



Sunday Evening Communion Service
April 16, 2023

"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands."

-Revelation 7:9

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – April 16, 2023
Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Philippians 2:5-11

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

Leader Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

People **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Leader Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

People **And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer of Invocation

Hallelujah What A Savior - Man of Sorrows

(Words & Music: Philip Paul Bliss 1875)

Man of Sorrows! What a name
For the Son of God, Who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim.

Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood.

Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God is He;
Full atonement! Can it be?

Lifted up was He to die;
"It is finished!" was His cry;
Now in heav'n exalted high.

When He comes, our glorious King,
All His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew His song we'll sing

What a Beautiful Name

(Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood 2016 [alternate 2nd verse by Daniel Snoke 2017])

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in you our Christ

*What a beautiful name it is
What a beautiful name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus*

The Light of Life shines in the darkness
And darkness has not overcome
Grace and truth have come through Jesus
And now God has been made known

*What a wonderful name it is
What a wonderful name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus*

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and shame
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the name above all names

*What a powerful name it is
What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus*

Call to Confession: Galatians 3:23-26

Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, we confess that our tendency is to minimize sin and to downplay your holiness. We pretend that we are good and decent people and that we deserve to get good things from you. We are far more comfortable pointing out the sins of other people than looking truly at ourselves.

And yet your law is a mirror for us. You show us your perfect standard for judging people and we must admit we fall far short. We do not love you with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength. We certainly do not love others the way we love ourselves.

So, we have no hope but Christ. He was righteous for us. He was punished for us. In him we have hope, freedom and forgiveness. We pray that you drive us continually to Christ, and make the joy of his gospel fresh and real in our hearts. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Galations 3:27-29

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

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).

Wonderful Merciful Savior

(Words & Music: Dawn Rodgers & Eric Wyse 1989)

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost their way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Almighty, infinite, Father,
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

Scripture & Homily

Genesis 12:1-4

"Abraham's Blessing to the Nations"

-Reverend Jonas Stava (MTW - Norway)

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 28:18-20/ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

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

Were You There

(Words & Music: African American Spiritual)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Oh - Sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb
Oh - Sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb

Were you there when the stone was rolled away
Were you there when the stone was rolled away
Oh - Sometimes it causes me to tremble tremble tremble
Were you there when the stone was rolled away

Were you there when he rose up from the dead
Were you there when he rose up from the dead
Oh - Sometimes I feel like shouting glory glory glory
Were you there when he rose up from the dead

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

(Words: Edward Perronet 1780; Music: Oliver Holden 1793)

All hail the power of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all

Let every kindred every tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all

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.
Amen

Benediction

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**

Sunday

Fox Chapel*- Watson Barker
North Hills**- David Bacon

Monday

Forest Hills*- Adam Schwab

Tuesday

Northside- Joe Benscoter
Friendship**- Michael Hilton
Morningside** - Jeff Winkler
West Hills*- Jonathan Dodd

Wednesday

Regent Square- David Snoke
Baldwin/Greenfield*- Joseph Bianco
East Suburban- Joe Stehle

Thursday

Shadyside - Ben Chidester
Near East Suburban- Jim Partridge

*Childcare provided

** Kid's play area available