



**Sunday Evening Service
August 21, 2022**

Puritanism in its negative sense is now less common among the Protestant faithful than among progressives, who carry on the Puritan tradition unconsciously. Unshackled by belief...modern "puritans" merely indulge in the emotional characteristics of their seventeenth-century forebears: self-righteousness, moralism, and a delight in pointing out the sins of those with whom they happen to disagree. They have the vices of the Puritans, but not their virtues.

—A.N. Wilson, "Puritanism Then and Now", *First Things*, January 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 or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – August 21, 2022
Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Isaiah 49:13-16a

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

Leader Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

People **But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me."**

Leader "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

People **Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me."**

Prayer of Invocation

Great Are You Lord

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan & David Leonard 2012)

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore
Ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

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*It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only*

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord

Psalm 103:1 | Bless the Lord

(Taizé: Jacques Berthier 1923-1994)

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life

Call to Confession: Galatians 5:13-14

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord, if you kept a record of sins, who could stand? We acknowledge that a perfectly just judge looking at our lives, if he knew everything we have done, said, and thought, would have to judge us as guilty. We want to stop justifying ourselves to you and to others, and rest alone in your grace through the sacrifice of Christ. With you there is forgiveness, and you yourself will redeem your people from their sins. Help us to stop making excuses, and to turn from our times of rebellion against you to walk with you in new life, with hearts full of gratitude for all you have done for us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

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 10:23-33

"Do You Experience Freedom in Christ?"

- Elder Dave Snoko

All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up. ²⁴Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor. ²⁵Eat whatever is sold in the meat market without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁶For "the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." ²⁷If one of the unbelievers invites you to dinner and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. ²⁸But if someone says to you, "This has been offered in sacrifice," then do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience— ²⁹I do not mean your conscience, but his. For why should my liberty be determined by someone else's conscience? ³⁰If I partake with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of that for which I give thanks?

³¹So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³²Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, ³³just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture.

1 Corinthians 4:3-4 / But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me.

1 Corinthians 6:12 / "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.

2 Corinthians 3:17 / Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Galatians 2:20 / I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 5:1 / For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Hebrews 8:10 / For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 Peter 2:16 / Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

Sermon Outline:

I. Four types of freedom in Christ

- Freedom from fear of God's judgment
- Freedom from fear of people's judgments
- Freedom from following byzantine religious rules
- Freedom from tying yourself to complicated moral codes

II. Three principles for debatable matters

- Motivation is love for God and neighbor, not constraint and fear
- Rejoice in what is good and don't be obsessive about moral perfection
- Be aware of what message you send to others, for the sake of their conscience,

not out of fear that you will be sullied.

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

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.

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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

Thy Mercy My God

(Words & Music Isaac Watts, John Stocker, and Sandra McCracken 2001)

Thy mercy my God is the theme of my song
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here
Sin would reduce me to utter despair
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive
And He that first made me still keeps me alive

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart
Dissolved by Thy goodness I fall to the ground
And weep for the praise of the mercy I found

Great Father of mercies Thy goodness I own
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine

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.

Benediction