



Sunday Evening Service
December 11, 2022

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – December 11, 2022
Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1-4

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

Leader I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

People **For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."**

Leader You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

People **'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'**"

Prayer of Invocation

King of Kings

(Words & Music: Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood 2018)

In the darkness we were waiting without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running there was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets to a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory to a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good for the Lamb had conquered
death
And the dead rose from their tombs and the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name in His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ who has resurrected me.

Wait for the Lord

(Taizé)

Wait for the Lord
Whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord
Keep watch, take heart.

Call to Confession: Psalm 145:8-9

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Prayer of Confession:

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 145:13-14

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.[The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.] The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

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).

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

(Words & Music: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, & Michael Farren 2018)

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Scripture & Homily

Matthew 2:1-12

"The Joy of Christ's Arrival"

-Reverend Nameun Cho

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Micah 5:2-5/ But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, those coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace...

Song of Thanksgiving

Joy to the World

(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: Lowell Mason's 1800's adaption of George Handel's "Messiah" 1742)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction