



Sunday Communion Evening Service
December 18, 2022

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Communion Evening Worship – December 18, 2022

Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Isaiah 55:1,12

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

Leader Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;

People **And he who has no money, come, buy and eat!**

Leader Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

People **For we shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace.**

Leader The mountains and the hills before us shall break forth into singing,

People **And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

Prayer of Invocation

Isaiah 55 | So Shall His Word

(Words & Music: Liz Vice & Sandra McCracken)

So shall his Word that goes out, that goes out
Shall not return, not return empty

It shall make a name for the LORD

It shall make a name for the LORD

Let the Light make a name for the LORD

In the dark

Come all who thirst, laborers, lay it down
Come seek the Lord while he may be found
We shall go out, out with joy led in peace
Join in the song all creation sing

*We shall make a name for the LORD
We shall make a name for the LORD
Let the Light make a name for the LORD
In the dark*

Our Souls In Stillness Wait

(Words & Music: Marty Haugen 1982)

*For you, oh Lord, our souls in stillness wait---
Truly our hope is in you.*

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
Your radiance shines in all who look to you;
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits;
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word;
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,
And in your advent, draw us near to you,
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our journey;
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain;
Open to us the pathway to your peace.

Call to Confession: Psalm 51:1-4

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, we long for true rest. We desire to be free from our fears and anxieties; from pressures and troubles. But we can't create peace on our own. We know that true peace comes from resting in our savior Jesus.

Forgive us for our slowness to rest in him. Grant us grace to repent and release the burdens to which we cling. Help us to see Jesus as the one who brings us peace. Deepen our faith that we may see the wide mercy of Jesus and the everlasting love of the Living God. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Ephesians 2:13-17

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

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).

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

(Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century; Music: 17th Century French Arrangement: Daniel Snoke 2011)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord Most High

Scripture & Homily

Philippians 4:4-9

"The Peace of God & the God of Peace"

-Reverend John McCombs

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Psalm 29:11 / May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Isaiah 9:6 / For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 26:3 / You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Matthew 1:23 / "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

Luke 2:14 / "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

John 14:27 / Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the

world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Colossians 3:15 / And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 / Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

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

God With Us

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan 2012)

You have come to bring peace
To be love, to be nearer to us
You have come to bring life
To be light, to shine brighter in us.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

*Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our redemption
God with us, You are God with us.*

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You have come to be hope
To this world for Your honor and name.
You have come to take sin
To bear shame and to conquer the grave.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

You are here and
You are holy
We are standing
In Your glory (Lord)
And wonders, wonders of his love.

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

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.