



Sunday Evening Service
December 4, 2022

"The love of God is love to those who do not love Him. 'Not that we loved God, but that he loved us.' When God loves those who love him, it seems to be according to the law of nature; but when he loves those who do not love him, this must be above even all laws, it is according, certainly, to the extraordinary rule of grace, and grace alone."

- Charles Spurgeon

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – December 4, 2022
Presider: Elder Jim Partridge

Call to Worship: Psalm 31: 21-24

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

Leader Blessed be the LORD, for he has wondrously shown his steadfast love to me when I was in a besieged city.

People **I had said in my alarm, "I am cut off from your sight."
But you heard the voice of my pleas for mercy when I
cried to you for help.**

Leader Love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.

People **Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who
wait for the LORD!**

Prayer of Invocation

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

(Words: George Matheson 1882; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

O Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O light that follows all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

(Words & Music: Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman)

Bless the Lord O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

I'll worship His holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore

Call to Confession: Luke 11:24-26

"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first."

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, keep us from hypocrisy; from appearing outwardly as clean and swept, but inwardly harboring secret sins. Forgive us when we are tempted to appear put-together in front of men, yet in reality hide crumbling lives. Forgive us for our lack of love; for speaking and talking about Jesus, yet failing to love with the love of our Savior. Put our house in order, good Father, and sweep clean the cobwebs of our hearts. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: John 3:16-18

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

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).

Speak O Lord

(Words & Music: Stuart Townend and Keith Getty 2005)

Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Scripture & Homily

1 John 4:7-21

"How to Love People"

-Reverend Joseph Bianco

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Psalms 103: 11-12/ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Romans 8: 37-39/ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a/ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, Love never ends....

Sermon Outline:

Prop: We love others by abiding in God's love

Fallen Condition: You either choose not to act loving or you do not believe in the creator of love

How do we love well? By seeing...

1. The source of love
2. The intended purpose of love
3. The motivation of love

Song of Thanksgiving

My Jesus I Love Thee

(Words: William Featherston 1864; Music: Adoniram Gordon 1876)

My Jesus I love Thee I know Thou art mine
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign
My gracious Redeemer my Savior art Thou
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

I'll love Thee in life I will love Thee in death
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

In mansions of glory and endless delight
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now.

Benediction