

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022**

At the *, please stand, if you are able

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

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE: "Trust In Him" **Schubert**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" **Choir**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5x0MclH3I0>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, you his servants; praise the name of the LORD. Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and forevermore.

All: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

LEADER: The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?

All: He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of his people.

Leader: He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children.

All: Praise the LORD. (Ps. 113, NIV)

OPENING PRAYER

Abba, Father, because by grace we have received your Word and believed in his name, you have given us the right to become your children—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of you. We gather in this holy space and time to honor you, praise your name, and worship you for who you are. You are worthy! Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" **Blue Bk #263**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fff2xQETe1c>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Abba Father, we confess to you and before each other that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We confess that we have failed to do your will. Forgive us. We repent of our sins. We ask you to make us whole through your Word and by your Holy Spirit. Raise us to be the new creatures that you have made us to be in Jesus Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Beloved, hear the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah!

*** 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).

AFFIRMATION: You are loved and you are valued!

AFFIRMATION INTERNALIZED: I am loved and I am valued!

CHILDREN'S TIME

God our Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ukJZVXe2aY>

Our Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpYFJgi5VuI>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Heavenly Father, the words that your Word incarnate Jesus Christ spoke, they are spirit and are spiritually discerned. Therefore, allow your Holy Spirit to awaken our spirits as your children to hear, listen, and obey in love. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING I

John 5:1-23

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A1-23&version=NIV>

PROVERBS READING I

Proverbs 5:1-14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+5%3A1-14&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6Ks49apfIE>

NEW TESTAMENT READING II

John 5:24-47

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+5%3A24-47++++++++&version=NIV>

PROVERBS READING II

Proverbs 5:15-23

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+5%3A15-23++++++++&version=NIV>

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

**“Avi, Father”
2 Corinthians 6:18**

Dr. Carlos Baladez

And, “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” (NIV)

Keeping in mind our foundational verse for this series of messages, Daniel 11:32b in the KJV reads, “but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits,” the focus of God’s name for today is Avi, which is Father.

Here are some quotes regarding earthly fathers. Some of these quotes may or may not remind up of your earthly father, depending on your own personal experience. Nevertheless, these quotes may remind you of your earthly father or they may be a wish of how you would like them to be or would have liked them to be.

- “It is a wise father that knows his own child.” —William Shakespeare
- “One father is more than a hundred schoolmasters.” —George Herbert
- “A father doesn’t tell you that he loves you. He shows you.” —Dimitri the Stoneheart
- “Fathers just have a way of putting everything together.” —Erika Cosby
- “Behind every great daughter is a truly amazing father.” —Unknown
- “To her, the name of father was another name for love.” —Fanny Fern
- “No music is so pleasant to my ears as that word—father.” —Lydia Maria Child
- “A father carries pictures where his money used to be.” —Steve Martin
- “When my father didn’t have my hand, he had my back.” —Linda Poindexter
- “A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow.” —Unknown

- “The greatest mark of a father is how he treats his children when no one is looking.” —Dan Pearce

The image of “father,” may be tarnished or distorted if your father did not have the maturity level or a father who modeled for him what a father was and how a father acted. Unfortunately, these behaviors can become generational if a father in the line of secession does not break the pattern. But, happy are those children who do have a loving father who knew before having offspring that children are to be loved for the entire life of father and child. Sin, ignorance, arrogance, and blind spots, all can cause a lack of awareness where the father is not consciously aware of his behavior towards his children or simply has unresolved “daddy issues,” of his own. He may or may not be aware that he is teaching his sons what kind of father to be or his daughters what kind of man to marry and have children of their own.

Are we to despair because our earthly fathers are not aware? Or are not transforming? Or do we see no hope for them or for us? Most certainly not. Because God comes into the picture to save this part of our lives too. He comes to restore the distorted image of father and one which we project upon him. He understands. He does not become upset or exasperated with you. No, instead he begins to show you the true picture of what a father is. Jesus points to our Heavenly Father throughout the gospels. Jesus, the sinless one, the one who does not lie, distort, or deceive assures us that God, our heavenly Father, Loves Us! He does not only love us, he loves us very much. He would rather die than live without us. Thankfully, he did just that in Jesus Christ, yet because he had no sin, death nor the grave could hold him. Jesus was raised to life to live forevermore, once again showing us that the love of God our Father is stronger than sin, death, and the grave.

Now, let’s turn to today’s passage where our central verse is found in the Word of God, and see a picture of our Heavenly Father.

It starts in verse 14 with some Fatherly advice:

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.” This is reminding us that we have been washed clean with the blood of Jesus. We no longer belong to the forces of darkness. We are children of light, therefore join forces with other children of God while inviting

unbelievers to believe. Give them a reason to believe. Let Christ shine through your words, behavior, and choices.

Father then proceeds to ask some questions to consider and ponder the response:

For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?

Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Side note: Belial was used to personify wickedness and worthlessness* which later became personified as the devil in Christian texts of the New Testament. **

Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?

Now comes the rationale for the above questions. "For we are the temple of the living God." God dwells in us through his Holy Spirit. God is love, light, a consuming fire, and God is Spirit. This is Him who lives in us now!

Now, let's notice some of our Heavenly Father's promises which reflect his heart and his character:

Father continues with promises showing his desire for and towards us. Abba, Father states:

"I will live with them
and ("**will**" too is implied here) **walk** among them,
and **I will be** their God,
and they **will be my people.**"

Abba calls out to us:

"Come out from them
and **be separate,**
says the Lord.
Touch no unclean thing,
and **I will receive you.**"

Father God, we intercede for our local, state, federal government and the governments of the world.

Abba, hear our prayers.

Father God, we intercede for our first responders.

Abba, hear our prayers.

Father God, we intercede for our educators.

Abba, hear our prayers.

Father God, we intercede for the elderly and the young.

Abba, hear our prayers.

Father God, we intercede for the sick and dying.

Abba, hear our prayers.

Father God, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray.

Abba, hear our prayers.

***HYMN FOR OUR NATION "Heal Our Land" Red Hymnal #800**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father which 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=ci0Jb0Aerys>

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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!

Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice.

*** DOXOLOGY**

Blue Hymnal # 592

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Abba, we are able to give because your first gave to us in abundance. We bring to you ourselves and our offerings to honor you and as a display of our love for you. Take, break, bless for your kingdom's sake. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak" Blue Hymnal #426

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

*** BENEDICTION**

In the grace of the Son, and the love of the Father, and in the communion of the Holy Ghost, you are blessed. Now go and share the Good News of the grace found in Jesus Christ with those you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service

Next Sunday, Dr. Baladez will continue our sermon 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

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

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.

Telephone: 210-333-1301

FAX: 210-333-1301

Email: crestholmepc@satx.rr.com Web Site: www.crestholmepc.com

Email: foodpantry@crestholmepc.org