



**Sunday Evening Communion  
Worship Service  
March 17, 2024**

*"The command 'Be ye perfect' is not idealistic gas. Nor is it a command to do the impossible. He is going to make us into creatures that can obey that command.... He meant 'The only help I will give is help to become perfect. You may want something less: but I will give you nothing less.'"*

*—C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*

# Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – March 17, 2024

Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

## Call to Worship: Psalm 130:3-8

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

Leader If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People **But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

Leader I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

People **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

Leader O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

People **And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## O Come To The Altar

(Words & Music: Christopher Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, and Wade Joye 2015)

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

*O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling

*Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him  
For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen*

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

## **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

## **Call to Confession: Matthew 6:9-15**

"Pray then like this: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.'"

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Father, we praise you for sending your Son to die for our sins. We trust that He has paid for our sins once and for all, and that we are adopted as your children forever. We pray that you will continually change our hearts through your Holy Spirit to bear the fruit of the Spirit: to love others, to have mercy on those who sin against us, to be patient with those who frustrate us, to serve others without expecting honor, and to restrain ourselves from seeking only our own desires and pleasures. Forgive us for when we stray and quench the Spirit, and lead us to walk in your paths of light.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon: Matthew 11:28-30**

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

# 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](http://cityreformed.org/give); 3929 Coleman St., 15207)*

## My Song Is Love Unknown

*(Words & Music: John Nicholson Ireland and Samuel Crossman)*

My song is love unknown,  
My Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne,  
Salvation to bestow;  
But men cared not, and none  
The longed for Christ would know.  
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
Who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way,  
And his sweet praises sing;  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
And for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run,  
He gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet all his deeds  
Their hatred feeds; they 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have  
My dear Lord sent away;  
A murderer they save,  
The Prince of Life they slay.  
Yet willing he to suff'ring goes,  
That he his foes from thence might free.

In life, no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death, no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home,  
But mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like thine.  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

## Scripture & Homily: Matthew 18:23-35

"Forgive Our Debts As We Forgive Our Debtors"

- Elder Dave Snoko

Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



## Notes

## Additional Scripture

1 John 3:14-15 / We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

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1 John 4:7-8 / Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

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Galatians 2:16 /... yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

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Ephesians 2:8-9 / For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

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Philippians 1:6 / And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

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## Corporate 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

## There Is A Fountain

*(Words & Music: William Cowper & Lowell Mason 1772)*

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Immanuel's veins  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains (3x)  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day  
And there have I though vile as he  
Washed all my sins away (3x)  
And there have I though vile as he  
Washed all my sins away

Dear dying Lamb thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power  
And all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more (3x)  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Be saved to sin no more

E'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Your flowing wounds supply  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die (3x)  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
And shall be till I die

When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue  
Lies silent in the grave  
Then in a nobler sweeter song  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save (3x)  
Then in a nobler sweeter song  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save

## **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.  
(repeat)

Amen

## **Benediction**