



Sunday Evening Service
November 27, 2022

"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas."

- Billy Graham

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you would like more information, please contact us at office@cityreformed.org or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – November 27, 2022
Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: John 1:1-4, 14

Please stand for the Call to Worship if you are able.

Leader In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,

People **And the Word was God.**

Leader He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him,

People **And without him was not any thing made that was made.**

Leader In him was life, and the life was the light of men.,

People **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Leader And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

People **And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of Invocation

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Rowland Hugh Prichard and Charles Wesley)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free--
From our fears and sins release us:
Let us find our rest in thee--
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of eve'ry nation,
Joy of eve'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Day-spring from on high, appear--
Come thou promised Son of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear--
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end--
By his life he brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend--
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King--
Born to reign in us forever;
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring--
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

God With Us

(Leslie Jordan 2012)

You have come to bring peace
To be love, to be nearer to us
You have come to bring life
To be light, to shine brighter in us.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

*Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our redemption
God with us, You are God with us.*

You have come to be hope
To this world for Your honor and name.
You have come to take sin
To bear shame and to conquer the grave.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

You are here and
You are holy
We are standing
In Your glory (Lord)

Call to Confession: Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Prayer of Confession:

Jesus, we confess that you are our king. We ask that you teach us to love your ways and to live as your Spirit leads. We confess that we often act as though we have no king, and wander in our selfish aims, anger, laziness, and desire for approval from others. Lift up our eyes to see your glorious rule over all time. Father, we praise you that you have sent your Son to be one with us. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 2:10-12 (NIV)

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

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).

Solid Rock (My Hope Is Built)

(Words: Edward Mote 1834; Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1863)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name

When darkness veils His lovely face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand*

His oath His covenant His blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my Hope and Stay

When He shall come with trumpet sound
O may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

Scripture & Homily

Isaiah 7:1-23, 9:1-7

"Understanding Isaiah's Prophecies"

-Elder David Snoko

In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. ²When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

³And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. ⁴And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. ⁵Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, "⁶"Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," ⁷thus says the Lord GOD:

" 'It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. ⁸For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people. ⁹And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

^{7:10}Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too

little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

^{7:18}In that day the LORD will whistle for the fly that is at the end of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. ¹⁹And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thornbushes, and on all the pastures.

²⁰In that day the Lord will shave with a razor that is hired beyond the River—with the king of Assyria—the head and the hair of the feet, and it will sweep away the beard also.

²¹In that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, ²² and in that day a man will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, and because of the abundance of milk that they give, he will eat curds, for everyone who is left in the land will eat curds and honey.

²³In that day every place where there used to be a thousand vines, worth a thousand shekels of silver, will become briars and thorns. ²⁴With bow and arrows a man will come there, for all the land will be briars and thorns.

^{9:1}But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Malachi 3:1-2/ "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

Matthew 1:20-23/ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Luke 24:25-27/ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Sermon Outline:

I. Parsing Isaiah

- A. Context: the invasion alliance of Syria and Samaria
- B. The sign given to the "house of David"
- C. The promise that Syria and Samaria are of little consequence
- D. The surprising prophecy of the depopulation of the north

II. Applying these passages

- A. Seeing through a glass darkly—hope when things are mysterious
- B. Jesus, both mild baby and mighty God
- C. God's sovereignty over history

Song of Thanksgiving

O Day of Peace - Come to Him

(Music: Josh Garrels 2016; Words: Carl Daw 1982)

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth, and love
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.
Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord

Come to Him with all your heart
Come and lay your burdens down

For peace He came to give
And Joy shall be the crown
And Joy shall be the crown

Benediction

Community Groups

Community Groups meet for Bible study, fellowship, and service, and are some of the best opportunities to connect with church life - always open for visitors throughout the year. Please contact Pastor Joseph Bianco (Joseph@cityreformed.org) with any questions, and for a listing of current groups, refer to: **www.cityreformed.org/community-groups**

Sunday

Fox Chapel*- Watson Barker

North Hills**- David Bacon

Monday

Forest Hills*- Adam Schwab

Tuesday

Northside- Joe Benscoter & Nathan Schartner

Friendship**- Michael Hilton

Morningside* - Jeff Winkler

West Hills*- Jonathan Dodd

Wednesday

Regent Square- David Snoke

Baldwin/Greenfield*- Joseph Bianco

East Suburban- Joe Stehle

Near East Suburban- Jim Partridge

Thursday

Shadyside - Ben Chidester

*Childcare provided

** Kid's play area available