



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**December 26, 2021**

# 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](mailto:office@cityreformed.org) or visit our website: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org).

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## Reflections

"If you are in Christ, you've been chosen to transcend the borders of your own glory, to reach out toward a greater glory- the glory of God."

- Paul David Tripp

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## About Us

### Sunday Morning Worship Service

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

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

### Sunday Evening Service

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

### Church Office

3929 Coleman St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-720-7014  
[office@cityreformed.org](mailto:office@cityreformed.org)  
[cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org)

### Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)  
OR [cityreformed.org/give](http://cityreformed.org/give)  
Mail: Church Office address above "Attn:  
Bookkeeper" (please make checks  
payable to City Reformed Presbyterian  
Church)

### Church Center App:



# Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 26, 2021

Presider: Elder Jim Partridge

## Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1-4, 16-17, 31-34

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

Leader Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent.

People He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind; he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.

Leader The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

People In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees.

Leader May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke!

People I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD.

## 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.

## 4th Advent Reading Luke 2:8-20

# Angels From The Realms Of Glory

(Words: James Montgomery 1816; Music: Henry T. Smart 1867)

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

*Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King*

Shepherds in the fields abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant Light

Sages leave your contemplations  
Brighter visions beam afar  
Seek the great Desire of nations  
Ye have seen His natal star

Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In His temple shall appear

Sinners, wrung with true repentance,  
Doomed for guilt and endless pains,  
Justice now revokes the sentence,  
Mercy calls you break your chains.

All creation join in praising  
God the Father Spirit Son  
Evermore your voices raising  
To eternal Three in One

## **Alpha and Omega**

*(Words & Music: Erasmus Mutanbira 2005)*

You are Alpha and Omega  
We worship You our Lord  
You are worthy to be praised

We give You all the glory  
We worship You our Lord  
You are worthy to be praised

## **Call to Confession: 2 Corinthians 3:4-6**

Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit**

## **Silent Confession**

## Assurance of Pardon: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

## 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).*

### Go Tell It On The Mountain

*(African-American Spiritual)*

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

# Pastoral Prayer

*At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Parents please have your children meet the teachers at the back of the sanctuary and pick them up after the sermon from Children's Church.*

## Sermon: Matthew 17:1-13

### Keep the Cross in Christmas "The Transfiguration"

- Reverend Nameun Cho

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. <sup>3</sup>And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

<sup>4</sup>And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

<sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." <sup>8</sup>And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

<sup>9</sup>And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead." <sup>10</sup>And the disciples asked him, "Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "Elijah does come, and he will restore all things.



<sup>12</sup>But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.” <sup>13</sup> Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

**Leader** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## Additional Scripture

Daniel 7:9-10 / As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

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Malachi 4:5-6 / Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

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Matthew 3:16-17 / And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

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## Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 27. What did Christ's humiliation consist of?

**A. Christ's humiliation consisted of his being born in a low condition, living under the Law, undergoing the miseries of this life, undergoing the wrath of God and the cursed death of the Cross, and in being buried and continuing under the power of death for a time.**



# Songs of Thanksgiving

## O Sing A Song of Bethlehem

*(Words: Louis F. Benson 1889 Music: English Traditional Unknown)*

O sing a song of Bethlehem,  
Of shepherds watching there,  
And of the news that came to them  
From angels in the air.  
The light that shone on Bethlehem  
Fills all the world today.  
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth  
The angels sing always.

O sing a song of Nazareth,  
Of sunny days of joy;  
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,  
And of the sinless boy.  
For now the flowers of Nazareth  
In every heart may grow.  
Now spreads the fame of his dear name  
On all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee,  
Of lake and woods and hill,  
Of him who walked upon the sea  
And bade its waves be still.  
For though, like waves on Galilee,  
Dark seas of trouble roll,  
When faith has heard the Master's word,  
Falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary,  
Its glory and dismay,  
Of him who hung upon the tree,  
And took our sins away.  
For he who died on Calvary  
Is risen from the grave,  
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,  
Is mighty now to save.

## Joy to the World

*(Words: Isaac Watts 1719 Music: Lowell Mason's 1800's adaptation 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.

## Prayer

## Announcements

## Benediction

# Contact

**Pastors:**

- [Pastormatt@cityreformed.org](mailto:Pastormatt@cityreformed.org)
- [Joseph@cityreformed.org](mailto:Joseph@cityreformed.org)
- [John@cityreformed.org](mailto:John@cityreformed.org)
- [Nameun@cityreformed.org](mailto:Nameun@cityreformed.org)

**Deacons:** [Deacons@cityreformed.org](mailto:Deacons@cityreformed.org)

**Women's Ministry Council:** [sarahditch@gmail.com](mailto:sarahditch@gmail.com); [raleun@gmail.com](mailto:raleun@gmail.com)

**Men's Discipleship Committee:** [mdc@cityreformed.org](mailto:mdc@cityreformed.org)

**Women's Discipleship Committee:** [Sandy@cityreformed.org](mailto:Sandy@cityreformed.org)

# Upcoming Events

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<b>Rose</b>	Celebrating Ian James Wang-Erickson born to Carl and Anna Wang-Erickson on December 3rd.
<b>90 Days of Worship</b>	Beginning on Monday, January 3, City Reformed will read through the Psalms together as we seek to establish better patterns of worship in our personal lives, in our families and as a congregation. We will offer daily readings and plans for personal/household worship from Jan 3, until Easter. We will also link other aspects of our regular ministries to this devotional plan.
<b>90 Days Kickoff Event Jan 2, 2022 5:50-6:30 PM @ Greenfield Chapel</b>	On Sunday, January 2, we will hold a kick off event for 90 Days of Worship in place of our evening service. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, @ Greenfield Chapel (3929 Coleman St. 15207). We will introduce the reading/worship plan, discuss ways this can be used by individuals and in small groups, and spend some time in singing and prayer.
<b>Seminar: When Do We Trust Scientists? Jan 5th @ 7-8:30PM Greenfield Chapel</b>	Our society is experiencing a breakdown of trust in the claims of scientists on such things as vaccines, sexual identity, evolution, global warming, and the impact of technology. How should a Christian approach scientific claims of truth? David Snoke will lead a discussion on our general approach to scientific claims, without attempting to resolve the debates on all of these issues.
<b>Annual Congregational Meeting Sun, Jan 23rd directly following service</b>	We will hold our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 23rd, directly following our morning worship service. All members of our congregation are encouraged to attend, as we will be voting on pertinent church decisions, such as the election of elders, deacons, and women's ministry council members.

# Volunteer and Employment Needs

<b>Children's Church Assistants and Teachers</b>	We are currently looking to add Lead Teachers to our Children's Church volunteer team! Adding 5 people to this team would allow Lead Teachers to make the one month commitment, once a year. We are also looking to welcome additional Teacher Aids to assist Lead Teachers. Contact AllisonH@cityreformed.org
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<b>10 Minute Trainings</b>	<p>We will be conducting quick refresher sessions for our volunteer teams in January. We will have one volunteer team a week gather in the cafeteria following service for 10 minutes of refreshers and questions. If you are interested in joining a volunteer team, this is a great way to get some more information.</p> <p>January 2nd- Nursery and Children's Church  January 9th- Ushers  January 16th- Greeters  January 23rd- No training- Congregational Meeting  January 30th- Setup and Tear Down</p>
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## Regular Events

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<b>No Evening Service December 26th</b>	<p>We will not be having our regular evening service on Sunday, December 26th. We hope everyone can spend this time enjoying the holiday with your friends and family.</p>
<b>Tuesday Women's Bible Study break</b>	<p>The Tuesday Women's Bible Study discussing <i>In His Image</i> by Jen Wilkin will not be meeting on December 21 or 28 due to the Christmas holiday. We invite you to join them as they restart in the new year on January 4</p>
<b>Spring Youth Group Dates</b>	<p>Youth Group will resume regular bi-weekly meetings at the Greenfield building from 12:30-2:30 on Sunday afternoons. Below are the Spring semester Youth Group dates: Jan 9, 23; Feb 6, 20; Mar 6, 20; Apr 3</p>

## Groups

<p><b>College Students</b> please refer to campus ministry contacts below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCO at CMU: Nameun Cho (ncho@ccojubilee.org)</li> <li>• CCO at PPU: Katelyn Spallinger (kspallinger@ccojubilee.org)</li> <li>• RUF at Pitt: Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org)</li> <li>• <a href="http://cityreformed.org/collegestudents">cityreformed.org/collegestudents</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Specialty Groups</b> meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, learning, and service. For a complete listing of current groups, please refer to the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agora Forum- Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)</i></li> <li>• <i>Men's New Hope (Joseph@cityreformed.org)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mommies' Group (Sandy@cityreformed.org)</i></li> <li>• <i>Wednesday Morning Prayer (Zachary@cityreformed.org)</i></li> <li>• <i>Men's Discipleship Committee (mdc@cityreformed.org)- MENTORS NEEDED!</i></li> <li>• <i>Young Adult Women's Fellowship (Katelyn@cityreformed.org)</i></li> </ul>

# 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](http://www.cityreformed.org/community-groups)

## Sunday

Fox Chapel\*- Watson Barker

North Hills\*\*- David Bacon

## Tuesday

Northside- Joe Benscoter & Nathan Schartner

Morningside\*- Jeff Winkler

## Wednesday

Near East Suburban- Jim Partridge

Regent Square- David Snoko

Baldwin/Greenfield\*- Joseph Bianco

East Suburban- Joe Stehle

West End\*- Jonathan Dodd

## Thursday

Greenfield/North Oakland- Ben Chidester

Forest Hills\*- Adam Schwab

\*Childcare provided

\*\* Kid's play area available

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*All scripture verses are the English Standard Version (ESV), unless otherwise noted.*