



Sunday Morning Worship
December 6, 2020

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.

Reflections

Faced by a confusing multitude of dating systems, Bede saw, more clearly than any Christian scholar before him, that there was only the one fixed point amid the great sweep of the aeons... He fixed on the Incarnation, the entry of the divine into the womb of the Virgin Mary, as the moment on which all of history turned. Years, for the first time, were measured according to whether they were before Christ, or *anno Domini*: in the year of the Lord.

- Tom Holland, *Dominion*

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

SIGN-UPS: Church Center App (Events)
OR crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Sunday Evening Communion Service

3929 Coleman St., 15207

SUNDAY 12/6 | 4PM, 5PM & 6PM

SIGN-UPS: Church Center App (Events)
OR crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-720-7014
office@cityreformed.org
cityreformed.org

Church Center App:



Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)
OR cityreformed.org/give

Mail: Church Office address above "Attn: Allison" (please make checks payable to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 6, 2020

Presider: Elder Jim Partridge

Call to Worship: I Peter 1:8-12

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

Leader Though you have not seen him, you love him.

People **Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

Leader Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully,

People **Inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.**

Leader It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven,

People **Things into which angels long to look.**

Prayer of Invocation

To Thee We Run

(Words & Music: Eric J. Marshall 2012)

When these days of shadow pass
And suffering is no more
A fire in the dark will glow
And Christ our souls restore

*O Light Heaven shine down on earth
O Joy Come and break the curse
We praise the name above every name
A light has come and Christ to Thee we run*

Holy child of mystery
Please set ablaze our hearts
With grace unending love so pure
And pierce the ancient dark

As the tide of heaven's wrath
Is washed beneath the sea
A Living Stream shall quench our thirst
For all eternity

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: | Peter 1:15-17

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." 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...

Prayer of Confession

Father, you are perfect in holiness and you dwell in unapproachable light. Our every desire is darkened by sin and even our best deeds are far from perfect. Show us Christ our savior, our righteousness, and our Lord. Give us faith to rest in him.

You have called us your children and you have called us to be holy. We can't be holy on our own. We cannot purify our own hearts and we lack strength to do what is right continually. Show us the power of your Spirit to make dead things live. Give us grace to turn from sin and walk each step with Jesus. You have promised that you will finish this work and make us new in Jesus. But, our hope is often dim as our minds are darkened by the temptations and failures of this present age. Show us the glory of who we will be in Christ. Give us hope that we might think and live differently. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: | Peter 1:18-19

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).

O Day of Peace - Come to Him

(Music: Josh Garrels 2016; Words: Carl Daw 1982)

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth, and love
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord

Come to Him with all your heart
Come and lay your burdens down

For peace He came to give
And Joy shall be the crown
And Joy shall be the crown

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Isaiah 8:11-15; 8:22-9:7

Advent 2020: "A Long Expected Advent"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: ¹²“Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. ¹³But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. ¹⁴And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁵And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken...”

²²And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness. ^{9:1}But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,

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the rod of his oppressor,

you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 4:12-17 / Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Hebrews 11:39-40 / And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Credal Response: The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. § The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,* the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

§ Christ suffered God's wrath on the cross

* Universal church

Song of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final song if you are able.

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Words & Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard and Charles Wesley)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free—
From our fears and sins release us:
Let us find our rest in thee—
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of eve'ry nation,
Joy of eve'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Day-spring from on high, appear—
Come thou promised Son of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear—
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

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Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end—
By his life he brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend—
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King—
Born to reign in us forever;
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring—
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

If you would like to contact a pastor, please email joseph@cityreformed.org.

Life Together

<p>Open Evening Communion Services INDOORS TONIGHT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:00PM • 5:00PM • 6:00PM <p>3929 Coleman St., 15207 Church Center</p> 	<p>In-person service held three times INDOORS at GREENFIELD, with communion served all times. Review instructions for attending at: cityreformed.org/evening-service and the "Safe and Sound" guidelines on p. 12-13.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations, to help us keep within capacity limits (40/service) and add additional services if needed. If you need assistance signing up, contact Sol@cityreformed.org. • Before attending, self-assess the health and recent activities of you and your household. • Mandatory MASK policy (all over 2 yrs old).
<p>Attend Morning Service "In-Person" Sundays @ 10:15AM WT, 5059 Ellsworth, 15213</p>	<p>Register on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations. Contact Sol@cityreformed.org. Morning Service Livestream continues indefinitely.</p>
<p>New Women's Zoom Call Sundays @ 12:30PM Zoom link: tinyurl.com/CRPCwomen</p>	<p>A new woman to City Reformed? We would love to get to see your face and meet you. Please consider joining some of our women leaders on a Zoom call following service TODAY.</p>
<p>City Women's Literary Society: "The Weight of Glory" Tues 12/15 @ 7-8:30PM</p>	<p>Bring your tea and blanket to curl up on Zoom and encourage one another as we discuss C.S. Lewis' 17-page address "The Weight of Glory". Contact Kimberly (ksgirard@gmail.com) with any questions.</p>
<p>Virtual Prayer Night for the Persecuted Church in China Tues 12/8 @ 7:30pm Zoom</p>	<p>This will be the second anniversary of the first arrests at Early Rain Covenant Church. Persecution has continued to increase in the last two years with much suffering. For the Zoom link, contact Bethany: bethanysnoke@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Mosaic Community Church Christmas Store 12/15, 12/17, 12/19 Jeanette, PA</p>	<p>Consider praying, volunteering &/or donating new gifts or funds, wrapping supplies, blankets, hats, or gloves for their annual Christmas Store. New gifts are sold for \$1 for families in need so parents' dignity remains, allowing them to take ownership of not only choosing but buying it as well. Extra table for free blankets, hats, gloves. Contact Kelly Bender (kelly.bender7@gmail.com).</p>

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<p>Children's Ministry: Christmas Family Care Packages & Care Kits for the Homeless Sun 12/20 @ 12-2PM 3929 Coleman St., 15207</p>	<p>We invite your family to drive by for this special Christmas curbside collection of gifts! Miss Charis and Miss Becki will be giving your family: 1) a gift to RECEIVE ~ a care package to help your family gather together; 2) a gift to GIVE ~ a Homeless Care Kit to give away to someone in need. Contact Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Parenting Seminar by Julie Lowe, <i>Child Proof: Parenting by Faith, Not Formula</i> Fri 2/5 @ 7 - 9PM & Sat 2/6 @ 9AM - 12PM WT, 5059 Ellsworth, 15213</p>	<p>Register on your Church Center App (go to Events) or: tinyurl.com/childproof2021 ~ \$15/person ~ Julie Lowe will teach on how to know, love, and disciple our children using biblical principles and practical wisdom. There will be four sessions (two on Friday; two on Saturday), as well as Q&A. Contact: Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Wednesday Morning Prayer @ 8:30AM tinyurl.com/prayCRPC</p>	<p>Join others in the church to pray for the needs of our community and world. Please send prayer requests to prayer@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Bethany Food Bank and Master's Kitchen Service Thurs @ 9AM - 1PM or 4 - 6PM Fri @ 12 - 1PM</p>	<p>Volunteer to help transport and package food with Bethany Community Ministries. Contact Donna at Bethany: 412.251.1227 or any of the Deacons@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Men's Discipleship Committee</p>	<p>MEN who are interested in discipleship through a mentoring relationship, contact Adam (ahs27@pitt.edu).</p>
<p>Volunteer Babysitting: Serve & Connect with Our Church Families!</p>	<p>VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, help care for children as families navigate these challenging times! Please complete: tinyurl.com/CityBABYSIT. Contact Becki@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Caring for Each Other and the Deacon's List</p>	<p>Please update the deacons if you have needs or if you have abilities and resources to share with others. Contact Nik (nik@alum.wustl.edu) or any of the deacons.</p>
<p>Make Connections via Online Media</p>	<p>As the Covid-19 restrictions limit our ability to connect with other people, we need to work harder to develop healthy relationships through alternative means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn more about community groups (CGs) contact Joseph (joseph@cityreformed.org) • To learn about how to connect with other women in the church (including small groups or CGs) contact Sandy (sandy@cityreformed.org) • To learn about men's discipleship programs contact Jim (partridge.je6@gmail.com).
<p>Pastoral Devotionals tinyurl.com/ CRPCPastorJoseph</p>	<p>Join Pastor Joseph online for encouragement while we are in our homes and away from each other.</p>

Community Groups meet for Bible study, fellowship, and service, and are some of the best opportunities to connect with church life - always open for visitors throughout the year. Please contact Pastor Joseph Bianco (joseph@cityreformed.org) with any questions, and for a listing of current groups, refer to:

- cityreformed.org/community-groups

Specialty Groups meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, and service. For a listing of current groups, please refer to:

- cityreformed.org/prayer--specialty-groups

College Students please refer to campus ministry contacts below:

- CCO at CMU: Nameun Cho (ncho@ccojubilee.org)
- CCO at PPU: Katelyn Spallinger (kvanmeerbeke@ccojubilee.org)
- RUF at Pitt: Derek Bates (dbates@ruf.org), Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

"Safe"

"The sixth commandment requires all lawful efforts to preserve our own life and others." – WSC #68

Before we gather*:

- **Are you sick?** Do not attend if you or a family member are sick, if you are awaiting a COVID test result, or if you have COVID-19.
- **Have you been somewhere unsafe?** PA Health Guidelines¹ require either a quarantine or negative test for out-of-state travelers.
- **Have you been exposed?** Do not attend if you have had close contact² with someone who is COVID+. Limit your exposure to others if you have been in medically compromising situations.

When we are together:

- **Wear a mask.**
- **Avoid contact.**
- **Social Distance.**

After we leave:

- **Notify.** If you test positive for COVID and attended a CRPC event during a period 48 hours before the onset of symptoms, please notify the church (sol@cityreformed.org).
- **Trace.** When someone notifies us about a concern for infection, we will trace all potential unsafe contacts at our events and also notify all people who attended the event.

**Contact Dr. Andy Leuenberger (andy@cityreformed.org) for questions about how to apply these guidelines to your situation.*

1 health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx

2 cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact

"... and Sound"

"Since we have a great priest...Draw near... hold fast... meet together..." - Heb. 10:19-25

Sunday AM Worship

- Livestream online. (Join us live at 10:15AM when possible)
- In-person at Winchester Thurston.
- Sign up in advance.
- *If COVID concerns rise, we will decrease our attendance numbers.*

Sunday PM Communion (every other week)

- The PM Service will meet in the Greenfield Chapel.
- Sign up in advance.
- Multiple small and short services. (30 mins)
- Check in at arrival to assist contact tracing.
- Varied seating options.
- Modified process of distributing communion elements.
- *If COVID concerns rise, we will add more (smaller) services.*

Small Groups

- Small groups will be guided by direction from public health leaders.
- Contact Joseph Bianco (joseph@cityreformed.org).

Mentoring

- Women: Contact Sandy Snoke (sandy@cityreformed.org).
- Men: Contact Adam Schwab or Jim Partridge (jim@cityreformed.org).

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! And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please fill out the visitor's card below or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Visitor's Card

We would love to get to know you. Please contact us at office@cityreformed.org with the following information.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, we will pray for you. Please send prayer requests to Pastor Joseph through prayer@cityreformed.org.
