



Sunday Evening Communion Service
February 19, 2023

"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation."

- Paul, Letter to the Philippians 4:12 (NIV)

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – February 19, 2023

Presider: Elder David Bacon

Call to Worship: Psalm 36:5-10

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

Leader Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

People **Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD.**

Leader How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

People **They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

Leader For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

People **Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your righteousness to the upright of heart!**

Prayer of Invocation

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (92)

(Words & Music: Martin Luther 1529)

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate--
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabbaoth, his name,
From age to age the same--
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure--
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

Come Ye Sinners (472)

(Words: Joseph Hart 1759; Music: Southern Harmony Folk 1835)

Come ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity love and pow'r
He is able, He is able
He is willing doubt no more

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome
God's free bounty, glorify
True belief and true repentance
Ever'y grace that brings you nigh
Without money, without money
Come to Jesus Christ and buy

Let not conscience make you linger
Nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him
This He gives you, this He gives you
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Come ye weary, heavy laden
Bruised and broken by the Fall
If you tarry 'till you're better
You will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Lo! incarnate God ascended
Pleads the merit of His blood
Venture on Him, venture wholly
Let no other trust intrude
None but Jesus, none but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good.

Call to Confession: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, forgive us for clinging too tightly to the things of this world. Forgive us for resenting you when we don't have what we want and when we suffer, and forgive us for being tightfisted and not generous when we have been given abundance. Teach us to be content in plenty and in want, to bless others, and to follow the path of Jesus who feasted with sinners and gave himself even to death for us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Ephesians 1:16-19

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.

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).

Be Still My Soul (689)

(Words: Kathrina von Schlegel 1700's; Translators: Jane Borthwick 1855; Music: Jean Sibelius 1899)

Be still my soul the Lord is on thy side
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain
Leave to thy God to order and provide
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain
Be still my soul thy best thy heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end

Be still my soul thy God doth undertake
To guide the future as He has the past
Thy hope thy confidence let nothing shake
All now mysterious shall be bright at last
Be still my soul the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below

Be still my soul when dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears
Then shalt thou better know His love His heart
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears
Be still my soul thy Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away

Be still my soul the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord
When disappointment grief and fear are gone
Sorrow forgot love's purest joys restored
Be still my soul when change and tears are past
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 1:1-11

"Contentment in Suffering and Abundance"

-Elder Dave Snoke

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

⁸For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. ¹¹You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

2 Corinthians 9:10-12 / He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God..

Philippians 4:11-12 / Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

1 Timothy 6:6-7 / But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

Sermon Outline

Sharing in the sufferings of Christ

1. Review: suffering should not be surprising for Christians
 - Consequences of our sins
 - Consequences of the Fall and Curse
 - Being lifted up like Christ
2. The corporate nature of enduring suffering
 - Suffering and abundance are shared
 - Promises to the "righteous" are corporate
3. The efficacy of prayer

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-communing 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

What Wondrous Love Is This (261)

(Words: Anonymous Music: American Folk Southern Harmony)

What wondrous love is this
O my soul O my soul
What wondrous love is this O my soul
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse
For my soul for my soul
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul

When I was sinking down
Sinking down sinking down
When I was sinking down sinking down
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown
Christ laid aside His crown
For my soul for my soul
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul

To God and to the Lamb
I will sing I will sing
To God and to the Lamb I will sing
To God and to the Lamb
Who is the Great I Am
While millions join the theme
I will sing I will sing
While millions join the theme I will sing

And when from death I'm free
I'll sing on I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free
I'll sing and joyful be
And through eternity
I'll sing on I'll sing on
And through eternity I'll sing on

Be Thou My Vision (642)

(Words: Mary Elizabeth Byrne 1905; Music: "Slane")

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me save that thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord
Thou my great Father I thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and with thee one

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and thou only first in my heart
High King of Heaven my treasure thou art

High King of Heaven my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision O Ruler of All

Doxology (733)

(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.
(repeat)

Amen

Benediction

Community Groups

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: **www.cityreformed.org/community-groups**

Sunday

Fox Chapel*- Watson Barker

North Hills**- David Bacon

Monday

Forest Hills*- Adam Schwab

Tuesday

Northside- Joe Benscoter & Nathan Schartner

Friendship**- Michael Hilton

Morningside** - Jeff Winkler

West Hills*- Jonathan Dodd

Wednesday

Regent Square- David Snoke

Baldwin/Greenfield*- Joseph Bianco

East Suburban- Joe Stehle

Thursday

Shadyside - Ben Chidester

Near East Suburban- Jim Partridge

*Childcare provided

** Kid's play area available