

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 14, 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

"Pastorale"

C. Wesley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG9U8ah30HU>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Surely the Presence of the Lord Is In This Place" Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hD9-1ZQctV4>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, let us rejoice this day in the God who is near in everyone around us.

ALL: We will sing glad songs of the One who is rebuilding neighborhoods in our midst.

Leader: Come, let us rejoice always in Jesus who baptizes us with hope and compassion.

ALL: We will join in choruses of praise of the One who brings justice to the forgotten in our midst.

Leader: Come, let us rejoice again and again in the Spirit who offers us new life in every moment.

ALL: We will sing full throttle of the One who fills us with gifts to share with everyone in our midst. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of majesty and mystery, we gather today in the presence of that great cloud of witnesses who have worshiped you in song and service for centuries. Our praise joins theirs as we fix our eyes on Jesus and wait for your Spirit to guide us. We praise you for your great love and mercy, revealed in Christ, at work in us through the Spirit Holy One, we offer you all glory and honour in our worship, seeking to renew our faith and commitment to serve you in the world that belongs to you. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" Blue Hymnal #150**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzLDY8fJ1Y>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Most Patient God, we recognize how much we need you for life itself.

But how often have we behaved as if we did not know or even care about you?

How often have we become the ones who do not carry out justice?

How often have we tried to dominate others even as you stand with them?

How often have we participated in the desolation of your creation by our treatment

**of the heavens, the earth and its waters?
Forgive us for these times when we have lost our way.**

All Loving God, we want to be among those whom you seek. Shower your mercy upon us. Find us and lead us safely home to faithfulness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news! Although we have not always been faithful to God, God remains faithful to us. In Jesus Christ, God offers us forgiveness. Through the gift of the Spirit, God renews us to live faithfully in Jesus' name. Thanks be to God!

*** 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Shalom – Peace

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

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Spirit of God, open our minds and hearts to receive God's wisdom in the Scriptures. Show us how to live out that wisdom today and tomorrow, as we follow Jesus, who is for us God's Living Word. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%205%3A1-7&version=NIV>

SECOND READING

Psalms 80:1-2, 8-18

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+80%3A1-2%2C+8-18&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Count Your Blessings"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hb4JBNDWhOA>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11%3A29-12%3A2&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:49-56

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A49-56&version=NIV>

Leader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

SERMON

**The True Cost of Peace
Written by the Rt. Rev. Frank Logue**

Fred Archer

“Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?” Jesus asks and then answers, “No, I tell you, but rather division!”

The cost of following Jesus comes into focus as Jesus, the Prince of Peace, says, “From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father... mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”

Jesus experienced this separation himself as his own family was torn by his ministry. Though Jesus’ mother Mary would be with him at the cross, the Gospels tell us that there was a time when his family wanted to bring him home as they wondered if Jesus hadn’t gone crazy. And he is well aware that this is just the beginning of the ways that the path he offers will divide many, even as a new community comes into being.

Six chapters further into Luke’s Gospel, Peter will say, “Look, we have left our homes and followed you.” And Jesus will respond, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.” Jesus wants those who follow him to understand not just the rewards of this new life, but also the cost they will pay. This is the price of true peace.

The word for peace in Hebrew is “shalom.” Not just the absence of war, shalom means wholeness, well-being, and health, as well as what we think of as peace. All of those meanings are present in shalom. This is God’s peace which passes our understanding. Shalom is a truer, deeper peace. That promise of God’s peace was part of Jesus’ life and message all along.

Jesus often sent those he healed on their way by saying, “Go in peace.” Jesus makes them whole, healthy, peaceful, gives them well-being, and then sends them away in that deeper peace, called shalom. In his final word of peace in this Gospel, Jesus appears to his disciples after the crucifixion. It was the first time they saw Jesus after they had betrayed him and run in fear to avoid arrest. Jesus avoids any talk of all that has happened between them and says, “Peace be with you.” Jesus, God’s own son, was a man of peace who brought shalom, God’s peace, to broken hearts and lives. And yet, this Sunday he says that he came to bring division.

Jesus longs to bring a deeper health and wholeness to our world and the cost of that process will be division. The greater peace will come at the cost of lesser peace. The peace of God brings an end to the false peace and, as Jesus says, pits family members against each other.

Lesser peace looks like a family distorting their lives to enable an abusive father’s rages to inflict emotional and physical abuse while never letting those around them know that life at home is anything but ideal. Lesser peace is an eldest child falling into a prescription drug addiction, moving to heroin that consumes the child and then the family as the denial continues until it is far too late and the deadly addiction is unstoppable. The signs of an affair are everywhere, but

it is easier to pretend not to see them than to face the fracture already present in the marriage. The examples go on and on. We see problems. We say nothing and so try to keep the peace.

This is just in the family, but the same problem is also writ large. Across much of the history of our nation, the lesser peace treated formerly enslaved persons and their descendants as less than fully human. The Civil Rights Movement divided families precisely because the lesser peace came with no cost to those in power. It can seem tempting to want to return to the simple life with Andy and Opie Taylor in the fictional televised world of *Mayberry* without recalling that in that same time, if not in that fictional place, not all shared the same opportunities, the same rights. And we still have a long way to go before all of God's children experience the wholeness and well-being that are the shalom found in the Reign of God.

Jesus wants no lesser peace to take the place of true and lasting peace. Until the abuse stops and the drug use is addressed compassionately and firmly, how can there be peace in the family? Unless the affairs stop, how can there be peace in the marriage? But all too often we grab hold of a lesser peace as tightly a security blanket. Rather than having the courage to speak the truth in love, we remain silent, preventing the possibility of real peace.

Jesus continually reached out to the outcast in his own society. Jesus upset the status quo and eventually was killed for rocking the societal boat a little too much. Jesus did bring God's peace to the earth, a true and lasting peace, but the price was division. Throughout history, there are thousands of examples of people settling for a lesser peace when God was calling them to something more. The peace of God brings an end to the false peace and so can easily pit even family members against each other.

Living into the new life in Jesus which is promised in baptism can and will change your behavior and your attitude over time if you take it seriously. Taking the promises made in baptism should change our lives. Yet, this is in tension with a desire to avoid conflict and so to preserve a lesser peace. The cost of accepting these accommodations and compromises is that this prevents our breaking through to the deeper peace waiting for us. Shalom, God's true and lasting peace, calls us to stand against injustice. Any time we preserve the peace at someone or some group's expense, we trade God's shalom for a poor imitation.

Where have we become accommodated to peace for ourselves at the price of peace for someone else? What would it look like to speak out against a lesser peace in your family, our community, and our world? When you do so, it may divide a household two against three or mother against daughter. But if the Holy Spirit is speaking truth to your heart, the Spirit is leading you from a lesser peace to true and lasting peace. The cost will be high, so high that most of us shrink back and become lesser men and women. We let coworkers steal from the company, friends cheat on their spouses, brothers fall deeper into drug use. We fail to stand with those being bullied, with neighbors being denied human rights. We do all of this in the hope of keeping the peace and instead fall short of the deep peace Jesus wants for us, our families, our friends, and our places of work.

The real question is not why did Jesus teach that following him could be divisive, but why does our faith never disturb anyone? In what ways are we holding back? How should we be bolder

instead of remaining silent? The gift of speaking the truth in love is not the division we fear, but the deep peace for which we long. **Amen.**

*** HYMN**

"There's a Wideness in Gods Mercy"

Blue Hymnal #298

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5LN1ZvwWfs>

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.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thankful for the good gifts God gives us in Christ and in creation, let us present to God the fruit of our labor for God's work in the church and the world.

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**

Faithful God, bless the gifts we offer to you today. Use them to plant seeds of faith, hope, and love in the world, so that your goodness will grow among your people, and your name be honored for Christ's sake. **Amen.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

God in whom we live and move and have our being: As we gather in your presence today, we give you thanks for your faithfulness to your people across many generations and in so many situations. Thank you for the faithfulness we meet in the world around us, in friendships that endure, in communities that pitch in when someone is in trouble, in workers who go that extra mile, in countries who offer safety or sustenance when disaster strikes and strangers are in desperate need.

Faithful God, hear our prayer,

And renew our faithfulness.

Compassionate God, we are aware of many challenges in our own lives, in the lives of those we care about, and in the world around us. Show us how our care and concern can respond to the prayers of those we love: In faithful silence, we lay before you the concerns on our hearts this day: We pray for those who have been in the headlines lately, whose situations concern us deeply, whose lives cry out to you for help.....

After 20 seconds of silence:

Faithful God, hear our prayer,

And renew our faithfulness.

We pray for those who are suffering behind the scenes in our community: those who are ill or waiting on treatment; those who are bereaved; those struggling to make ends meet or find the right job; those who are lonely, those who are moving this summer & will need new friends. ...

After 20 seconds of silence:

Faithful God, hear our prayer,

And renew our faithfulness.

We pray for those looking forward to a new beginning this coming Fall: those starting at a new school or in a new College or University program; those beginning new work or new activities; those settling into a new home and neighborhood; those welcoming new members into the family through birth, adoption, or marriage

After 20 seconds of silence:

Faithful God, hear our prayer,

And renew our faithfulness.

We pray for our congregation and for a time of reorganizing after being distanced from each other: Gather us into new and renewed friendships. Show us how to reach out with your love and generosity. Equip us to meet every challenge we face with faithfulness and commitment. For we dare to pray as Christ taught us as his followers:

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.**

CHORAL AMEN

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9NnPRG9RZY>

* **CLOSING HYMN** **"O Jesus, I Have Promised"** **Blue Hymnal #388**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC-2Ss9tg7I>

* **BENEDICTION**

New life beckons, peace holds out its arms! Begin your week knowing that you are walking straight into the embrace of God. **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 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

<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

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

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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