



Sunday Morning Worship
December 20, 2020

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.

Reflections

Many people are troubled by the apparent remoteness of God. He seems to them distant, aloof, unreal. It is this image of an absentee God that John smashes to smithereens. In his prologue he writes of three comings of God into the world in Christ.

First, *he was coming* into the world. It is a great mistake to suppose the first time God came into the world was when he was born into it. No, he made the world and has never left it.

Second, *he came* into the world. The eternal Word became a human being. The tragedy is that the world did not recognize him.

Third, *he still comes*. He comes now by his Spirit, and to those who receive him, he gives the right to become God's children.

A fourth coming could be added. Later John records Jesus's promise, "*I will come back and take you to be with me.*"

So here are God's four comings. He was coming continuously as the light and life of human beings. He came on the first Christmas Day. He comes still, waiting for us to receive him, and he will come on the last day.

- John Stott on John 1.1-14, *Through the Bible Through the Year*

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

SIGN-UPS: Church Center App (Events)

OR crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

412-720-7014

office@cityreformed.org

cityreformed.org

Church Center App:



Sunday Evening Communion Service

3929 Coleman St., 15207

SUNDAY 12/20 | 4PM, 5PM & 6PM

SIGN-UPS: Church Center App (Events)

OR crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)

OR cityreformed.org/give

Mail: Church Office address above "Attn: Allison" (please make checks payable to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 20, 2020

Presider: Reverend Nameun Cho

Call to Worship: John 1:1-4, 9, 14, 16

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

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

People **He was in the beginning with God.**

Leader All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

People **In him was life, and the life was the light of men...**

Leader The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

People **And we have seen his glory,**

Leader Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth...

People **For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.**

Prayer of Invocation

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.

Amen Amen

(Words & Music: Kate Robins and Neil Robins 2007)

Let every creature rise and bring
Their grateful praises to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And earth repeats a loud amen

*Amen amen
Amen amen
I found my life
I found my life in him
Amen amen*

Peace like a river from His throne
Will flow to nations yet unknown
His word a light where hope is dim
And tribes unite to cry amen

And in this Child we'll find our rest
And all the meek and lowly blessed
An Infant tongue could sing the hymn
Of hallelujah and amen

Call to Confession: Titus 3:1-3

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Prayer of Confession: Adapted from "Requests", *The Valley of Vision*

Blessed Son,

You are the Light who has come, the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world.

May I never be a blot in life, that darkens the way of truth.

May I never make my liberty an occasion for the flesh.

May I, by love, serve others, and please my neighbor for his good.

May I show my commitment to the gospel, not only with good works, but also gentle words.

May I hold forth the way of Jesus with my temper and with my tongue, with my life and with my lips.

May I say to all I meet, I am bound for the Lord's place, come with me for your good!

May I be in character and conduct like the dew of heaven, the salt of the earth, the light of the world. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Baptism: Moesha Yost

Question to the Congregation:

Do you promise to support **Moesha** in her Christian walk as you fulfill your own commitments to the church?

Membership Vows: Matthew & Moesha Yost

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).

Lion and the Lamb

(Words & Music: Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, & Leeland Mooring 2015)

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord almighty

*Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him*

Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
And every knee will bow before Him

So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
Our God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord almighty

Who can stop the Lord almighty
Who can stop the Lord almighty

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Titus 2:11-15

Advent 2020: "Ambiguity Amid the Arrivals"

- Reverend Derek Bates

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

¹⁵Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Psalms 27:13-14 / I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Romans 8:18-25 / For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Romans 8:28-30 / And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Creedal Response: Heibelberg Catechism

Q 32. Why are you called a Christian?

A. Because I am a member of Christ by faith and thus share in His anointing, so that I may as prophet confess His Name, as priest present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him, and as king fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and hereafter reign with Him eternally over all creatures.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

Veiled in Darkness Judah Lay

*(Lyrics: Douglas L. Rights 1915; Melody: "Aberystwyth," Joseph Parry 1879;
Arrangement: Isaac Wardell & Mason Neely)*

Veiled in darkness Judah lay
Waiting for the promised day
While across the shad'wy night
Streamed a flood of glorious light
Heav'nly voices chanting then
"Peace on earth good will to men."
Heav'nly voices chanting then
"Peace on earth good will to men."

Still the earth in darkness lies
Up from death's dark vale arise
Voices of a world in grief
Pray'rs of men who seek relief
Now our darkness pierce again
"Peace on earth good will to men."
Now our darkness pierce again
"Peace on earth good will to men."

Psalm 24 | We Long to See You

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2015)

Almighty God, we long to see you.
Open our hearts and make them pure.
Spirit, we wash our hands in mercy.
Come teach our souls to love your truth.


Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

If you would like to contact a pastor, please email joseph@cityreformed.org.

Life Together

<p>Open Evening Communion Services in GREENFIELD TONIGHT Sun 12/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4:00PM• 5:00PM• 6:00PM <p>3929 Coleman St., 15207</p> <p>Church Center App</p> 	<p>In-person service held three times INDOORS at GREENFIELD, with communion served all times. Review instructions for attending at: cityreformed.org/evening-service and the "Safe and Sound" guidelines on p. 12-13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Register on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations, to help us keep within capacity limits (35/service) and add additional services if needed. If you need assistance signing up, contact Sol@cityreformed.org - she'd be happy to sign you up!• Before attending, self-assess the health and recent activities of you and your household.• Mandatory MASK policy (all over 2 yrs old).• ***You no longer need to check in on your Church Center apps. Instead, CHECK IN WITH A GREETER IN-PERSON when you arrive.***
<p>Attend Morning Service "In-Person" Sundays @ 10:15AM WT, 5059 Ellsworth, 15213</p>	<p>Register on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations. Contact Sol@cityreformed.org. Morning Service Livestream continues indefinitely.</p>
<p>Children's Ministry: Christmas Family Care Packages & Care Kits for the Homeless TODAY Sun 12/20 @ 12-2PM 3929 Coleman St., 15207</p>	<p>We invite your family to drive by for this special Christmas curbside collection of gifts! Miss Charis and Miss Becki will be giving your family: 1) a gift to RECEIVE ~ a care package to help your family gather together; 2) a gift to GIVE ~ a Homeless Care Kit to give away to someone in need. Contact Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Parenting Seminar by Julie Lowe, Child Proof: Parenting by Faith, Not Formula Fri 2/5 @ 7 - 9PM & Sat 2/6 @ 9AM - 12PM WT, 5059 Ellsworth, 15213</p>	<p>Register on your Church Center App (go to Events) or: tinyurl.com/childproof2021 ~ \$15/person for in-person or live stream attendance ~ Julie Lowe will teach on how to know, love, and disciple our children using biblical principles and practical wisdom. There will be four sessions (two on Friday; two on Saturday), as well as Q&A. Contact: Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>

<p>Christnas Eve Candlelight Services Thurs 12/24</p> <p>LIVESTREAM 6:00PM ONLY tinyurl.com/CRPCXmas</p> <p>IN-PERSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:00PM • 6:00PM <p>3929 Coleman St., 15207</p>	<p>Consider joining us for an abbreviated version of this annual service either online via livestream at 6PM OR in-person at 5PM or 6PM.</p> <p>For those attending the LIVESTREAM (direct link: tinyurl.com/CRPCXmas), you can pick up your bulletins and candles ahead of time TODAY at the AM & PM services, and between 12-2pm at Greenfield for families doing the curbside pickup. Thereafter, please pick them up in the bin outside the Greenfield building. If you need it mailed to you, please email sol@cityreformed.org with your name, address and how many you would like.</p> <p>For IN-PERSON attendance, review the "Safe and Sound" guidelines on p. 12-13 and please sign up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations, to help us keep within capacity limits (35/service). If you need assistance signing up, contact Sol@cityreformed.org - she'd be happy to sign you up! • Before attending, self-assess the health and recent activities of you and your household. • Mandatory MASK policy (<i>all over 2 yrs old</i>). • CHECK IN WITH A GREETER IN-PERSON when you arrive.
<p>Bethany Food Bank and Master's Kitchen Service Thurs @ 9AM - 1PM or 4 - 6PM Fri @ 12 - 1PM</p>	<p>Volunteer to help transport and package food with Bethany Community Ministries. Contact Donna at Bethany: 412.251.1227 or any of the Deacons@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Men's Discipleship Committee</p>	<p>MEN who are interested in discipleship through a mentoring relationship, contact Adam (ahs27@pitt.edu).</p>
<p>Volunteer Babysitting: Serve & Connect with Our Church Families!</p>	<p>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, help care for children as families navigate these challenging times! Please complete: tinyurl.com/CityBABYSIT. Contact Becki@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Caring for Each Other and the Deacon's List</p>	<p>Please update the deacons if you have needs or if you have abilities and resources to share with others. Contact Nik (nik@alum.wustl.edu) or any of the deacons.</p>

"Safe"

"The sixth commandment requires all lawful efforts to preserve our own life and others." – WSC #68

Before we gather*:

- **Are you sick?** Do not attend if you or a family member are sick, if you are awaiting a COVID test result, or if you have COVID-19.
- **Have you been somewhere unsafe?** PA Health Guidelines¹ require either a quarantine or negative test for out-of-state travelers.
- **Have you been exposed?** Do not attend if you have had close contact² with someone who is COVID+. Limit your exposure to others if you have been in medically compromising situations.

When we are together:

- **Wear a mask.**
- **Avoid contact.**
- **Social Distance.**

After we leave:

- **Notify.** If you test positive for COVID and attended a CRPC event during a period 48 hours before the onset of symptoms, please notify the church (sol@cityreformed.org).
- **Trace.** When someone notifies us about a concern for infection, we will trace all potential unsafe contacts at our events and also notify all people who attended the event.

**Contact Dr. Andy Leuenberger (andy@cityreformed.org) for questions about how to apply these guidelines to your situation.*

1 health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx

2 cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact

"... and Sound"

"Since we have a great priest...Draw near... hold fast... meet together..." - Heb. 10:19-25

Sunday AM Worship

- Livestream online. (Join us live at 10:15AM when possible)
- In-person at Winchester Thurston.
- Sign up in advance.
- *If COVID concerns rise, we will decrease our attendance numbers.*

Sunday PM Communion (every other week)

- The PM Service will meet in the Greenfield Chapel.
- Sign up in advance.
- Multiple small and short services. (30 mins)
- Check in at arrival to assist contact tracing.
- Varied seating options.
- Modified process of distributing communion elements.
- *If COVID concerns rise, we will add more (smaller) services.*

Small Groups

- Small groups will be guided by direction from public health leaders.
- Contact Joseph Bianco (joseph@cityreformed.org).

Mentoring

- Women: Contact Sandy Snoke (sandy@cityreformed.org).
- Men: Contact Adam Schwab or Jim Partridge (jim@cityreformed.org).

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! And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please fill out the visitor's card below or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Visitor's Card

We would love to get to know you. Please contact us at office@cityreformed.org with the following information.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, we will pray for you. Please send prayer requests to Pastor Joseph through prayer@cityreformed.org.
