



Sunday Morning Worship
August 25, 2019

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. Please stop by the Welcome Table in the foyer - we would love to meet you! If you would like more information, please fill out one of the info cards on the table, refer to our print newsletter, *City This Month*, or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping god may wake someday and take offense, or the waking god may draw us out to where we can never return.

- Annie Dillard

Please speak to an usher or greeter if you have any questions about the nursery and children's programs.

- *There is a nursery for children infant – 3 during the service.*
- *Cry Room space is available during the service off the foyer and Board Room.*
- *Children's bulletins are available at the side table for those staying in service.*
- *During the service, children 4 – 7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church.*

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – August 25, 2019

Presider: Reverend Derek Bates

Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-7

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

Leader Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Leader For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

People **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

Leader The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

People **Oh come, let us worship and bow down;**

Leader Let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

People **For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

Prayer of Invocation

What a Beautiful Name

(Words & Music: Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood; Alternate 2nd verse by Daniel Snoke 2017)

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

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*What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

The Light of Life shines in the darkness
And darkness has not overcome
Grace and truth have come through Jesus
And now God has been made known

*What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silence the boast of sin and shame
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

*What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus*

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.

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.

*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!*

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 Reading: Psalm 66:3-5

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down

(Words & Music: Dave Doherty)

Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord
Our God our Maker
Come let us worship and bow down
Let us kneel before the Lord
Our God our Maker
For He is our God
And we are the people of His pasture
And the sheep of His hand
Just the sheep of His hand

Call to Confession: Hebrews 3:12-13

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.

Prayer of Confession

Father, we cry out for your mercy. By nature, our hearts are hard and we can't make ourselves holy. And so we rejoice again in the wonder of the gospel. Though we fall short of your holy standard, through faith in Christ we are declared righteous in your sight. We are saved, not because we have made ourselves godly, but because you justify the ungodly. This same power that brought us new life is changing us. We are being made into the image of your Son.

But we confess that we are slow to change. We often feel stuck and struggle to believe that you are re-molding and re-shaping us. Sometimes we simply struggle to believe that change is possible. We pray that you would renew our faith and give us new sight. Awaken our hearts to your love and lead us into new obedience. Make us new. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 6:19-20

We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

Baptisms: Calvin Julius Poerschke, son of Andrew & Rachel Poerschke
Ezra Valor Snoke, son of Daniel & Bethany Snoke

Question to the Congregation:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of these children?

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

During this song we will pass offering bags through the congregation. We ask that our members and regular attendees thoughtfully consider their contribution as an act of worship - a response to God's grace in our lives. Those who are not a regular part of our church are not expected to participate in the offering.

Solid Rock (My Hope Is Built)

(Words: Edward Mote 1834; Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1863)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. The leaders will bring the children to children's church and then back to the worship service after the sermon.

Sermon: Nehemiah 12:1-47

Nehemiah: Restoration After Exile

"A Joyful and Faithful Celebration" - Reverend Matt Koerber

¹*These are the priests and the Levites who came up with Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Jeshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra, ²Amariah, Malluch, Hattush, ³Shecaniah, Rehum, Meremoth, ⁴Iddo, Ginnethoi, Abijah, ⁵Mijamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, ⁶Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah, ⁷Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah, Jedaiah. These were the chiefs of the priests and of their brothers in the days of Jeshua.*

⁸*And the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, who with his brothers was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving. ⁹And Bakbukiah and Unni and their brothers stood opposite them in the service. ¹⁰And Jeshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the father of Joiada, ¹¹Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua.*

¹²*And in the days of Joiakim were priests, heads of fathers' houses: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah; ¹³of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanan; ¹⁴of Malluchi, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph; ¹⁵of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai; ¹⁶of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam; ¹⁷of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai; ¹⁸of Bilgah, Shammua; of Shemaiah, Jehonathan; ¹⁹of Joiarib, Mattenai; of Jedaiah, Uzzi; ²⁰of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber; ²¹of Hilkiyah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethanel.*

²²*In the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan, and Jaddua, the Levites were recorded as heads of fathers' houses; so too were the priests in the reign of Darius the Persian. ²³As for the sons of Levi, their heads of fathers' houses were written in the Book of the Chronicles until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib. ²⁴And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers who stood opposite them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch by watch. ²⁵Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, and*

Akkub were gatekeepers standing guard at the storehouses of the gates. ²⁶These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra, the priest and scribe.

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites in all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem to celebrate the dedication with gladness, with thanksgivings and with singing, with cymbals, harps, and lyres. ²⁸And the sons of the singers gathered together from the district surrounding Jerusalem and from the villages of the Netophathites; ²⁹also from Beth-gilgal and from the region of Geba and Azmaveth, for the singers had built for themselves villages around Jerusalem. ³⁰And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and they purified the people and the gates and the wall.

³¹Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great choirs that gave thanks. One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate. ³²And after them went Hoshaiah and half of the leaders of Judah, ³³and Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ³⁴Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, and Jeremiah, ³⁵and certain of the priests' sons with trumpets: Zechariah the son of Jonathan, son of Shemaiah, son of Mattaniah, son of Micaiah, son of Zaccur, son of Asaph; ³⁶and his relatives, Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah, and Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God. And Ezra the scribe went before them. ³⁷At the Fountain Gate they went up straight before them by the stairs of the city of David, at the ascent of the wall, above the house of David, to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸The other choir of those who gave thanks went to the north, and I followed them with half of the people, on the wall,

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above the Tower of the Ovens, to the Broad Wall, ³⁹and above the Gate of Ephraim, and by the Gate of Yeshanah, and by the Fish Gate and the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, to the Sheep Gate; and they came to a halt at the Gate of the Guard. ⁴⁰So both choirs of those who gave thanks stood in the house of God, and I and half of the officials with me; ⁴¹and the priests Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets; ⁴²and Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malchijah, Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang with Jezrahiah as their leader. ⁴³And they offered great sacrifices that day and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and children also rejoiced. And the joy of Jerusalem was heard far away.

⁴⁴On that day men were appointed over the storerooms, the contributions, the firstfruits, and the tithes, to gather into them the portions required by the Law for the priests and for the Levites according to the fields of the towns, for Judah rejoiced over the priests and the Levites who ministered. ⁴⁵And they performed the service of their God and the service of purification, as did the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the command of David and his son Solomon. ⁴⁶For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. ⁴⁷And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah gave the daily portions for the singers and the gatekeepers; and they set apart that which was for the Levites; and the Levites set apart that which was for the sons of Aaron.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Psalm 95:7-9 / Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

John 4:23-24 / "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q1. What is the main purpose of mankind?

A. Mankind's main purpose is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

You Are Good

(Words & Music: Israel Houghton 2001)

Lord You are good
And Your mercy endureth forever
Lord You are good
And Your mercy endureth forever
People from every nation and tongue
From generation to generation

*We worship You
Hallelujah hallelujah
We worship You for who You are
We worship You
Hallelujah hallelujah
We worship You for who You are
For You are good*

You are good all the time
All the time You are good
You are good all the time
All the time You are good

We Will Feast in the House of Zion

(Words & Music: Sandra McCracken 2015)

*We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more*

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the Lord our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.

Prayer

Announcements

At the beginning of announcements parents are dismissed to pick up their children from nursery.

Benediction

Tonight's Evening Service: Reverend Joseph Bianco will be preaching "The Miracle of Repentance" on Jonah 3:1-10.