

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
23rd Sunday after Pentecost
November 13, 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

"Trumpet Voluntary"

J Travers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um8uHPC0TyM>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Choir

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sl9bw7ol_EA

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather in the beautiful space

All: To worship an amazing God.

Leader: Surrounded by art and craft made by hands like ours

All: To give praise to the source of all our gifts

Leader: We are blessed to have this space to call our church home.

All: We are more blessed to be disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: Let us worship in this place, giving praise to God

All: We will worship in joy and in truth. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

God of creation and compassion, You hear the cries of your people. You know our fear and despair. In your great love, you assure us that you walk with us in Christ Jesus. In this time of worship, we long to see your new heaven and new earth break through, making your justice known and life fruitful for all your children. We praise you for the hope you offer us in Christ Jesus. We trust that you are at work in your church and in creation so all that is broken will be made new. Through our prayers and our praise, strengthen our trust in your promised future, O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life. Amen

*** OPENING HYMN "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Blue Hymnal #464**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhOha4AcoMY>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves, and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors, and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. In your great mercy forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that

we may choose your will and obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear the good news! While the world judges in order to condemn, God judges with justice, equity and mercy. All things have been made new in Christ and our sin is forgiven. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start.

*** 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.

Hear the word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, you speak words of challenge and words of comfort through the Scriptures. Send your Spirit to open our understanding to the word we need to hear this day, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 65:17-25

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+65%3A17-25&version=NIV>

SECOND READING

Psalms 98

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+98&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Bringing In The Sheaves"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u67Lb1RyXTU>

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Thessalonians+3%3A6-13&version=NIV>

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:5-19

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+21%3A5-19&version=NIV>

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TIME

God's Story: Re-Creation

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

SERMON

Apocalypse!

Fred Archer

Written by Marshall A. Jolly

In just a couple of weeks, we will send the Gospel of Luke to the barn and saddle up the Gospel of Matthew, as we inaugurate Advent and turn the liturgical calendar from Year C to Year A. When we do, there will surely be more than a few preachers who will breathe a weary sigh of relief—more than a little ready for something other than the shrill, apocalyptic imagery we have been hearing for weeks.

Spoiler alert: Advent arrives with its own apocalyptic punch!

The text before us today features Luke narrating Jesus' description of the end of days, complete with earthquakes, famines, wars, plagues, and persecution of the faithful. This is the kind of apocalyptic language that made the *Left Behind* series famous in some Christian communities—reminding us, once again, that there is a lot of money to be made by selling fear to Christians.

But did you catch where Jesus is standing as he's describing what is to come? He's in the Temple! And not only that, Luke tells us that the disciples were marveling at the beauty of the Temple—its enormous stone walls and fine metal fixtures and wealthy worshippers who came to make their gifts.

The New Testament may remember Herod as a paranoid despot, but historians and archaeologists remember him as a builder—and the Temple was the jewel in Herod's architectural crown.

People couldn't help but notice the Temple and its fineries. The disciples noticed; everyone noticed! And Jesus noticed them noticing. So, he says, "Take a good long look at these enormous, beautiful stones. Notice the masonry and the artistry. At the end of days, not one of these stones will be left upon the other; all will be thrown down."

We can almost hear the disciples whispering to one another. "How can this be? This place is indestructible! It's a fortress! It'll last thousands of years!" And yet, although the disciples didn't know it at the time, Luke knew just how true Jesus' words were. By the year 70, all that would be left of Herod's Temple was a pile of rubble.

The same fate would befall the Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire after it, and the British Empire after it. Buildings that shaped humankind's existence, buildings that were made to last far longer than any single generation, all met the same fate. Even the temple that Jesus was standing in and speaking of—the one that nearly everyone in the ancient world marveled after—was the second temple constructed on that site. The Babylonians destroyed the first one five hundred years earlier.

Wars, insurrections, earthquakes, famines, plagues, the destruction of the very places that enrich our lives, all these things, Jesus says, will come to pass in the last days. And just when we think it can't possibly get any worse than that, Jesus gets personal: You will be arrested; you will be persecuted; you will be thrown into prison and hauled before the court.

Then notice what he says next: Just when everything is shrouded in darkness; when lies have taken the place of truth; when war seems inevitable and eternal; when the earth trembles beneath you—then you will have the opportunity to testify!

Now, if we're honest with ourselves, most of us hear that and think, "You've got to be kidding me!" After all, what can you or I say in the face of wars and earthquakes and famines? And more to the point, arrests and persecutions and court proceedings exist precisely to keep people from speaking and acting in ways that society deems objectionable.

But Jesus says, "I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict." He then goes on to say this: "Not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance, you will gain your souls."

When all hell is breaking loose in the world around us, we may want to pull the covers over our heads or lay low and hope nobody notices us. But Jesus calls us to do just the opposite: Speak up! Tell the truth! Proclaim Christ crucified and risen!

Amidst all the apocalyptic language we hear in Luke's Gospel, Jesus is teaching us something essential about what it means to be his followers. When things get hard; when people point their pitchforks at you; when people try to silence and malign and ridicule you, keep on speaking! Keep on telling the world about Jesus! Keep on telling the truth!

This is the essential vocation of the Church: to stand tall in the middle of the chaos and confusion of the world and keep hitting the same pitch so we can tune our ears: This is who we are. This is what we're about. Over and over again.

God is faithful even when everything around us is falling apart. Our job is to keep telling that truth—to keep living that truth—because when all is said and done, it's the only truth that matters. Amen.

*** HYMN "The Heavens Above Declare God's Praise" Blue Hymnal #166**

Respond in Love and Service

*** AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: What do you believe when you confess your faith in "God the Father Almighty"?

All: That God is a God of love, and that God's love is powerful beyond measure.

What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as "our Lord"?

All: That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, we give glory and honor to God.

Leader: What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

All: That apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served. The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself, the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ's service.

Leader: What do you affirm when you speak of "the life everlasting"?

All: That communion with Jesus Christ is eternal life itself. In him we were chosen before the foundation of the world. By him the eternal covenant with Israel was taken up, embodied, and fulfilled. To him we are joined by the Holy Spirit through faith, and adopted as children, the sons and daughters of God. Through him we are raised from death to new life. For him we shall live to all eternity.

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Each week we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom. Though we do not know exactly what this will look like, we offer our gifts to God for the work of the Kingdom here and now.

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**

Steadfast God, we enjoy your loving kindness day by day. We offer our gifts in gratitude for what we have received from your love. Bless our gifts and our lives so that your goodness will touch many lives in the name of Jesus Christ, our friend and saviour. 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

After the leader says "Lord, in your mercy" please respond with "**hear our prayer.**"

Kind Creator, in the face of a world that feels on the brink of chaos, we take this opportunity to speak our gratitude that you know us and call us by name. In you, we find comfort. In you, we find meaning. We cling to your promise that there is a day coming where there will be no more tears, where we will not labor in vain. We also recognize that, through the Holy Spirit, we are

called to work alongside you to bring about this new reality. And so, we pray for the world – not as it will be, but for what it is now.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for those with the power to make decisions that affect others. We pray for The President, our Senators and Representatives, surround them with wise people. We ask that you protect their compassion and love of justice, may it outweigh any other factor in their decision process. We also pray for the political divisions in America. Help us to balance in our hearts and minds loving those who are different from us and fighting for what we believe is right. May all our actions be motivated by your Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, who don't have enough power to heat their country as they head into the cold months. We pray for the people of Russia, who are not being told the truth. We pray for the people of Uganda, who are fighting an outbreak of the Ebola virus. We pray for the people of South Korea, who mourn those who died in the Halloween stampede in Seoul. We pray for peaceful transitions of power in Israel and Brazil and around the world.

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

God, we pray specifically for this community. We lift up [insert your church's specific prayer requests here]. As the days grow shorter, show us your light, God. Help us to see the life, love, beauty and kindness that we encounter on a daily basis. May we cling to the hope you offer, remembering and rehearsing the history of our faith, which has been passed down by God's grace from generation to generation. We entrust our prayers to you, remembering the saints that have come before us and the love of Jesus Christ that empowers us. It is in Jesus' name that we pray in the way we were taught;

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=976gBjKqEjY>

*** CLOSING HYMN "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" Blue Hymnal #466**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nx0rCabJ16c&t=66s>

*** BENEDICTION**

Julian of Norwich wrote, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Remember this hope – through Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit, God will make all things well. This is the foundation of faith. May we cling to this truth, allowing it to surprise us and inspire us along the way. Now, go and take it into the world.

**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

Tue & Thur	09:30-11:00 AM	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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