



Sunday Evening Worship Service
February 11, 2024

"That is what mortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering, "No future bliss can make up for it" not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory."

—C.S. Lewis, The Great Divorce

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – February 11, 2024
Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Psalm 102:24-28

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

Leader "O my God," I say, "take me not away in the midst of my days—

People **You whose years endure throughout all generations!"**

Leader Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

People **They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,**

Leader But you are the same, and your years have no end.

People **The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you.**

Prayer of Invocation

Rising Sun

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan, Kyle Lee, and David Leonard 2012)

Praise Him all you sinners
Sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God

We lift high His glory
Shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

*Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning You shine forever
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Jesus you're greater than the rising sun*

Praise His Name forever
Speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

Eternal Weight of Glory

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2013)

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suff'ring seem so long
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak
But our hope is set on Jesus
And we cling to him our strength

*For behold I tell a myst'ry
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry
When we meet our King of Grace
Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried How long
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song*

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Oh eternal weight of glory
Oh inheritance divine
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time
All our pains will be transfigured
Like the scars of Christ our Lord
We will see the weight of glory
And our broken years restored

We will see our wounded Savior
We'll behold him face to face
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

Call to Confession: Romans 8:23-25

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, thank you for being merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and patience. Even as you have been patient with us, we have not been patient with you or each other. Instead of waiting upon you, we get what we want by other means. We deceive ourselves and others, we spend money unwisely, we grow angry quickly, and we use sinful pleasures to numb our discomfort. In many other ways we try to usurp you and your call for us to be patient. We do not look to our heavenly promises as we ought, but content ourselves with the mudpies of this world. We pray for your forgiveness. Make us into a people who look forward to the hope of heaven and are patient as we wait for you. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Revelation 21:5-7

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

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)

Jesus I Come

(Words: William Sleeper 1887; Music: Greg Thompson 2000)

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light
Jesus, I come to Thee,
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

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Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Scripture & Homily: Revelation 21:22-22:5

"No More Night"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

^{22:1} Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree

were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Exodus 13:21 / And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

Judges 19:20 / And the old man said, "Peace be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square."

Job 30:17, 35:10 / The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest... But none says, "Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night."

Luke 24:25-27 / And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Acts 2:22-24 / "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it."

Song of Thanksgiving

Endless Light

(Words & Music: Karl Cashwell & Dean Ussher 2011)

From the highest throne to the earth below
You laid down Your life for the likes of us
Great is the love of the Savior
From a wounded heart to a life made whole
Every human heart will declare as one
Great is the love of the Savior

*Lord of endless light
Let Your glory shine forever
All the earth
All the earth will sing Your praise
Hope of every heart
Let Your Name be lifted higher
All our hearts
All our hearts will sing Your praise*

From the mountain heights to the valleys low
All created things given life to show
Jesus we live for Your glory
From the rising sun to the still of night
Every waking moment for Your delight
Jesus we live for Your glory

God be exalted
God be exalted in everything
We live for Your glory
Live for Your glory

Benediction