



Sunday Evening Worship
Presider: Elder Andy Leuenberger
March 20, 2022

We are too soon old, and too late wise.

--Yiddish proverb

Call to Worship: Ps 49:5-9, 12-15

Leader I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre: Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

People **Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice, that he should live on forever and never see the pit.**

Leader Man in his pomp will not remain; he is like the beasts that perish. This is the path of those who have foolish confidence; yet after them people approve of their boasts. Like sheep they are appointed for Sheol; death shall be their shepherd, and the upright shall rule over them in the morning. Their form shall be consumed in Sheol, with no place to dwell.

People **But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me..**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 104 | Rejoice in All Your Works

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2014)

Every mouth that cries for food,
Every lung that yearns for breath,
Every eye that searches through the dark for light—

All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied.

*Oh rejoice in all your works,
King of Heaven, King of Earth!
Every creature you have made
declares your praise.
We rejoice in all you've made,
God of all-sustaining grace!
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we
sing your praise!*

Every tree that thirsts for rain,
Every bird that seeks its nest,
Every heart that waits in hope to be made glad—

All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied

May the pond'rings of my heart,
And the song upon my lips,
With the chorus of creation join in praise:
To the God who made all things,
To the Spirit who sustains,
To the Son who over all creation reigns!

I Want to Know You

(Words & Music: James Proctor, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, & Rich Thompson 2016)

I've tried in vain a thousand ways
My fears to quell my hopes to raise
But what I need your word has said
Is ever only Jesus

You died you live you reign you plead
There's love in all your words and deeds
This weary heart finds all it needs
In ever only Jesus

*I want to know you Jesus my Lord
King of the Heavens king of my soul
I trade my treasure and all my rewards
Jesus to know you then know you
more*

Though some should curse me for your
name

I have no fear I have no shame
You stand with me for all my days
My ever only Jesus

Like wave after wave on the ocean
Like all of the sand on the shore
Your beauty and glory are endless
O Jesus I must know you more

Call to Confession: James 4:13-16

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Prayer of Confession:

Prayer of Augustine of Hippo, 4th century

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?

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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).

Jesus I Come

(Words: William Sleeper 1887 Music: Greg Thompson 2000)

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light
Jesus, I come to Thee,
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Scripture & Homily:

Psalm 90

"Teach Us to Number Our Days"

- Elder Dave Snoko

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and
the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are
God.

³You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"

⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

You sweep them away as with a flood; they
are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the
morning:

⁶in the morning it flourishes and is
renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Additional Scripture

Ecclesiastes 1:16-18 / I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

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.

Matthew 6:30-34 / But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Romans 8:20-24 / 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?

Sermon Outline

I. The vanity theme in Scripture

A. All our work is for a short time, and can be undone—no exceptions

B. Only God is eternal and weighty

C. This state of affairs is both due to the Curse and also due to our intrinsic nature as creatures

II. God uses our work for his purposes and kingdom, often in hidden and unforeseen ways

III. Applications

A. Let it go— Don't be anxious

B. Work and enjoy life without putting weight on it

C. Worship— lift up your eyes to see how different God is from us, as the Eternal One

Communion

City Reformed Church invites all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sins and trust Christ alone for salvation, and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel, to receive Holy Communion with us. Parents with non-communicating children are encouraged to bring their children forward during communion. The elders will lay a hand on their head and briefly pray for them as they serve you.

Communion is served with wine and with grape juice. The wine is placed in the two outer circles of the communion tray, and the grape juice is placed in the inner circle. Because Jesus used wine during the first communion service, we believe using real wine is beneficial. However, participants are welcome to choose. There is also gluten-free bread available on each plate.

Please join us in song as we celebrate Christ dwelling with his church in the sacrament of communion.

Songs of Communion

I Need Thee Every Hour

(Words & Music Annie Hawks & Robert Lowry 1872)

I need Thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine
can peace afford.

I need Thee every hour,
stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power
when Thou art nigh.

*I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

I need Thee every hour,
in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide,
or life is in vain.

I need Thee every hour,
most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed,
Thou blessèd Son.

I need Thee every hour;
teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises
in me fulfill.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*(Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm Music: William
Marion Runyan 1923)*

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
There is no shadow
of turning with thee;
Thou changest not,
thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been
thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see:
All I have needed
thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars
in their courses above,
Join with all nature
in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a
peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Doxology

(Words: Thomas Ken 1674 Music: Louis Bourgeois 1510)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
(repeat)

Amen

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! Please contact us at office@cityreformed.org. If you would like to contact a pastor, please email nameun@cityreformed.org. And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Prayer Requests

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

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

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

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

Sunday Evening Service

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

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
t: 412-720-7014
e: office@cityreformed.org
w: cityreformed.org

Donations

Online: cityreformed.org/give
Mail: to the Church Office address above "Attn: Bookkeeper" (checks payable to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)