



Sunday Morning Worship
December 27, 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

In speaking of this desire for our own faroff country, which we find in ourselves even now, I feel a certain shyness. I am almost committing an indecency. I am trying to rip open the inconsolable secret in each one of you—the secret which hurts so much that you take your revenge on it by calling it names like Nostalgia and Romanticism and Adolescence; the secret also which pierces with such sweetness that when, in very intimate conversation, the mention of it becomes imminent, we grow awkward and affect to laugh at ourselves; the secret we cannot hide and cannot tell, though we desire to do both. We cannot tell it because it is a desire for something that has never actually appeared in our experience. We cannot hide it because our experience is constantly suggesting it, and we betray ourselves like lovers at the mention of a name.

The books or the music in which we thought the beauty was located will betray us if we trust to them; it was not in them, it only came through them, and what came through them was longing. These things—the beauty, the memory of our own past—are good images of what we really desire; but if they are mistaken for the thing itself they turn into dumb idols, breaking the hearts of their worshippers. For they are not the thing itself; they are only the scent of a flower we have not found, the echo of a tune we have not heard, news from a country we have never yet visited.

- C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

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 1/3/21 | 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 27, 2020

Presider: Elder Andy Leuenberger

Call to Worship: Psalm 77:11-15

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

Leader I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember
your wonders of old.

People I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your
mighty deeds.

Leader Your way, O God, is holy.

People What god is great like our God?

Leader You are the God who works wonders; you have made
known your might among the peoples.

People You with your arm redeemed your people, the children
of Jacob and Joseph.

Prayer of Invocation

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.

(continued on next page)

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.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

(Words & Music: 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. _____

Call to Confession: Psalm 40:4-5

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

Prayer of Confession: Prayer of St. Augustine, 397 A.D

Great are you, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is your power, and infinite is your wisdom. Man desires to praise you, for he is a part of your creation; he bears his mortality about with him and carries the evidence of his sin and the proof that you resist the proud. Still he desires to praise you, this man who is only a small part of thy creation. You have prompted him, that he should delight to praise you, for you have made us for yourself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in you.

The house of my soul is too narrow for you to come in to me; let it be enlarged by you. It is in ruins; you must restore it. There is much about it which must offend your eyes; I confess and know it. But who will cleanse it? To whom shall I cry but to you? I do not, therefore, contend in judgment with you, for if you, Lord, would mark iniquities, who could stand? Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 40:11

As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

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).*

O Sing A Song of Bethlehem

(Words: Louis F. Benson 1889; Melody: English Traditional)

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.

The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing always.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:5

Advent 2020: "Wonder Without Idolatry"

- Mr. David Snoke

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

^{5:1}For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Ecclesiastes 3:10-13 / I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

Revelation 21:9-14 / Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Creedal Response: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 90. What will be done to the righteous at the day of judgment?

A. At the day of judgment, the righteous, being caught up to Christ in the clouds, will be set on his right hand, and having been openly acknowledged and acquitted, they will join with him in judging reprobate angels and people. They will be received into heaven, where they will be fully and forever freed from all sin and misery, filled with inconceivable joys, made perfectly holy and happy both in body and soul, in the company of innumerable saints and holy angels, but especially in the immediate vision and presence of God the Father, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit, to all eternity. This is the perfect and full communion that the members of the invisible church will enjoy with Christ in glory at the resurrection and day of judgment.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

Eternal Weight of Glory

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2013)

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suff'ring seem so long
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song

Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak
But our hope is set on Jesus
And we cling to him our strength

*For behold I tell a myst'ry
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry
When we meet our King of Grace*

*Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried How long
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song*

Oh eternal weight of glory
Oh inheritance divine
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time

All our pains will be transfigured
Like the scars of Christ our Lord
We will see the weight of glory
And our broken years restored

We will see our wounded Savior
We'll behold him face to face
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

Angels We Have Heard On High

(Words & Music: Unknown 18th Century French Carol)

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Gloria in excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

See within a manger laid
Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth
Mary Joseph lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth

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 Next Sun 1/3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:00PM • 5:00PM • 6:00PM <p>3929 Coleman St., 15207 Church Center</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). • ***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. ***CHECK IN WITH A GREETER IN-PERSON when you arrive.*** Morning Service Livestream continues indefinitely.</p>
<p>90 Days Through the Story of Scripture Monday 1/4 - Good Friday 4/2</p>	<p>Join us as we read the historical books of the Bible together and see the big story of God's redemptive plan. Reading schedule and daily updates are available online under "Resources": cityreformed.org/90-days-through-scripture</p>
<p>Nomination Period Open for Elders, Deacons & Women's Mministry Council</p>	<p>We will begin a new season of nomination, training and preparation. A nominee needs to have been a member for at least a year before they can be nominated. Nominations will be received in the month of January. Please send nominations to PastorMatt@cityreformed.org. More info to follow.</p>
<p>NEED: Livestream Techs & Tech Assistants</p>	<p>If you are interested in being trained & being part of the stream team, contact Sol@cityreformed.org.</p>

<p>Parenting Seminar by Julie Lowe, <i>Child Proof: Parenting by Faith, Not Formula</i> 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>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>
<p>Make Connections via Online Media</p>	<p>As the Covid-19 restrictions limit our ability to connect with other people, we need to work harder to develop healthy relationships through alternative means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn more about community groups (CGs) contact Joseph (joseph@cityreformed.org) • To learn about how to connect with other women in the church (including small groups or CGs) contact Sandy (sandy@cityreformed.org) • To learn about men's discipleship programs contact Jim (partridge.je6@gmail.com).
<p>Pastoral Devotionals tinyurl.com/CRPCPastorJoseph</p>	<p>Join Pastor Joseph online for encouragement while we are in our homes and away from each other.</p>

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:

- cityreformed.org/community-groups

Specialty Groups meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, and service. For a listing of current groups, please refer to:

- cityreformed.org/prayer--specialty-groups

College Students please refer to campus ministry contacts below:

- CCO at CMU: Nameun Cho (ncho@ccojubilee.org)
- CCO at PPU: Katelyn Spallinger (kvanmeerbeke@ccojubilee.org)
- RUF at Pitt: Derek Bates (dbates@ruf.org), Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

Sunday Morning Ministry Teams are some of the best ways to form relationships, integrate into the life of the church, and be involved in ministry. For more info, contact Sol Chan (sol@cityreformed.org), or any of the coordinators:

- cityreformed.org/sunday-volunteers

"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.
