



Sunday Evening Worship  
September 19, 2021

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## Call to Worship: Psalm 66:8-12, 20

Leader Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,

People **Who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Leader For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

People **You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

Leader You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

People **Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!**

## Prayer of Invocation

### Lion and the Lamb

*(Words and Music Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, & Leeland Mooring 2015)*

He's coming on the clouds  
Kings and kingdoms will bow down  
And every chain will break  
As broken hearts declare His praise  
For who can stop the Lord almighty

*Our God is the Lion  
The Lion of Judah  
He's roaring with power  
And fighting our battles  
And every knee will bow before Him*

*Our God is the Lamb  
The Lamb that was slain  
For the sin of the world  
His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow  
before the Lion and the Lamb  
And every knee will bow before Him*

So open up the gates  
Make way before the King of kings  
Our God who comes to save  
Is here to set the captives free  
For who can stop the Lord almighty

Who can stop the Lord almighty  
Who can stop the Lord almighty

## Call to Confession:

Hebrews 3:7-11

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'"

## Prayer of Confession

**Father, you are the King of heaven and earth. All things were made by your power and all authority belongs to you.**

**But we confess that we are not faithful subjects. We rebel against your authority. We would rather rule our own lives and so we turn from your laws. In our rebellion we lash out against our fellow humans. We desperately need**

**Jesus as our Lord and Savior. He is the High Priest who shed his blood in our place. He was condemned and killed for our sins.**

**Cleanse us and renew our minds. Cause us to love you and to love your laws. Help us to imitate Christ by submitting to each other and loving each other. Give us your peace. Amen.**

## Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon:

Hebrews 3:12-14

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.

## 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.

## Scripture & Homily:

Judges 3:1-31

"The Testing of God's People"

- Reverend John McCombs

<sup>1</sup>Now these are the nations that the Lord left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. <sup>2</sup>It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before. <sup>3</sup>These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath.

<sup>4</sup>They were for the testing of Israel, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the Lord, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. <sup>5</sup>So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the

Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>6</sup>And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods.

#### Othniel

<sup>7</sup>And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asheroth.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia.

And the people of Israel served Cushan-rishathaim eight years. <sup>9</sup>But when the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the people of Israel, who saved them, Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. <sup>10</sup>The Spirit of the Lord was upon him, and he judged Israel. He went out to war, and the Lord gave Cushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand. And his hand prevailed over Cushan-rishathaim. <sup>11</sup>So the land had rest forty years. Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

#### Ehud

<sup>12</sup>And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the Lord. <sup>13</sup>He gathered to himself the Ammonites and the Amalekites, and went and defeated Israel. And they took possession of the city of palms. <sup>14</sup>And the people of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

<sup>15</sup>Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord, and the Lord raised up for them a deliverer,

Ehud, the son of Gera, the Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The people of Israel sent tribute by him to Eglon the king of Moab. <sup>16</sup>And Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he bound it on his right thigh under his clothes. <sup>17</sup>And he presented the tribute to Eglon king of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. <sup>18</sup>And when Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent away the people who carried the tribute. <sup>19</sup>But he himself turned back at the idols near Gilgal and said, "I have a secret message for you, O king." And he commanded, "Silence." And all his attendants went out from his presence. <sup>20</sup>And Ehud came to him as he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber. And Ehud said, "I have a message from God for you." And he arose from his seat. <sup>21</sup>And Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly. <sup>22</sup>And the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not pull the sword out of his belly; and the dung came out. <sup>23</sup>Then Ehud went out into the porch and closed the doors of the roof chamber behind him and locked them.

<sup>24</sup>When he had gone, the servants came, and when they saw that the doors of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, "Surely he is relieving himself in the closet of the cool chamber." <sup>25</sup>And they waited till they were embarrassed. But when he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them, and there lay their lord dead on the floor.

<sup>26</sup>Ehud escaped while they delayed, and he passed beyond the idols and escaped to Seirah.

<sup>27</sup>When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim. Then the people of Israel went down with him from the hill country,

and he was their leader. <sup>28</sup>And he said to them, "Follow after me, for the Lord has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand." So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and did not allow anyone to pass over. <sup>29</sup>And they killed at that time about 10,000 of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; not a man escaped. <sup>30</sup>So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest for eighty years.

Shamgar

<sup>31</sup>After him was Shamgar the son of Anath, who killed 600 of the Philistines with an oxgoad, and he also saved Israel.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

## Additional Scripture

Genesis 22:1/ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

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Hebrews 11:17-19/ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

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## 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

## 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

## Doxology

*(Words & Music: Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan 2007)*

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

**Notes:**

## 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! Please contact us at [office@cityreformed.org](mailto:office@cityreformed.org). If you would like to contact a pastor, please email [nameun@cityreformed.org](mailto:nameun@cityreformed.org). And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please visit our website: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org).

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### 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).

### About Us

#### Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM  
Winchester Thurston Auditorium  
5059 Ellsworth Ave  
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

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

#### Sunday Evening Service

5:30PM  
Greenfield Chapel  
3929 Coleman Street  
Pittsburgh PA, 15207

#### 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)

#### Donations

Online: [cityreformed.org/give](http://cityreformed.org/give)  
Mail: to the Church Office address above "Attn: Bookkeeper" (checks payable to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)