



**Sunday Evening Service
September 18, 2022**

"The clearest sensation that a human being has when he experiences the holy is an overpowering and overwhelming sense of creatureliness. That is, when we are in the presence of God, we are humbled and become most aware of ourselves as creatures. This is the opposite of Satan's original temptation, "You shall be as gods."

- R.C. Sproul, The Holiness of God

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 Communion Worship – September 18, 2022
Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Hebrews 12:25-26, 28-29

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

Leader See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

People **At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."**

Leader Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

People **For our God is a consuming fire.**

Prayer of Invocation

Holy Holy Holy

(Words: Reginald Heber 1826, Music: John Bacchus Dykes 1823-76)

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name,
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Speak O Lord

(Words & Music: Stuart Townend and Keith Getty 2005)

Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

(continued on next page)

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Call to Confession: 1 Peter 1:14-16

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord, you are our father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hands. Forgive us, Lord, for how we have corrupted your good creation. Gracious Lord, you alone are righteous and holy, and in your presence no one can stand. Your gracious mercy is our only hope and we ask for your forgiveness. We pray for your cleansing touch to wash away our corruption, clothe us in righteousness, and for your hands to rework our lives anew. We pray for these things in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Peter 1:17-19

And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

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).

For All the Saints

(Words: William W. How 1864, Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

For all the saints,
Who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith
Before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus,
Be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

Thou wast their rock,
Their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain
In the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness
Drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Allelu...

O blest communion,
Fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle,
They in glory shine;
Yet all are one in
Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Allelu...

The golden evening
brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful
warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm
of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

But lo! There breaks
a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant
rise in bright array;
The King of glory
passes on his way,
Alleluia, Allelu...

From earth's wide bounds,
from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl
streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Scripture & Homily

1 Corinthians 11:17-34

"The Lord's Supper is Like Dynamite"

- Elder David Snoko

But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, ¹⁹for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. ²⁰When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. ²¹For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. ²²What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said,

“This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. ³⁰That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

³³So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another— ³⁴if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home—so that when you come together it will not be for judgment. About the other things I will give directions when I come.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon outline:

I. The seriousness of the sacraments

A. The concept of "holiness"

B. Holy ground as greater blessing and curse

II. Three views of the sacraments

A. Catholic/Lutheran/Anglican: participation in the sacrifice of Christ (cf. Romans 6:9-10, Hebrews 9:24-28)

B. Baptist/Nondemon: memorial only

C. Reformed: sacraments as spiritual communion

III. Specific applications

A. Not a private practice

B. "Fencing the table"

C. Preparation

D. A "means of grace"—don't skip it!

Additional Scripture

Exodus 20:18-21 / Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die." Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

Luke 5:8 / But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

Romans 6:9-10 / We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Hebrews 9:24-28 / For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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

Now Behold The Lamb

(Words & Music: Kirk Franklin 1995)

Now behold the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Born into sin that I may live again
The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Why You love me so
Lord I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God

Thank You for the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Because of Your grace
I can finish this race
The Precious Lamb of God

Apostles' Creed

(Music: Daniel Snoke 2015)

I believe in God the Father,
maker of all heav'n and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, our Savior,
God's own son of matchless worth;
By the Spirit was conceived,
of the virgin Mary born,
He in whom I have believed;
God Almighty, three in one.

Suffered under Pontious Pilate,
crucified for me he died.
Laid within the grave so silent,
gates of hell he opened wide;
For the stone sealed tomb was empty;
on the third day He arose;
Into heaven made his entry,
mighty conquer'r of his foes.
At God's right hand He is seated,
till His coming, as he said;
Final judgement will be meted
to the living and the dead;
I confess the Holy Spirit,
who was sent through Christ the Son.
To apply salvation's merit:
God, the Spirit three in one.

I believe the church of Jesus,
universal e'er remains;
We are one through all the ages
in communion of the saints.
I believe sins are forgiven,
that our bodies will be raised.
To eternal life in glory,
ever let his name be praised.

(continued on next page)

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