

Lord, as we light this Advent candle, we pray for your presence to fill our hearts and minds. We long for your coming, Jesus. As we wait, help us to be ever patient, hopeful, and expectant. **Amen.!**

*** ADVENT CAROL "Light the Advent Candle"**

Light the advent candle Three, think of heav'nly harmony,
angels singing, "peace on earth," at the Holy Savior's birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night.
Candle, candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

OPENING PRAYER

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Our opening hymn is a French carol thought to have originated during the eighteenth century. It is known its first appearance in English was in 1862.

*** OPENING HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" Blue Hymnal #23**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pR0-oCspp4E>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious Judge, we look around us and we are not proud of what we see. People criticize each other and listen only to those who agree with them. We grumble and think the past holds the solutions, forgetting its inequities and iniquities. We are impatient for things to improve but we do not want to change our ways. Forgive us for sharing in the unhappy mood of our times, and renew in us the joy and gratitude we once knew for your gifts to us in Christ Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear these words of comfort from the prophet Isaiah: "Surely God is our salvation; We will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is our strength and our might; God has become our salvation." Friends, God has become our salvation, indeed! Open yourselves to the joy to be found in our forgiveness; never more are we to be held captive by that which seeks to tear us from God. Hear the Good News of the Gospel: we are forgiven. **Alleluia! Amen!**

Written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing - www.stephenmfearing.com

*** GLORIA PATRI**

Blue Hymnal #579

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

*** SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST (From your seats, please)**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Leader: 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."

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

Go Tell It is an African-American tune arranged by John Wesley Work III and appears in his collection American Negro Songs and Spirituals (1940).

* **HYMN** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" **Blue Hymnal #29**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39N_mqPT4hA

Respond in Love and Service

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Let us declare our faith in God.

All: We believe that the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth and everything in them, who still upholds and rules them by his eternal counsel and providence, is our God and Father because of Christ his Son. We trust him so much that we do not doubt he will provide whatever we need for body and soul, and he will turn to our good whatever adversity we face in this sad world. He is able to do this because he is almighty God; he desires to do this because he is a faithful Father. Nothing will separate us from his love. Amen

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

This Sunday we celebrate the Advent of Joy, rising in us through in Jesus Christ. Think of your gifts as seeds of that joy which we can plant in the world God loves for Christ's sake.

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**

God, our Judge and our Joy, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that joy will blossom for people depleted by challenges, and places overwhelmed by scarce resources. Be their justice and their joy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyzbpBR1KOI>

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Savior's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We pray for the church:

For the Christian family who will be celebrating this festival in so many different ways, and for those who dare not celebrate openly.

For Christians in countries where there is persecution.

For Christians in our own country, with whom we will share our celebrations

For our Church family.

Grant that all who come into our church this Christmas time may be enabled to renew their relationship with you. Help us all to be glad of your presence, and to rejoice at the coming of Jesus.

May your blessing be upon all who worship with us, give us grace to live as faithful members of your family, that we may learn each day afresh to love and serve you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Peace:

Give peace to the world

Give peace to the victims of war, the refugees, the widowed and the orphans.

Give peace to family and friends; to those who have quarreled and need to be reconciled.

Give peace in our own divided hearts.

We know that without justice there can be no peace. Let peace come when all people are respected, regardless of race and religion. Let peace come when trading weapons of mass destruction is a crime. Let peace come when the earth's resources are used wisely for the common good. Let peace come when money is used to serve and not enslave the world. Let peace come through the transformation of our lives that we may do justice, love and kindness and walk humbly with our God.

Your Son came as the Prince of Peace and brought a message of Peace for all people. Help us to be Peacemakers in our own homes, at our work or wherever we meet people, so that the peace and goodwill of Christmas can find a place in the hearts of all people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for homeless people and for refugees who have no country to call their own.

Let your blessing be with those who work to help the homeless this Christmas, and give to all of us the determination to help where we can.

We pray for people who are lonely, those who are lonely because they have lost a partner, those who are lonely because no-one seems to care, those who are lonely because of handicap or illness. Let your presence be with those who are alone at this season of friendship and may we take your friendship to those whom we know will be alone this Christmas.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for friends and family who are ill at this time, and remember them in the quietness of our hearts. We bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power is still the same today. Bless all that is being done for their recovery and answer our prayers as you see best

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We

remember friends and family who have died and light a candle to symbolize the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. We remember today

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You turn our darkness into light; in your light shall we see light

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Join me now as we together pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

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 those 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 and ever.

Amen.

CHORAL AMEN

Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=976gBjKgEjY>

This hymn is the first of the "carol-like hymns from the pens of American poets, stressing the social message of Christmas—'peace on earth, good will'"

*** CLOSING HYMN**

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

Blue Hymnal #38

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3-jmLJ41cM>

*** BENEDICTION**

Know that the ever-present mystery we name God is in your past forgiving you, in your present loving you, and in your future meeting you.

And may the blessing of the Source of life, love and hope, the Word of life, compassion and wisdom and Breath of life, grace and truth surround, sustain and surprise you, this day and all your days. **Amen**

The End of Today's Worship Service – The Beginning of Service

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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 Elder Fred Archer will fill in for Dr. Baladez as we continue the series of "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/Katie Lamb

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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