

**Welcome to
Crestholme Presbyterian Church
1st Sunday of Christmas
January 01, 2023
At the *, please stand, if you are able.
Large Print Hymnals and Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices, are available.**

Gather for Worship

PRELUDE

“In Bethlehem’s’ Low Stable”

Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4abDHN8xg2M>

“Shepherds Came Their Praises Bringing”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SsNc7Gryno>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP “Go Tell It On The Mountain”

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tf4kqceaq3o>

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

All: He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Savior.

LEADER: In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

All: Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

LEADER: Beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth, like the heights of Zaphon is Mount Zion, the city of the Great King. God is in her citadels; he has shown himself to be her fortress. (Is. 63:7-9; Ps. 147: 12-20, NIV)

All: Let us therefore praise our Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God of the Promise, we gather here in your name to give witness to your faithful love. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN**

“Joy To The World”

Blue Hymnal #40

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30OaM6b48k8>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the Ages, forgive us when we fail to rejoice, and instead, we complain. Forgive our blindness, heal our deafness to the cries of our fellowman, and forgive us for allowing sin to easily beset us. As we call out to your name, save us, and forgive us, and we shall be cleansed of all unrighteousness. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Beloved, because of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary and the Father's great love for us, and because of the communion we enjoy with the Holy Spirit, hear the Good News, in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven forever and ever. 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).

GOOD NEWS: **"You are loved and you are valued!"**

GOOD NEWS INTERNALIZED: **"I am loved, and I am valued!"**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Promises

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yY3EogFlkCY>

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, who fulfills his promises in Christ Jesus with a "Yes and Amen," allow your promised Holy Spirit to whisper your truth into the inner ear of our hearts as your Word is read today. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING I

John 17:1-12

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17%3A1-12&version=KJV>

PROVERBS READING I

Proverbs 17:1-14

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+17%3A1-14&version=KJV>

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Breath Of Heaven"

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWo3qlqyW1c>

NEW TESTAMENT READING II

John 17:13-26

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+17%3A13-26&version=KJV>

PROVERBS READING II

Proverbs 17:15-28

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+17%3A15-28&version=KJV>

SERMON

"Promises of God" 2 Cor. 1:20

Dr. Carlos Baladez

"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." (KJV)

An Epistle is a letter. The Second Epistle to the Corinthians is best understood in our parlance as the Second Letter to the Corinthians.

Paul writes once again to the believers in Corinth. They were mostly a Gentile congregation. These members were newbies to the new faith message being proclaimed by the Apostle Paul. The same Paul who held the clothing of those stoning the first martyr in Acts, Stephen. Paul is self-described as being circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

This was the same Paul who was confronted by the Risen Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. And after this encounter his self-description changes to; "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith."

This letter is written to the inhabitants of Corinth. This city was a metropolitan area with about 750K inhabitants. It was known as the Las Vegas of its day. To be called "like a Corinthian" was to be called sexually promiscuous. Very much akin to our phrase, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas." A city of lights covered in darkness.

It is to this group of people that Paul writes again. They had begun to question Paul's credentials and had started to wonder about his teaching. He assures them that he is a genuine Apostle sent out by God himself to proclaim the wonderful Gospel of Grace of Jesus Christ. They thought that Paul was wishy-washy and perhaps the message that he proclaimed was as well.

He assured them that he had been faithful to the call. When asked for letters of reference he let them know that they, the Corinthian believers, were his letters of reference. They had come to believe in God through the message proclaimed by Paul.

It is in this context that Paul pronounces our verse for today, "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."

Paul was not able to complete a follow-up visit as previously agreed, but this was not due to his volition. He was prevented by unplanned circumstances. And this does not in any way reflect on the faithfulness of God. God is not prevented from completing his promises by extenuating circumstances. After all, God completed his plan of salvation through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Christ, all the promises of God are a resounding, "YES!"

There is no wishy-washy activity going on with God's promises. They are solid for they are founded on the tried and true cornerstone of Jesus Christ.

You and I, today can be confident and trust that what God says is true and fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

This letter encourages believers then and now to embrace and follow the way of Jesus. His message transforms lives valuing generosity, humility, and weakness. We are weak but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves us. Paul encourages believers to embrace and follow the way of Jesus. His way transforms lives and values generosity, humility, and weakness.

God's promises in Christ Jesus are "yes and amen" and he invites us to surrender, trust, and rest through grace. All is completed in Jesus Christ. Surrender here does not mean giving up to a fatalistic world philosophy, "que sera, sera," but a release of our burdens, anxieties, worries, diseases, (that which makes us uneasy) and stress. A release of our desires for control and the lusting for the desired outcome.

If I may, it's like holding a live fish in your cupped hands and you releasing that fish into a moving stream. You see the fish swim away quickly. This is the picture I share with you this morning. Take that fish, which represents your sickness, your worry, your disease, your desire for control, or the lusting for the desired outcome and release it into the fresh clear running waters of the Holy Spirit which are the promises of God in Christ Jesus. As this is done, we are ushered into trust. A trust which is the same trust that Jesus showed us in the Garden of Gethsemane when he cried, "Father, not my will but yours be done." Then the Good Lord will usher us into his Rest. We will come to know and experience that God has it all under control. We can surrender, release our very selves to him, trust him and rest in him. All this is not accomplished by self-effort, self-will, or self-determination but it is a gift of God. It is God who places in us the desire to Surrender. It is God who places in us Trust. And it is God who places Rest within us and we come to know and experience by tasting for ourselves that God is good.

Call out to God today and invite him to do within you what he has already accomplished in Jesus Christ on our behalf. For in him, ALL the promises of God find their fulfillment and we come to know for ourselves that indeed, ALL the promises of God are, "yes and amen" in him, the glorious and resounding amen of God. Hallelujah.

To God be all the glory now and forevermore. Amen.

*** HYMN**

"What Child is This"

Blue Hymnal #53

Respond in Love and Service

*** This we believe**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen! (Ps. 23, NIV)

PRAYERS AND HYMN OF INTERCESSION

Faithful God of the Promise, hear our prayers.

We pray for the needs of our world.

Faithful God of the Promise, hear our prayers.

We intercede for our first responders, our educators, and our country's leaders.

Faithful God of the Promise, hear our prayers.

We pray for the sick, the lonely, the forsaken, and the abandoned.

Faithful God of the Promise, hear our prayers.

We pray for the marginalized, the migrant, and the foreigners.

Faithful God of the Promise, hear our prayers.

We pray for your will to be done on earth, in us, in Crestholme, and in PC(USA) as it is in heaven.

Faithful God of the Promise, hear our prayers.

For hearing us, for listening to us, and for interceding for us we thank thee.

Faithful God of the Promise, hear our prayers. Amen.

***HYMN FOR OUR NATION**

"Heal Our Land"

Red Hymnal #800

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

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY

Blue Hymnal # 592

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

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Faithful God, we are because you are. We give because you first gave to us. Take these gifts and bless them, multiply them, and use them for your glorious kingdom, amen.

*COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

*Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: 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=976gBjKgEjY>

Words of Institution

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when 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 also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Sharing of the Elements

"The Body of Christ broken for you."

Please take the bread.

"The Blood of Christ shed for you."

Please take the fruit of the vine.

Prayer after Communion

Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits (Ps. 103:1-2, NIV)

*** CLOSING HYMN**

"I Come With Joy"

Blue #507

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

*** BENEDICTION**

People of God, the Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. Therefore, be blessed and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and go share the Good News with those you meet this week. Amen.

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service

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

Weekly Calendar

Tue & Thur 09:30-11:30 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

Class of 2023 Class of 2024 Class of 2025
Katie Lamb Netsy Williamson Dave Dobbs
Clerk of the Session: Dick Crist
Church Treasurer: Fred Archer

Trustees

Class of 2023 Class of 2024 Class of 2025
Tommy Rudwick Penny Christoff Jack Cobb

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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