



Sunday Morning Worship
May 2, 2021

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

Do not think of waiting on God while you say you are not willing to walk in his path. However weak you feel, only be willing and he who has worked to will, will work to do by his power. Wait on the Lord and keep his ways.

- Andrew Murray

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Services

9AM & 11AM

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

SIGN-UPS: 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

Winchester Thurston Parking Lot
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

SUNDAY 5/9 | 5PM

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
Morning Worship – May 2, 2021
Presider: Elder Andy Leuenberger

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:1-5

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

Leader Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

People **A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

Leader Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

People **And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 25

(Lyrics and Music: Joe Day 2000)

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways
You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways

Good and upright
Are you Lord
You teach us sinners
In your ways
(Repeat)

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways
(Repeat)

All your ways are
Loving, faithful, Lord
To those who
Seek your face
(Repeat)

You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways
(Repeat)

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.

Call to Confession: Matthew 9:1-4

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, some people brought to him a paralytic, lying on a bed. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

Prayer of Confession

Gracious heavenly Father, like the healing of the paralytic, forgive us our sins. Help us to see our need for forgiveness as greater than even the healing of our infirmities. Work in us to change our heart's longing, that we may seek you first and desire holy lives. Heal not only our bodies, but heal our souls. We confess our sinfulness in moments of strength and moments of weakness, in plenty and in want. Draw us again to our first love, and rid us of other distractions. Restore and forgive us, we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Matthew 9:5-8

"For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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).

Poor Sinner Dejected With Fear

(Words: William Gadsby; Music: Katy Bowser & Matthew Perryman Jones 2001)

Poor sinner, dejected with fear,
Unbosom thy mind to the Lamb;
No wrath on His brow He does wear,
Nor will He poor mourners condemn;
His arm of omnipotent grace
Is able and willing to save;
A sweet and a permanent peace
He'll freely and faithfully give.

Come just as thou art, with thy woe,
Fall down at the feet of the Lamb;
He will not, He cannot say, "Go",
But surely will take out thy stain
A fountain is opened for sin,
And thousands its virtues have proved
He'll take thee, and plunge thee therein,
And wash thee from filth in His blood.

The soul that on Jesus relies,
He'll never, no never deceive;
He freely and faithfully gives
More blessings than we can conceive;
Yea, down to old age He will keep,
Nor will He forsake us at last;
He knows and is known by His sheep;
They're His, and He will hold them fast.

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Parents please escort your children and pick them up after the sermon.

Sermon: Psalm 25

"I Wait For You"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
 ²O my God, in you I trust;
 let me not be put to shame;
 let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
 they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
 teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
 for you are the God of my salvation;
 for you I wait all the day long.

⁶Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love,
 for they have been from of old.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
 according to your steadfast love remember me,
 for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

⁸Good and upright is the LORD;
 therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
 and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
 for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

- ¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
- ¹²Who is the man who fears the LORD?
Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.
- ¹³His soul shall abide in well-being,
and his offspring shall inherit the land.
- ¹⁴The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him,
and he makes known to them his covenant.
- ¹⁵My eyes are ever toward the LORD,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- ¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- ¹⁷The troubles of my heart are enlarged;
bring me out of my distresses.
- ¹⁸Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
- ¹⁹Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
- ²⁰Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!
Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- ²¹May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
- ²²Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all his troubles.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Genesis 49:18 / "I wait for your salvation, O LORD."

Number 14:34 / "According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure."

Deuteronomy 32:10 / "He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye."

Psalms 27:14 / Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalms 62:5 / For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

Psalms 83:15 / So may you pursue them with your tempest and terrify them with your hurricane!

Psalms 130:4 / But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Proverbs 20:22 / Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

Isaiah 49:23 / "Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers. With their faces to the ground they shall bow down to you, and lick the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD; those who wait for me shall not be put to shame."

Ezekiel 20:10 / "So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness."

Hosea 13:5 / It was I who knew you in the wilderness, in the land of drought...

Credal Response: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 81. Are all true believers at all times confident of their being in the state of grace and that they will be saved?

A. Because confidence of grace and salvation are not the essence of faith, true believers may wait a long time before they obtain it, and after the enjoyment of it they may have it weakened and discontinued through many types of disorders, sins, temptations, and times of feeling deserted by God. Yet they are never left without such presence and support of the Spirit of God as keeps them from sinking into utter despair.

Song of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final song if you are able.

Psalm 27 | The Everlasting

(Fellowship Church 2010)

The Lord is my light and salvation
Whom shall I fear of whom shall I be afraid
The Lord is the strength of my life
Whom shall I fear of whom shall I be afraid

I will wait for you I will wait for you
I will wait for you I will wait for you

I will remain confident in this
I will see the goodness of the Lord
I will remain confident in this
I will see the goodness of the Lord

We set our hope on You
We set our hope on Your love
We set our hope on the Lord
Who is the everlasting God
You are the everlasting God

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

If you would like to contact a pastor, please email joseph@cityreformed.org.

Life Together

<p>Attending Services "In-Person"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sundays 9AM & 11AM • Every Other Sunday 5PM <p>Winchester Thurston (WT) 5059 Ellsworth, 15213</p> <p>Church Center  App</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • **Please Sign Up for Indoor Services on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations. For assistance, contact Sol@cityreformed.org. • For services INDOORS at WT, please submit the WT Screening Form (tinyurl.com/WTscreening) - one per Sunday per household - on the Sunday morning you attend (not before Sunday). • Before attending, please self-assess the health and recent activities of you and your household (Review "Safe & Sound": tinyurl.com/SafeCRPCSound). • Mandatory **MASK** policy (all over 2 yrs old) • Please maintain social distancing between households. • **CHECK IN WITH A GREETER IN-PERSON upon arrival.** • 9AM Morning Service will be Livestreamed.
<p>WT Room Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Church will be held during the sermon in G8 (Dance Studio). • Cry Room and Overflow seating will be in the Dining Room. • Nursing Lounge remains in G10 (across from the restrooms).
<p>Children's Church REOPENS IN-PERSON G8 (Dance Studio)</p>	<p>Offered at both morning services during our church's reopening phase. Please pre-register your children when signing up to attend. For health & safety and Children's Church guidelines, contact Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Serve at City tinyurl.com/ServantCity</p>	<p>One of the main concerns for our reopening plan (e.g. nursery, Children's Church) is to determine how many volunteers are able to help. Please consider serving by completing the "Serve at City" google form: tinyurl.com/ServantCity.</p>
<p>Churchwide Directory Update</p>	<p>We are currently working on updating our directory. New to City Reformed and interested in being included? Or would you like to update your info? Contact Chrissie@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>WMC Bridal & Baby Shower Invite List</p>	<p>Attention ladies! If you are new to City or have been attending for a while and would like to be added to the list, or would like to be removed at this time, please contact Katelyn@cityreformed.org.</p>

(continued on next page)

<p>Open Evening Communion Service 5:00 PM</p> <p>NEXT Sunday 5/9</p> <p>WT Parking Lot, 5059 Ellsworth Ave, 15213</p> <p>In-person service held OUTDOORS, with communion served (pre-packaged individual cups).</p> <p>Please review instructions for attending at: cityreformed.org/evening-service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No Advance Sign-Ups required; Check-Ins only.</i> • <u>Please bring your own chairs/blankets to sit on</u> • Please park on the street or along the campus driveways parallel to Ellsworth, Bayard & Morewood. Handicap spots will be reserved near the Ellsworth entry. • For restroom access to the building, WT requires self-assessment screening. Please submit the WT Screening form before entering the building (one form per Sunday per household). 	
<p>'Mini' Work Day This Saturday 5/8 @ 9AM-1PM</p>	<p>Join us at the church building to wrap up some projects. E-mail Gary to sign up or ask questions: building@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Global Missions Prayer Fridays @ 6:30AM tinyurl.com/CRPCmissionsprayer</p>	<p>Join CRPC Missions Committee weekly for 30 min Zoom prayer. Contact Abbey Mae (methodam1@gmail.com) or Susan (susan@thealexanders.ws). Check out our new missions website: cityreformed.org/missions</p>
<p>B.Y.O.Picnic for Youth and Youth Group Families Today 5/2 @ 1:00PM Point State Park 601 Commonwealth Pl 15222</p>	<p>Bring lawn games and either a blanket or chairs. We will meet on the lawn which is located close to the museum. Street parking is available. if you plan to join us or if you have any questions, contact Joe (joe.b@hey.com).</p>
<p>Vacation Bible School (VBS) Vietnam Veteran's Pavilion, Schenley Park July 26-30 10:30AM-12:30PM tinyurl.com/CRPCVBS21</p>	<p>REGISTRATIONS OPEN for VBS 2021: Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls us Through Children 4 yrs old to rising 5th graders. Sign up as a VBS Child, Youth Crew Leader, or Adult Volunteer. Register online: tinyurl.com/CRPCVBS21 Contact Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Agora Forum Mon 5/3 @ 7PM 3929 Coleman St., 15207 tinyurl.com/CRPCAgora</p>	<p>We will have a followup discussion from last time on the question, "What do we mean by physical law?" Contact Alex (amain8511@gmail.com).</p>
<p>Webinar of the Christian Scientific Society (CSS) Sat 5/29 @ 10AM-2PM christianscientific.org</p>	<p>"Is there intelligent life in outer space? What are the stakes?" It is open to the public and free, with a suggested donation. Preregistration is required. Contact Dave (snoke@pitt.edu).</p>
<p>Ladies' Day Out(doors) Sat Jun 19 @ 9:30AM - 4PM</p>	<p>Save the Date! Details to follow! Contact Sandy@cityreformed.org.</p>

Women's Evening Bible Study Mondays @ 6-7:30PM	Join us Monday evenings over Zoom for "Becoming a Women of Purpose." Contact Cathy Taylor (Lawyerdad5@aol.com).
Tuesday Ladies Study Tuesdays @ 10-11:15AM	Ladies, join us Tuesday mornings over Zoom. Contact Tracy (partridge.ta@gmail.com).
Young Adult Women's Fellowship Every other Saturday	This is an informal gathering of women in the Church. The purpose is for us to do life together, get to know each other, and to foster a sense of community. You can expect, zoom conversations, zoom workouts, hikes, service etc. Contact Zenny@cityreformed.org.
Men's Discipleship Committee	MEN who are interested in discipleship through a mentoring relationship, contact Adam at mdc@cityreformed.org.
Youth Group	Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a series of events throughout the spring and summer! Contact Becki@cityreformed.org or Ben@cityreformed.org for info about upcoming events.
Bethany Food Bank and Master's Kitchen Service Thurs @ 9AM - 1PM or 4 - 6PM; Fri @ 12 - 1PM	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.
Caring for Each Other and the Deacon's List	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.
Make Connections via Online Media	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. <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 Adam at mdc@cityreformed.org.

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

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.
