



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**July 12, 2020**

# 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](mailto:office@cityreformed.org) or visit our website: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org).

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## Reflections

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust him for his grace.  
Behind a frowning providence, He hides a smiling face.

- William Cowper, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way"

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## About Us

### Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM [LIVESTREAM]

[tinyurl.com/CRPCLive](http://tinyurl.com/CRPCLive)

### Church Office

3929 Coleman St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

t: 412-720-7014

e: [office@cityreformed.org](mailto:office@cityreformed.org)

w: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org)

### Sunday Evening Worship Service

6:00PM [CANCELED]

### Donations

Online: [cityreformed.org/give](http://cityreformed.org/give)

Mail: to the Church Office address above  
"Attn: Allison" (please make checks payable  
to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)

# Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Morning Worship – July 12, 2020  
Presider: Reverend John McCombs

## Call to Worship: Ephesians 1:3-8

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

Leader Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing  
in the heavenly places,

People **Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of  
the world, that we should be holy and blameless before  
him.**

Leader In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons  
through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his  
will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has  
blessed us in the Beloved.

People **In him we have redemption through his blood, the  
forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches  
of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom  
and insight.**

## Prayer of Invocation

### O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus

*(Words: Samuel T. Francis 1800's; Music: Thomas J. Williams 1890)*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless free.  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me.  
Underneath me, all around me,  
Is the current of Thy love.  
Leading onward, leading homeward,  
To thy glorious rest above.

*(continued on next page)*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Spread His praise from shore to shore.  
How He loveth, ever loveth,  
Changeth never, never more.  
How he watches o'er his loved ones,  
Died to call them all his own.  
How for them he intercedeth,  
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
Love of every love the best.  
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,  
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me.  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to thee.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,  
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me.  
And it lifts me up to glory,  
For it lifts me up to thee.

### **Psalm 77:1-3**

*(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko 2013)*

I cry aloud to God and he will hear my call.  
When troubles surround I seek the Lord

My soul will not rest, I seek God and moan;  
And when I meditate my spirit faints.

My soul will not rest  
(I cry aloud to God)

I seek God and moan  
(And he will hear my call)

And when I meditate  
(When troubles surround)

My spirit faints  
(I seek the Lord)

## **Call to Confession: Ephesians 2:1-3**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Father, your promises to us are staggering. We have an inheritance that is beyond our wildest dreams. You have invited us to a life filled with meaning and purpose in which we complete the good works you have prepared for us from the foundation of the earth. You have given us people to love and a message to share. And yet we confess that we are far too easily pleased. We are often half-hearted creatures and we fool around with food and fun and ambition. We fail to love our neighbors as we should and we fall short of the lives you call us to live. Forgive us and change us. Teach us to love what is holy and glorious and beautiful. Teach us to hate sin and wickedness and deception. Tune our hearts to love you and sing your praises. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon: Ephesians 2:4-5a, 8-10**

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## **Corporate Prayer**

# Song of Renewal

*We consider tithes and 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).*

## Psalm 130 | From Depths of Woe

*(Words: Martin Luther 1524; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)*

From the depths of woe I raise to thee the voice of lamentation;  
Lord turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication;  
If thou iniquities dost mark our secret sins and misdeeds dark  
Oh who shall stand before thee? *(echo) 2x*

To wash away the crimson stain grace, grace alone availeth;  
Our works, alas, are all in vain; in much the best life faileth;  
No man can glory in thy sight all must alike confess thy might  
And live alone by mercy *(echo) 2x*

Therefore my trust is in the Lord, and not in mine own merit;  
On him my soul shall rest, his word upholds my fainting spirit;  
His promised mercy is my fort, my comfort, and my sweet support  
I wait for it with patience *(echo) 2x*

What though I wait the livelong night and 'til the dawn appeareth;  
My heart still trusteth in his might; it doubteth not nor feareth;  
Do thus oh ye of Israel's seed, Ye of the Spirit born indeed  
And wait 'til God appeareth *(echo) 2x*

Though great our sins and sore our woes,  
His grace much more aboundeth;  
His helping love no limit knows, our utmost need it soundeth.  
Our shepherd good and true is he, who will at last his Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow *(echo) 2x*

## Pastoral Prayer

**Sermon:** Esther 1:1-5, 10-12, 15-21; 2:2-8, 15-18

"The Silent Sovereignty of God" - Dr. Seulgi Byun

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**N**ow in the days of Ahasuerus, the Ahasuerus who reigned from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces,<sup>2</sup> in those days when King Ahasuerus sat on his royal throne in Susa, the

citadel, <sup>3</sup>in the third year of his reign he gave a feast for all his officials and servants. The army of Persia and Media and the nobles and governors of the provinces were before him, <sup>4</sup>while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his greatness for many days, 180 days. <sup>5</sup>And when these days were completed, the king gave for all the people present in Susa the citadel, both great and small, a feast lasting for seven days in the court of the garden of the king's palace...

<sup>10</sup>On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha and Abagtha, Zethar and Carkas, the seven eunuchs who served in the presence of King Ahasuerus, <sup>11</sup>to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty, for she was lovely to look at. <sup>12</sup>But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command delivered by the eunuchs. At this the king became enraged, and his anger burned within him...

<sup>15</sup>"According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of King Ahasuerus delivered by the eunuchs?" <sup>16</sup>Then Memucan said in the presence of the king and the officials, "Not only against the king has Queen Vashti done wrong, but also against all the officials and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus. <sup>17</sup>For the queen's behavior will be made known to all women, causing them to look at their husbands with contempt, since they will say, 'King Ahasuerus commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.' <sup>18</sup>This very day the noble women of Persia and Media who have heard of the queen's behavior will say the same to all the king's officials, and there will be contempt and wrath in plenty. <sup>19</sup>If it please the king, let a royal order go out from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians

*(continued on next page)*

and the Medes so that it may not be repealed, that Vashti is never again to come before King Ahasuerus. And let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she. <sup>20</sup>So when the decree made by the king is proclaimed throughout all his kingdom, for it is vast, all women will give honor to their husbands, high and low alike." <sup>21</sup>This advice pleased the king and the princes, and the king did as Memucan proposed...

<sup>2:2</sup>Then the king's young men who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. <sup>3</sup>And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in Susa the citadel, under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women. Let their cosmetics be given them. <sup>4</sup>And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so. <sup>5</sup>Now there was a Jew in Susa the citadel whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, son of Shimei, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, <sup>6</sup>who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. <sup>7</sup>He was bringing up Hadassah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother. The young woman had a beautiful figure and was lovely to look at, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai took her as his own daughter. <sup>8</sup> So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many young women were gathered in Susa the citadel in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women...

<sup>15</sup>When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the

king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was winning favor in the eyes of all who saw her. <sup>16</sup>And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus, into his royal palace, in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, <sup>17</sup>the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she won grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup>Then the king gave a great feast for all his officials and servants; it was Esther's feast. He also granted a remission of taxes to the provinces and gave gifts with royal generosity.

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**Leader** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Additional Scripture**

Romans 8:28 / And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

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### **Hard To Get**

*(Words & Music: Rich Mullins 1998)*

You who live in heaven  
Hear the prayers of those of us who live on earth  
Who are afraid of being left by those we love  
And who get hardened in the hurt

Do you remember when You lived down here where we all scrape  
To find the faith to ask for daily bread  
Did You forget about us after You had flown away  
Well I memorized every word You said  
Still I'm so scared, I'm holding my breath  
While You're up there just playing hard to get

You who live in radiance  
Hear the prayers of those of us who live in skin  
We have a love that's not as patient as Yours was  
But still we do love now and then

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*(continued on next page)*

Did You ever know loneliness  
Did You ever know need  
Do You remember just how long a night can get?  
When You are barely holding on and Your friends fall asleep  
And don't see the blood that's running in Your sweat  
Will those who mourn be left uncomforted  
While You're up there just playing hard to get?

And I know you bore our sorrows  
And I know you feel our pain  
And I know it would not hurt any less  
Even if it could be explained  
And I know that I am only lashing out  
At the One who loves me most  
And after I have figured this song out  
What I really need to know

Is if You who live in eternity  
Hear the prayers of those of us who live in time  
We can't see what's ahead  
And we can not get free from what we've left behind  
I'm reeling from these voices that keep screaming in my ears  
All these words of shame and doubt, blame and regret

I can't see how You're leading me unless You've led me here  
To where I'm lost enough to let myself be led  
And so You've been here all along I guess  
It's just Your ways and You are just plain hard to get

## **Song of Thanksgiving**

*Please stand for the final songs if you are able.*

### **It Is Well With My Soul**

*(Words: Horatio G. Spafford 1873; Music: Philip P. Bliss 1876)*

When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blessed assurance control:  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

*It is well with my soul  
It is well, it is well with my soul!*

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!—  
My sin not in part, but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day, when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul!

## Prayer

## Announcements

## Benediction

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*If you would like to contact a pastor, please email [joseph@cityreformed.org](mailto:joseph@cityreformed.org).*

## Life Together

Additional detail can be found on: [cityreformed.org/events](http://cityreformed.org/events).

<b>Attending "In-Person"</b>	Sign up by contacting Sol ( <a href="mailto:sol@cityreformed.org">sol@cityreformed.org</a> ).
<b>Game Night</b> Mon 7/13 @ 6-9PM <i>3929 Coleman St., 15207</i>	Remember to bring your masks. Bring your own games or just drop in. Meets in the ***basement*** rec hall. Contact Gary ( <a href="mailto:gatcheson@gmail.com">gatcheson@gmail.com</a> ).
<b>Agora Forum</b> Mon 7/13 @ 7PM <i>tinyurl.com/CRPCAgora</i>	David Snoke will be leading a discussion on views of different churches on baptism (including ours). Contact Kathryn ( <a href="mailto:klclaudy@gmail.com">klclaudy@gmail.com</a> ).
<b>Family Summer Fun Picnic</b> Sat 8/1 @11AM-1PM <i>Oval Shelter, Schenley Park</i>	Socially distanced outdoor picnic (BYOPicnic) for our children and their families, along with a Kona Ice Truck! RSVP to Charis ( <a href="mailto:charis@cityreformed.org">charis@cityreformed.org</a> ).
<b>Volunteer Babysitting: Serve &amp; Connect with Our Church Families!</b>	If interested in <b>volunteering</b> , complete: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/CRPCBABYSIT">tinyurl.com/CRPCBABYSIT</a> . <b>Parents:</b> If you have a need for childcare, contact Becki ( <a href="mailto:becki@cityreformed.org">becki@cityreformed.org</a> )..
<b>Garage Giveaway - a New Way</b> Welcoming International Students with PRISM	Although not holding the usual large event, we are still collecting select items (8/1-4). For details, visit <a href="http://pghcommission.org/garage-giveaway">pghcommission.org/garage-giveaway</a> . Consider being Welcome Specialists by connecting with int'l students to go shopping for necessary items or to tour Pittsburgh together. Contact Susannah ( <a href="mailto:sclarke.prism@gmail.com">sclarke.prism@gmail.com</a> ).

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## 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](http://cityreformed.org).

### Visitor's Card

We would love to get to know you. Please contact us at [office@cityreformed.org](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@cityreformed.org).

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