



Sunday Evening Communion Service
May 22, 2022

"Let us observe, then, in what way the Church is rightly built upon Christ. It is when he alone is set forth for righteousness, redemption, sanctification, wisdom, satisfaction and cleansing; in short, for life and glory" --John Calvin

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.

Please speak to an usher or greeter if you have any questions about the nursery

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – May 22, 2022
Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Psalm 11

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

Leader In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain, for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;

People **if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?**

Leader The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.

People **The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.**

Leader Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

People **For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.**

Prayer of Invocation

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(Words & Music: Martin Luther 1529)

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate--
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabbaoth, his name,
From age to age the same--
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure--
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Psalm 126

(Words & Music: Isaac Wardell 2012)

Our mouths, they were filled,
Filled with laughter;
Our tongues, they were loosed,
Loosed with joy.
Restore us, O Lord!
Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping,
Lord help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them.
Your sheaves we will carry;
Lord, please do not tarry!
All those who sow weeping
Will go out with songs of joy.*

The nations will say
"He has done great things!"
The nations will sing
Songs of joy.
Restore us, O Lord!
Restore us, O Lord!

Call to Confession: 1 Corinthians 14:20

Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, you call us to be mature in our thinking and infants in evil, yet we confess the many ways we have loved what is evil by neglecting mature thoughtful reflection. Rather than thinking on your Word and the truths of scripture, we have allowed our minds to be taken captive by idle concerns. Rather than giving thought to loving our neighbor we have focused on ourselves. We have not been infants in evil, but have given minds and hearts to sinful ways. Forgive us, gracious Father, that we may take hold of the knowledge, maturity, and purity of one who belongs to Christ. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: John 17:15-19

I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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).

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!

Scripture & Homily

1 Corinthians 3:1-23

"The Builder and the Baby"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

⁵What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

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¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," ²⁰and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." ²¹So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, ²³and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Additional Scripture

Romans 12:2 / Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 15:1 / We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Ephesians 4:14-16 / so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Colossians 1:9-10 / And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Sermon Outline

- Proposition: Christian maturity is developed as you faithfully minister day to day.
- Fallen Condition: We have a temptation to professionalize Christianity or to trivialize the care ministry requires
 1. Master the basics
 2. Take care in how you build
 3. Build, neither big-league nor baby

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-communing 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

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

(Words: Kate Wilkinson 1925 Music: Daniel Snoko 2018)

May the mind of Christ my Savior
Live in me from day to day
By his love and pow'r controlling
All I do, all I say.

May the Word of God dwell richly
In my heart from hour' to hour
So that all may see I triumph
Only through his love and pow'r
Only through his love and pow'r.

May the love of Jesus fill me
As the waters fill the sea.
Him exalting, self removing,
This is my victory.
May the peace of God, my father,
Rule my life in ev'rything,
That I may be quick to comfort
All the sick and sorrowing,
All the sick and sorrowing.

May his beauty rest upon me,
As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel,
Seeing him, only him.
May I run the race before me,
Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus
As I onward with him go,
As I onward with him go.

Living Stones | 1 Peter 2:1-12

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke 2019)

May you keep your actions noble
May your neighbors see your love
When they speak about your failure
May they see your deeds and give God glory

*For you, you have been chosen
to be God's holy people
That he builds into his house like living stones
Full of the Spirit*

*And you, you have been chosen
to be God's holy people
That he builds into his house like living stones
Full of the Spirit of peace*

If you've seen that God is precious
If you've tasted that he's good
If you struggle with your passion
Come to rest your soul as God's beloved

Come to him, the stone rejected
Come to him and give your life
Put away your sin and slander
Come to Christ the Living Stone of Zion

His mercy calls you
From darkness into his glory
The day of the Lord will come

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

Benediction