



Sunday Evening Worship  
October 24, 2021

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## Reflections

"The way people treat Jesus is the way they are, in fact, treating God. You cannot respect God or truly repent without acknowledging the right-to-rule of Jesus. And you cannot have Jesus' rescue without accepting his rule."

—Tim Keller

## Call to Worship: Psalm 22:25-31

Leader From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

People **The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!**

Leader All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

People **For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.**

Leader All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

People **Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the LORD to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## Joyful Joyful We Adore You

*(Words: Henry van Dyke 1907 Melody: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824)*

Joyful joyful we adore You  
God of glory Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You  
Op'ning to the sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness  
Fill us with the light of day

All Your works with joy surround You  
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays  
Stars and angels sing around You  
Center of unbroken praise  
Field and forest vale and mountain  
Flow'ry meadow flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Praising You eternally

You are giving and forgiving  
Ever blessing ever blest  
Well-spring of the joy of living  
Ocean-depth of happy rest  
Loving Father, Christ our Brother  
May Your Spirit in us shine  
Teach us how to love each other  
Lift us to Your joy divine

Mortals join the mighty chorus  
With the morning stars begin  
God's own love is reigning o'er us  
Humble love binds all in Him  
Christ we echo ever singing  
Victors in the midst of strife  
Joyful music we are bringing  
In the triumph song of life

## **Glorify Thy Name**

*(Donna Adkins 1976)*

Father we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Jesus we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

Spirit we love You  
We worship and adore You  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth  
Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name  
Glorify Thy name in all the earth

## **Call to Confession:**

**Mark 15:31-32**

So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God and heavenly Father, we confess that we too are like the Scribes and Pharisees who doubt your power to save. We see your claim as King and Lord, yet we don't allow your Lordship to take full reign in our lives. Gracious Father, we confess that we too are like those who reviled you, demanding salvation in our way and time. When we fail to understand your will and your plan, we revile instead. Lord Jesus, forgive us and give to us patient and gentle hearts. Help us to see and receive the King who was brought low, that we may be lifted high. Forgive us for our lack of faith in your plan and in your timing. Help us by your Holy Spirit, to walk in the path you have laid before our feet. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon:**

**1 Corinthians 15:54-56**

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

## **Corporate Prayer**

# Song of Renewal

*We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Please direct giving online or via mail (cityreformed.org/give; 3929 Coleman St., 15207).*

## I Want to Know You

*(James Proctor, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, & Rich Thompson 2016)*

I've tried in vain a thousand ways  
My fears to quell my hopes to raise  
But what I need your word has said  
Is ever only Jesus

You died you live you reign you plead  
There's love in all your words and deeds  
This weary heart finds all it needs  
In ever only Jesus

*I want to know you Jesus my Lord  
King of the Heavens king of my soul  
I trade my treasure and all my rewards  
Jesus to know you then know you  
more*

Though some should curse me for your  
name  
I have no fear I have no shame  
You stand with me for all my days  
My ever only Jesus

Like wave after wave on the ocean  
Like all of the sand on the shore  
Your beauty and glory are endless  
O Jesus I must know you more

# Scripture & Homily:

Judges 11:4-11, 29-40, 12:1-7

## "Jesus, Lord of my Life"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

<sup>4</sup>After a time the Ammonites made war against Israel. <sup>5</sup>And when the Ammonites made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to bring Jephthah from the land of Tob. <sup>6</sup>And they said to Jephthah, "Come and be our leader, that we may fight against the Ammonites." <sup>7</sup>But Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "Did you not hate me and drive me out of my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in distress?" <sup>8</sup>And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "That is why we have turned to you now, that you may go with us and fight against the Ammonites and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead." <sup>9</sup>Jephthah said to the elders of Gilead, "If you bring me home again to fight against the Ammonites, and the LORD gives them over to me, I will be your head." <sup>10</sup>And the elders of Gilead said to Jephthah, "The LORD will be witness between us, if we do not do as you say." <sup>11</sup>So Jephthah went with the elders of Gilead, and the people made him head and leader over them. And Jephthah spoke all his words before the LORD at Mizpah.

<sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites. <sup>30</sup>And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, <sup>31</sup>then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering." <sup>32</sup>So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand. <sup>33</sup>And he struck them from Aroer to the

neighborhood of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim, with a great blow. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

<sup>34</sup>Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter. <sup>35</sup>And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow." <sup>36</sup>And she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the Lord has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites." <sup>3</sup> So she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions." <sup>38</sup>So he said, "Go." Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains. <sup>39</sup>And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made. She had never known a man, and it became a custom in Israel <sup>40</sup>that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

<sup>12:1</sup>The men of Ephraim were called to arms, and they crossed to Zaphon and said to Jephthah, "Why did you cross over to fight against the Ammonites and did not call us to go with you? We will burn your house over you with fire." <sup>2</sup>And Jephthah said to them, "I and my people had a great dispute with the Ammonites, and when I called you, you did not save me from their hand. <sup>3</sup>And when I saw that you would not save

me, I took my life in my hand and crossed over against the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into my hand. Why then have you come up to me this day to fight against me?" <sup>4</sup>Then Jephthah gathered all the men of Gilead and fought with Ephraim. And the men of Gilead struck Ephraim, because they said, "You are fugitives of Ephraim, you Gileadites, in the midst of Ephraim and Manasseh." <sup>5</sup>And the Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any of the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me go over," the men of Gilead said to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" When he said, "No," <sup>6</sup>they said to him, "Then say Shibboleth," and he said, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time 42,000 of the Ephraimites fell.

<sup>7</sup>Jephthah judged Israel six years. Then Jephthah the Gileadite died and was buried in his city in Gilead.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

## Additional Scripture

Numbers 26:29/ The sons of Manasseh: of Machir, the clan of the Machirites; and Machir was the father of Gilead; of Gilead, the clan of the Gileadites.

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Deuteronomy 12:31/ You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

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Deuteronomy 18:10/ There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer.

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Psalms 106:37-38/ They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood.

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## Notes:

## Outline: Judges 11-12

**Judges:** "Jesus, Lord of my Life"

**Proposition:** Without Jesus as Lord, we will presume upon God's desires, assume God's judgments, and ultimately destroy each other.

**Fallen condition:** We are quick to remove Jesus as Lord and brother of our life; motivated by fear of circumstance, missed desire, or insults received, we can take life into our own hands.

**Main Points:** Without Jesus as Lord...

1. We will presume upon God's desires
2. We will assume God's judgements
3. And we will ultimately destroy each other

**Conclusion:** We need Jesus as Lord and elder brother to redeem and mediate the disunity and mess we have wrought.

# Song of Thanksgiving

## Psalm 72 | Hail to The Lord's Anointed

(Words: James Montgomery 1821 Music: Sandra McCracken 2012)

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy  
To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong.  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth,  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth.  
The tide of time shall never  
His covenant remove.  
His Name shall stand forever,  
That Name to us is Love.

## Benediction

## Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you are new, we would love to meet you! Please contact us at [office@cityreformed.org](mailto:office@cityreformed.org). If you would like to contact a pastor, please email [nameun@cityreformed.org](mailto:nameun@cityreformed.org). And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please visit our website: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org).

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### Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, we will pray for you. Please send prayer requests to Pastor Joseph through [prayer@cityreformed.org](mailto:prayer@cityreformed.org).

### About Us

#### Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15 AM  
Winchester Thurston Auditorium  
5059 Ellsworth Ave  
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

LIVESTREAM: [tinyurl.com/CRPCLive](http://tinyurl.com/CRPCLive)

#### Sunday Evening Service

5:30 PM  
Greenfield Chapel  
3929 Coleman Street  
Pittsburgh PA, 15207

#### Church Office

3929 Coleman St.  
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w: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org)

#### Donations

Online: [cityreformed.org/give](http://cityreformed.org/give)  
Mail: to the Church Office address above "Attn: Bookkeeper" (checks payable to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)