amos, many nations treated their kings as divine and beyond criticism. A transformative assertion of prophetic ministry, part of the alternative consciousness it generates, is that *those in high office come under the judgment of God*. God is king; the king is not God.

This challenging claim runs from the time of Amos, seven centuries before Christ, to the English Magna Carta some two thousand years later, to the American Revolution more than five centuries after that. In our time, it provides a basis for human rights around the world.

Jesus provides us with another instance of prophetic ministry when he tells the story known as the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

In today's gospel, we hear that he presents this story in response to a question put to him. A lawyer recognizes the obligation to love his neighbor as himself if eternal life is to be his. But the lawyer then asks, "Who is my neighbor?"

Throughout the course of the Bible and beyond, God's people come to learn—they discover through experience—that their God is God of all nations and peoples. The living Lord reigns everywhere; the Holy One is concerned with all places, not just some places.

In a similar fashion, God's people learn not to take the word "neighbor" in too narrow, too literal a way. Neighbors are not only the people nearby; they include people everywhere.

And so, Jesus tells his story of the enemy Samaritan who cares for the assaulted Jew and thus proves himself a neighbor to that unfortunate victim.

Here we come to another transformative assertion of prophetic ministry, a second part of the alternative consciousness it evokes, namely that *our neighbors include absolutely everyone*, all those created in God's image and likeness. It matters not whether they are near at hand or far away. It matters not whether we share their ethnicity, nationality, religion, skin color, social class, or political principles. Because they are God's children, we must recognize them as our sisters and brothers. No exceptions.

During the Second World War, the German Army occupied a small Greek island. The leading figure in the community there was the local Orthodox bishop. So, the German commander demanded of the bishop a list of all Jews resident on the island. The bishop took paper and pen, wrote down a single name, and thrust the paper at the commander. The name the bishop had written was his own.

So, what happens at the altar when, no matter how often, in obedience to Christ's command we celebrate the Holy Eucharist?

How does this ritual pattern bring us to an alternative consciousness, one that challenges the dominant culture and enables us to see our existence in a different way?

Consider these lines from the poet William Wordsworth: "The world is too much with us; late and soon, Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers."

We may find this true of ourselves. The world's way, limited to getting and spending, wastes our powers and brings no renewal. The altar teaches us a different economy.

There the inexhaustible gift of Christ our God becomes available to us through faith. His Body and Blood are for us his people a sharing in his unconquerable life.

The Eucharist is all about giving: Christ's giving and ours in response. Christ offers himself once and always. By the Spirit's power, we share in that giving, that complete and perfect sacrifice. In union with Christ crucified, risen, and triumphant, we offer to the Holy One the entirety of ourselves and all creation. No longer weary and wasted, we become people of the resurrection.

Thus, we learn a new way of sharing where abundance prevails: all who eat and drink receive the entire Christ. We do not stand contrary to each other; instead, we indwell one another, participants in the restored Christ.

Thus, we see past the dominant culture and its real brokenness to the deeper truth, the union of all in Christ. We practice our giving and receiving and rejoicing after the ceaseless example of

the Trinity.

So then, the plumbline of Amos reveals how those both high and low cannot escape the judgment of God, for the dimensions of what we build together must be mercy and justice and good faith.

The Samaritan in the story Jesus tells shows us who is our neighbor: everyone without exception; and that Christ is the foremost Samaritan overcoming every barrier we build.

Whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, we are initiated into the wholesome order where gifts are received and given, divine abundance refreshes us again, and tragic brokenness yields to deeper truth.

Count all these and more as ways of prophetic ministry. They build in us an alternative consciousness that confounds the dominant culture.

Prophetic ministry does not simply imply that the tomb of Jesus became empty; it casts a light forward on the ways that we, included anew in Christ, can go out from this assembly to overcome the world, to practice resurrection.

Let us Praise God and say **AMEN**.

*** HYMN**

"This Is My Father's World"

Blue Hymnal #293

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

Respond in Love and Service

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

ONE: Why do we pray to God?

ALL: Because we were created to live with God, who desires the prayers of our hearts. Our hearts long for God, for we need God's help and guidance every day.

ONE: What do we do when we pray?

ALL: When we pray, we adore God, we confess our sins, we give God thanks, and we pray for the needs of others and ourselves.

ONE: How did Jesus teach his followers to pray?

ALL: He taught them the words of the Lord's Prayer.

ONE: What do we mean when we pray to God as "Our Father"?

ALL: As Jesus taught us, we call upon God like little children who know that God cares for them and loves them. Because Jesus prayed to God as his Father, we too can pray to God in this way.

ONE: What do we mean when we pray to God "in heaven"?

ALL: We mean that God draws near to us from beyond this world, and hears our prayers.

ONE: What do we ask when we pray "Hallowed be your name"?

ALL: We pray that God's name will be honored in all the world and everywhere treated as holy, because God's name really stands for God.

God sent us Jesus Christ so that we would know God's great generosity and compassion for us. May the gifts we offer God bear witness to the saving power of this extravagant love in our lives.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*** DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal #592

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

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of the Samaritan's kindness, we offer our gifts in hope, trusting that you will bless them to bring such kindness to others in Jesus' name. Make of us 'good Samaritans' with the courage to be generous to neighbours and strangers for Christ's sake. **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 abundant growth, as summer unfolds around us, we give you thanks for warm sunny days, for beauty in our gardens, crops growing in our fields, life swimming in oceans and lakes. Where the abundance of nature is at risk, we pray that your Spirit will work in and through us to restore the air, water and soil for the good of all creation.

God of every life,

Hear our prayer.

God of peace and reconciliation, we thank you for the peace and freedom we enjoy and the many ways our lives are protected in this land. We remember before you those places torn apart by violence and hatred, those people who face discrimination daily, and anyone who feels unsafe this day or any day.

(Keep silence for 15 seconds)

Inspire leaders in every country to lead with wisdom and mercy. Guide them in your ways of peace and justice.

God of every life,

Hear our prayer.

God of creativity and community, we thank you for the many ways the Church can serve you in Jesus' name. Thank you for the unique voices that sing your praise and speak your comfort, all the hands that share in acts of service, all the prayers offered quietly for your will to be done. We pray for the Church and its many congregations as we seek to be faithful. Help us work together so that our unity bears witness to the possibilities for unity among diverse peoples everywhere.

God of every life,

Hear our prayer.

God of every precious life, our hearts ache for those who are suffering. Hear our prayers as we name before you those in need of your love and healing in the silence of our hearts...

(Silence for at least 15 seconds)

God of every life,

Hear our prayer.

God hope and love, draw us closer to you every day. Show us what you desire for us and inspire our faithfulness in the example of Jesus, who taught us to pray these words:

The Lord’s Prayer

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 “Savior, Like A Shephard Lead Us” Blue Hymnal #387**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQe8slFjX-o>

*** BENEDICTION**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

POSTLUDE

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. 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.

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.

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