



**Welcome to  
Crestholme Presbyterian Church  
4th Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 2022**

**At the \*, please stand, if you are able.  
Large Print Hymnals and Bibles, and Hearing Assist Devices, are available**

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**Gather for Worship**

**PRELUDE**

**"Away In A Manger"**

**D. Lasky**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6O7wOonDWqY>

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please come and celebrate with us the Crestholme Christmas Worship Service at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 25, 2022. Come and welcome our newborn Savior.

**THE BELLS**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QU3-E5mWNq>

**LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

**Stephanie Perales:** Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

**ALL: We light this candle in peace. (Light candles 1-4)**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Stephanie Perales**

Luke 2:8-15

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of

David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

### **Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle**

**Stephanie Perales**

Stephanie: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. We light the fourth Advent candle as a hint of God's promised light in the darkness.

**All: May the Light sent from God shine in the darkness and offer us God's peace on our way!**

Stephanie: We light the fourth candle as a sign of God's peace.

**All: May all the promises of Advent be born in Bethlehem, and in us. With a prophet's promise and a living hope, let us worship God.**

### **\* ADVENT CAROL "Light the Advent Candle" Choir and Congregation**

"Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;  
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas Day.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.  
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light."

### **OPENING PRAYER**

God of our hope, as we remember this Advent season and what it means, we thank you for the lengths you went to find us, secure us, and make peace with us while we were yet your enemies. For such grace, love, hope, and forgiveness we gather today to say, "Thank you!" Amen.

### **\* OPENING HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Blue Hymnal #44**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vc4CexxlX8>

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy child of God, you came to show us the way and yet we fail you time and time again. We proceed in our wicked ways in spite of your example. We confess to you our weakness to resist temptation yet we believe your Word. You are a faithful advocate on our behalf before the Father who is faithful and just to forgive us of all our sins. We repent out of love for you and believe you are merciful to forgive. Amen.

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

Anyone who is in Christ has been made a new creation! The old life has gone, a new life has begun! Friends, trust the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new!

### **\* 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.

GOOD NEWS: **"YOU ARE LOVED AND YOU ARE VALUED!"**

GOOD NEWS INTERNALIZED: **"I AM LOVED AND I AM VALUED!"**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

HOPE

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_t5xitQjIc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_t5xitQjIc)

## **Hear the Word of God**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

God our peace, grant us the illumination of your Holy Spirit to hear with our hearts words of life as they are read from your Holy Word today. Amen.

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING I**

**John 15:1-17**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2015%3A1-17&version=NIV>

### **PROVERBS READING I**

**Proverbs 15:1-16**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+15%3A1-16+&version=NIV>

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

**"Once Upon A Stary Night"**

**Choir**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVDn4a6UQuI>

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING II**

**John 15:18-27**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15%3A18-27&version=NIV>

### **PROVERBS READING II**

**Proverbs 15:17-33**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+15%3A17-33&version=NIV>

### **SERMON**

**"Yahweh Shalom, The Lord is Peace"**

**Dr. Carlos Baladez**

**Judges 6:24**

"So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD Is Peace. To this day it stands in Ophrah of the Abiezrites." (NIV)

This is the next to the last name of God that we will study this year. Please keep in mind our foundational text for this year, Daniel 11:32b, "but those who know their God will be strong and will do exploits."

The Name of God for this week is, "The Lord is Peace." The writer of Holy Writ places these words in the mouth of Gideon. But before we delve into this precious name of God we need to set up some background and a foundation leading up to this name.

Recall the line of salvific history. The Lord God delivered his people out from under the strong hand of Pharaoh of Egypt. Not an arrow was shot, nor a spear thrown in this deliverance. The Lord God Almighty took on the armies of Pharaoh himself. After ten attacks, Pharaoh and the Egyptians were brought to their knees and the Israelites were set free to go worship their God and offer him sacrifice. This was a way of recognizing the God who had delivered them proving himself as the one true God.

The Lord equipped Moses to lead his people through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. Moses and Aaron his brother, the High Priest, died in the desert and the Lord raised Joshua to usher the Israelites into the Promised Land.

"After the death of Joshua," is where today's narrative begins. Scripture tells us in the second chapter of Joshua, "Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Heres in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel." (NIV)

What happened as a result of another generation growing up who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel? The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals. They forsook the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the people around them. They aroused the LORD's anger (WHY?) because they forsook him and served two fertility gods, Baal and Ashtoreth. Hence, a vicious cycle began. They forsook God, thus, they were then forsaken by the LORD, they remembered God and cried to the LORD, then, they were remembered and delivered. (NIV)

These cycles or patterns occur at least five times from Judges Chapter 1 to today's passage. It was in one of these upward cycles that we encounter Gideon in the Book of Judges.

Notice this encounter – When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not

worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me." The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. (NIV)

When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior." "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian." Do these questions sound familiar? Have you ever heard a believer express the same things? I am sure we all have at one time or another. Or have you ever complained to God in the same manner? (NIV)

The passage continues: The Lord turned to him (Gideon) and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?" "Pardon me, my lord," Gideon replied, "but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." (NIV) Do you hear echoes of Moses here?

The narration continues, The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive." Gideon replied, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, give me a sign that it is really you talking to me. Please do not go away until I come back and bring my offering and set it before you." And the Lord said, "I will wait until you return." Gideon went inside, prepared a young goat, and from an ephah of flour (which is approximately 42 pounds of flour) he made bread without yeast. Putting the meat in a basket and its broth in a pot, he brought them out and offered them to him under the oak. The angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened bread, place them on this rock, and pour out the broth." And Gideon did so. Then the angel of the Lord touched the meat and the unleavened bread with the tip of the staff that was in his hand. Fire flared from the rock, consuming the meat and the bread. And the angel of the Lord disappeared. When Gideon realized that it was the angel of the Lord, he exclaimed, "Alas, Sovereign Lord! I have seen the angel of the Lord face to face!" But the Lord said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die." So Gideon built an altar to the Lord there and called it The Lord Is Peace. (NIV)

Gideon was afraid he was going to die when he saw the Lord. Instead, he was assured that he would not die and experienced the Peace of God. God is peace.

Moving forward to today. God is our Peace in Christ Jesus. It is in Jesus that we live and move and have our being. God is not only our peace but also our hope. Remember, when Jesus cries out from the cross, "It is finished!"? In Spanish, this phrase reads, "Consumado es," which literally means "it is consumed." Gideon's sacrifice and the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, were both consumed. In our case, the Lamb of God is a sign that in Christ, we have peace with the Lord our God forever.

When is it that experience this peace of God from our enemies? When we believe and experience the love of God for ourselves. This love and the Lord as our Peace is expressed and shared when we love our spouses, when we do not provoke our children to anger or when we do not forsake assembling with other saints to worship God our Creator. Other enemies that flee when we experience God as our peace are depression, anxiety, hate, envy, distress, and the like.

And when we do not have God as our peace, we can experience emptiness, anger, and strife no matter how much money, fame, or fortune we acquire. We are miserable, fearful, and subjugated just like the Israelites in the times of the Judges.

Like the Israelites of old, the moment we cry out to God, he will remind us of the deliverer he has already sent. The name of our deliverer is, JESUS! His name is higher than any other and at his name, every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!

What to do now? We remember. We remember and we do not forget all the benefits that the Good Lord has done for us. We remember and hold dear to our hearts and recall with our minds, and express with our mouths what God has done on our behalf as individuals, as families, as a worshiping community, as the sheep of his pasture, as his children, and as his very own people. Let us recall that in Christ Jesus we have seen the Lord and instead of dying, we now live forever. Glory to God. Hallelujah!

To God be all the glory, honor, and praise forevermore. Amen.

\* **HYMN**                                    **"Born In The Night, Mary's Child"**                                    **Blue Hymnal #30**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwiZJqiB4KA>

### **Respond in Love and Service**

#### **OUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

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.**

#### **\* PRAYERS AND HYMN OF INTERCESSION**

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace, we pray for our world.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace, we pray for our first responders.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace, we pray for our military and their families.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace, we pray for the Church Universal.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace, we pray for our earth.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace, we pray for our enemies.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace, we pray for our educators.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy.**

Lord of Peace we pray for each other and our family members.

**Lord of Peace, hear our prayers and answer them in your loving mercy. Thank you. Amen.**

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

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTm\\_rA54EGw](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"

**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=Uyg6-htOtHU>

**\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of Peace, it is you who allows and gifts us with the strength, abilities, and intelligence to gain a living. We bring to you and share with you the fruit of our labors. Take. Break. Bless. Multiply for your kingdom's sake. Amen.

**\* CLOSING HYMN "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Blue Hymnal # 31**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqooC4ZG75Y>

**\* BENEDICTION**

Crestholme, Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. Therefore, go in the Peace, Love, and Grace of God sharing the Good News with those you meet. Amen.

**The End This Worship Service — The Beginning of Service to Others**

Welcome to worship with us this morning! We're glad you're here! If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become part of our compassionate church family... ask Carlos or Fred, or an Elder about meaningful participation and membership!

Next week, Dr. Carlos Baladez, will be leading worship and will conclude this year's sermon series, "Knowing God by Name." Please come and join us!



## 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.

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## 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

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## 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

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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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