



## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Our Fathers, blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on your law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. Lord, forgive us when we walk contrary to your holy word. Because of your great love for us, we repent. Thank you! Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Hear the Good News, because God is love, beloved, in Christ Jesus we are forgiven. Amen!

## **\* GLORIA PATRI**

**Blue Hymnal # 579**

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

## **\* SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: The peace of Christ 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**

**God of our Fathers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-lkCn5TZN4>

## **Hear the Word of God**

## **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

God of our Fathers, it is by the same Holy Spirit that we hear you today. Allow us to hear, love, and obey as your Word makes its impression upon us today. Amen.

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING I**

**John 4:1-26**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%204%3A1-26&version=NIV>

## **PROVERBS READING I**

**Proverbs 4:1-13**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+4%3A1-13&version=NIV>

## **CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Let Us Break Bread Together"**

**Choir**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egk-pX\\_1nHg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egk-pX_1nHg)

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING II**

**John 4:27-54**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+4%3A27-54&version=NIV>

## PROVERBS READING II

Proverbs 4:14-27

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+4%3A14-27&version=NIV>

Leader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON**      *"Elohey Avoteynu, God Of Our Fathers"*      **Dr. Carlos Baladez**  
**Exodus 3:15**

God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' "This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation." (NIV)

Growing up, as a child I would accompany my parents to church every Sunday where we would be greeted by the pastor. The Sunday school superintendent would lead the morning worship and after the general greeting and welcome we would sing a couple of choruses and then be dismissed to attend our age-appropriate Sunday school classes. As a child, my Sunday school teacher would use a flannel board and post pictures of Jesus and other biblical characters as she recounted the biblical lesson of the day. Different biblical characters would be held up as heroes and we would be encouraged to be like them. Different biblical characters like Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and King David were presented to us.

Because they were held up as heroes of the faith, I grew to believe they were perfect and we were to emulate their relationships with God. I was to appropriate their relationship with God as my own. After all, these were our forefathers and their God was our God.

When I became a young adult, I learned about their lives I became disillusioned with their behavior. They no longer appeared to be the heroes of the faith I was led to believe they were. Noah became drunk after surviving the flood waters. When his youngest son, Ham, went into his father's tent and saw his father's nakedness, Noah cursed Ham's son.

Abraham asked his wife Sarah to lie on his behalf. He instructed her to withhold the whole truth from people of privilege and power when meeting them. He did this out of fear for his life.

Jacob tricked his older brother out of his birthright, deceived his father, and conspired with his mom to steal his older brother's blessing.

Moses murdered an Egyptian and then fled as a wanted fugitive because Pharaoh sought to kill him.

And then there is King David. A man after God's own heart. Conqueror of the Philistines and other nations. Being king and a renowned warrior, he stayed behind when his soldiers went off to war. While at home, he saw from his rooftop a beautiful woman bathing. He summoned her to his palace, slept with her, and then sent her away. When he found out she was pregnant with his child, he arranged for her husband to return home from the war. David fed him and got him drunk hoping he would go home to his wife and sleep with her. David did this in hope of passing his seed as that of the woman's husband. Instead of going home, he slept away from his home. David did not take into account his soldier's moral character. Since his first plan did not succeed, he devised a deadly plan and sent the soldier back to war. But not before giving the soldier a letter which he was to give to the commander in charge of the war. The soldier did not know David had given him a letter that would seal his fate. The letter instructed the commander to place the soldier in the fiercest of battle, retreat, leaving the soldier alone where the enemy would kill him.

All this abhorrent behavior was enough to crush my admiration of my heroes. And to think that as a child I was asked if I wanted to be like them and I excitedly said "yes!"

As I matured in the Lord, these same heroes who inspired me and then let me down became a source of comfort. I realized I was more like them than I cared to admit. I too was a man made of dust, a sinner, in need of a savior. I was in need of salvation from a merciful and compassionate God.

I found forgiveness, pardon, acceptance, and a renewed life from the same God of my fathers. I came to know this wonderful, compassionate, merciful, gracious, and loving God was the God of misfits and sinners. He was the God of ragamuffins. If you haven't already, I invite you to come to this God of ragamuffins and rest. Even if you've come before, come again to be embraced by him in his love, again and again, and again.

Jesus Christ put it this way. "Abide in me and I will abide in you." Come home and roost in him daily and forever more.

You see, ragamuffins need to be fed, consoled, comforted, and loved unconditionally on a daily basis. God's unconditional love is our only hope of redemption, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Come home to God, who is our first and true home.

The God of our Fathers found them, called them, and they said, "YES!" to him. Will you say, "YES!" to the God of our Fathers, too? I believe you have already. Amen.

To God be the glory now and forever. Hallelujah!



**\*COMMUNION**

**Invitation to the Table**

**\*Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*The Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**The Lord's Prayer**

**All:** 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

**CHORAL AMEN**

**Choir**

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

**Words of Institution**

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

**Sharing of the Elements**

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen (Take the bread and eat)

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen (Drink the cup)

**Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\* CLOSING HYMN**

**"I Come With Joy"**

**Blue Bk #507**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rVGjrMgiH5U>

**\* BENEDICTION**

The God of our Fathers, bless you and keep you and make his face shine towards you.  
Take his good news of salvation and share it with those in need. Amen.

**The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service**

**Next Sunday, Elder, Fred Archer will be leading worship. Welcome Fred!**

**Weekly Calendar**

TBD  
TBD  
Sunday  
Sunday

TBD  
TBD  
10:00 AM  
11:00 AM

Food Pantry  
Clothes Closet  
Sunday School  
Worship Service

Holy Communion is observed the First Sunday of each month.

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**Crestholme Presbyterian Church Officers**  
Session

Class of 2022  
Irene Thomas

Class of 2023  
Katie Lamb

Class of 2024  
Netsy Williamson

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

Trustees

Class of 2022  
Fred Archer

Class of 2023  
Tommy Rudwick

Class of 2024  
Penny Christoff

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**Crestholme Presbyterian Church Staff**

Stated Supply Minister  
Pulpit Supply Preachers

Vacant  
Dr. Carlos Baladez  
Elder, Fred Archer

Choir Director  
Organist

Robin Bernhard  
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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