

has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen. (From the PCUSA Book of Common Worship Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1993; p. 88)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS (M)

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Beloved, in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah! Amen!

*** GLORIA PATRI Blue Hymnal #579 (M)**

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

*** SHARE THE PEACE OF CHRIST (M)**

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!" (M)

GOOD NEWS INTERNALIZED: I am loved and I am valued!

CHILDREN'S TIME (L)

Super Wonderful God

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

Hear the Word of God

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (L)

God of ALL Power, by your grace and mercy we have been saved in your love. Allow the Holy Spirit who now lives in us speak to our hearts that we may hear your word as it is read this morning and lovingly obey you. In the all powerful name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING I John 18:1-20 (L)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+18%3A1-20&version=NIV>

PROVERBS READING I Proverbs 18:1-12 (L)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+18%3A1-12++&version=NIV>

CHORAL ANTHEM "Leaning On The Everlasting Arms" Choir (L)

NEW TESTAMENT READING II

John 18:21-40 (L)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+18%3A21-40&version=NIV>

PROVERBS READING II

Proverbs 18:13-24 (L)

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+18%3A13-24&version=NIV>

SERMON

**"The Power of God"
1 Cor. 1:18**

Dr. Carlos Baladez

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.—1 Cor 1:19-25

How is the power and wisdom of God manifested?

Let's take a look at the foolishness of God, which by the way, is wiser than any human wisdom. Take time to think of the wisest leaders, religious or secular, the world's greatest philosophers, current or in times past, and keep them in mind. All this human wisdom and mental prowess collectively fall woefully short and cannot approach or even approximate the foolishness of God.

Take a moment with me as we spend the next few minutes examining the foolishness and the weakness of God. And let's see if, in the end, you do not agree with the writer of this letter and his observations.

God has a way of turning this world's values on its head.

In God's foolishness, up, is down and down, is up for the humble shall be exalted while the proud are brought low.

If you want to receive, then give. Think of a seed in your hand. You take this seed, plant it in the soil beneath the surface and watch it disappear, only to reappear a few months later with many other seeds, in the form of fruit.

God divides in order to multiply. When the crowd was following Jesus for three days and they had nothing to eat, Jesus took two loaves of bread and five fish. He prayed, thanking the Father in heaven, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples to divide among the crowd, and after all were stuffed, he commanded them to pick up the leftovers. He divided the bread and the fish in order to multiply them.

God calls his servants to preach light in the middle of darkness declaring to whoever will hear the gospel of God, Jesus is the light of the world. And shine he did. He was a massive light to the darkness of the Jewish and gentile worlds. "I was blind but now I see," said the formerly blind man who had his eyes opened by Jesus.

God's servants preach his healing Name, YHWH Rapha, God is our healer, even from their own broken spaces of disease. Paul asked for the thorn in his flesh to be removed and instead was given the grace to live in his weakness.

Instead of punishment, the message of Grace announces the forgiveness of sin and sins, iniquities, and transgressions. If we confess our sins to God, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Paul learned when he was weak, he was strong.

In God's foolishness, to lose is to find. He who loses his life will find it. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for the sake of Jesus shall find it. The way of the Cross leads to death which in turn leads to life. Thus, death leads to resurrection.

In the incarnation of Jesus, the eternal became temporal. The spirit took on flesh. The limitless took on limitations. It unveiled the Power of God unto salvation. In Jesus, Life dies only to rise again. Light is swallowed up in darkness only to shine again. Weakness surrendered, and it was clothed in glory.

In our priesthood as believers, we preach hope in the middle of our sorrow and lament, healing in the middle of disease, forgiveness in the midst of sin, and salvation in the meaninglessness of the human experience.

We speak clarity in the middle of confusion, and to power, we speak TRUTH in the thick of its lies.

We proclaim life in the middle of death.

Yes, we preach Christ crucified! The wisdom of God! The power of God unto salvation. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord. Hallelujah! To God be the glory, honor, and praise now and forevermore, amen.

* HYMN

"This Is My Father's World" Blue Hymnal #293 (M)

Respond in Love and Service

* **This we believe** (M)

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS and HYMN OF INTERCESSION (M)

God of all Power, hear our prayers.

We pray for those who have not yet seen your light.

God of all Power, hear our prayers.

We pray for those who oppose your ways.

God of all Power, hear our prayers.

We pray for our enemies according to your word.

God of all Power, hear our prayers.

We pray for the sick among us.

God of all Power, hear our prayers.

We pray for those caught up in the bondage of darkness, may they be set free this day.

God of all Power, hear our prayers.

We pray for they name to be hallowed and for thy kingdom to come to every heart on earth today.

God of all Power, hear our prayers.

God of all Power, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER**(M)**

"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 (M)**

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

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**(L)**

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****(L)**

Father God, we are confident of this, that you who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Take therefore these gifts, bless them, multiply them, and set them apart for your kingdom's sake, amen.

*** CLOSING HYMN "Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me" Blue Hymnal #366***** BENEDICTION****(M)**

Crestholme saints, this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Take this righteous hope and share with those you come in contact this week. Go forth as the blessed people of God, rejoicing in the victory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*** POSTLUDE****Organist**

During this time, think on the Lord and all the marvelous things he has done for you in Jesus Christ and give him praise.

The End of this Worship Meeting — The Beginning of Service

**Next Sunday, the Rev. Chuck Cornelisse will be leading worship service.
Welcome Chuck!**

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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