



**Sunday Evening Commissioning
Worship Service
January 14, 2024**

"It is not of secondary importance to be engaged in this ministry of sending. It is a very high calling. It is walking in the truth. It is the manifestation of a healthy and prospering soul. Senders are fellow workers with the truth. To send in a manner worthy of God is a call to excellence in the support of missionaries. It is direct participation in God's purpose. The cruciality of sending cannot be overemphasized."

—Tom Steller, Pastor

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Commissioning Worship – January 14, 2024

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: John 20:19-23

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

Leader On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

People When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Leader Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

People And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Prayer of Invocation

What a Beautiful Name

(Music: Johann Haydn 1700's; Words: Robert Grant 1833)

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

*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*

This Is My Father's World

(Words: Maltbie D. Babcock 1907; Music: English Folk Melody)

This is my Father's world.
And to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings,
And round him rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world!
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees,
Of skies and seas.
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.
The birds their carols raise
The morning light,
The lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise
This is my Father's world!
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass
I hear Him pass
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget.
That though the wrong
Seems oft so strong
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world.
The battle has been won;
Jesus who died
Shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.

Call to Confession: John 20:24-25

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord, you have commissioned us to ministry as a people, as disciples of the risen Christ. You have freely given power for the work through the Holy Spirit. And yet, like Thomas, we are prone to believe only what we can see, feel or touch. We struggle to believe the gospel promises contained in your Word. We doubt your presence and ability to work in the world. Forgive us, Father, and move us into effective ministry by the power of the Spirit of our resurrected elder-brother Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: John 20:26-29

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

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)

The Great Commission

(Words & Music: Daniel Justice Snoke 2022)

At your call we follow
In your name we worship
In our doubting hearts be glorified

*All authority is mine therefore go
Baptize all the world and teach them my Word
By Father Son and Holy Spirit I am with you*

Scripture & Homily: 3 John 1-8

"A Biblically Sending Church"

- Elder Jim Partridge

The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth.

²Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.

³For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

⁵Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Romans 15:24 / I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

1 Corinthians 16:6, 11 / ...and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go... So let no one despise him. Help him on his way in peace, that he may return to me, for I am expecting him with the brothers.

2 Corinthians 1:16 / I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea.

Titus 3:13 / Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing.

Notes

Congregational Prayer & Ethiopia Team Commissioning

Song of Thanksgiving

To God Be The Glory

(Words & Music: Israel Houghton, Sidney Mohede, and M. Sidney 2010)

To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that we may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
To ev'ry believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.

Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer and higher and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Benediction

Team Ethiopia 2024

Alex Watt, Team Leader

Kathryn Watt

Bill Bolish

JoAnn Bolish

Steve Laughran

David Hall

Joseph Weaver

Maya Weaver

Mark Renner

Christiana Renner

Mulu Wubishet

Berhanu Waldemariam