



Sunday Morning Worship
April 18, 2021

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

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

- Psalm 22:1-5

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Services

9AM & 11AM

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

SIGN-UPS: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Church Office

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

Church Center App:



Sunday Evening Communion Service

Winchester Thurston Parking Lot
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

SUNDAY 4/25 | 5PM

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
Easter Morning Worship – April 18, 2021
Presider: Reverend Nameun Cho

Call to Worship: Hebrews 12:1–2

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

Leader Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

People **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Prayer of Invocation

Great Are You Lord

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan & David Leonard 2012)

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore
Ev'ry heart that is broken
And great are You Lord

*It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise to You only*

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord

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Come Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted

(Words & Music: Joseph Swain 1785; Music: Kevin Twit 2013)

Come ye souls by sin afflicted
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down
By the broken law convicted
Through the cross behold the crown
Look to Jesus (3x)
Mercy flows through Him alone

Take His easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet
Christ will give you strength to bear it
While His grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory (3x)
Where His ransomed captives meet

Blessèd are the eyes that see Him
Blest the ears that hear His voice
Blessèd are the souls that trust Him
And in Him alone rejoice
His commandments (3x)
Then become their happy choice

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary
Light to newly opened eyes
Like full springs in deserts dreary
Is the rest the cross supplies
All who taste it (3x)
Shall to rest immortal rise

Look to Jesus (3x)
Mercy flows through Him alone

Call to Confession: Hebrews 4:10-12

[F]or whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Prayer of Confession: Prayer of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from *Letters and Papers from Prison*

In me there is darkness, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me. Lord Jesus Christ, you were poor and in distress, a captive and forsaken as I am. You know all man's troubles; you abide with me when all men fail me; you remember and seek me; it is your will that I should know you and turn to you. Lord, I hear your call and follow; help me. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Baptism: Kyle Helen Kozminski, daughter of Craig & Mindy Kozminski (9:00)

Question to the Congregation:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Membership Vows: Maliya Byun (11:00)

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 Sacred Head Now Wounded

(Words: Bernard of Clairvaux 1100's; Translation: J. Alexander 1656 & P. Gerhardt 1830; Music: Hans Hassler 1601 & J.S. Bach 1729)

O sacred Head now wounded
With grief and shame weighed down
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns Thine only crown
O sacred Head what glory
What bliss till now was Thine
Yet tho' despised and gory
I joy to call Thee mine

What Thou my Lord hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain
Mine mine was the transgression
But Thine the deadly pain
Lo here I fall my Savior
'Tis I deserve Thy place
Look on me with Thy favor
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace

What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee dearest friend
For this Thy dying sorrow
Thy pity without end
O make me Thine forever
And should I fainting be
Lord let me never never
Outlive my love to Thee

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: John 6:41-69

"Deconversion"

- Mr. David Snoke

So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—⁴⁶not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread

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the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”⁵⁹ Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this?”⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)⁶⁵ And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Outline

- I. Deconversion should not surprise us; the Bible predicts it, and records stories of it, even for people who witnessed miracles
- II. Jesus gives two hard teachings that press his hearers toward deconversion
 1. "I will not do miracles on demand; you need me, not stuff." (We must be united to Christ.)
 2. "I am not doing everything I can to make you believe in me" (God draws people; no Christian's winsomeness or reasoning process is sufficient.)
- III. Six things that will not sustain you when the waves rise
 1. Feeling you are part of a "movement"
 2. Fellowship
 3. Feelings of worship
 4. Ethnic or family identity
 5. Intellectual curiosity
 6. Free stuff
 7. Christianity as virtue
- IV. What we need: to cling to Jesus. Four aspects of this:
 1. Atonement for guilt
 2. Washing from shame
 3. Freedom from fear
 4. Significance based on a sure hope

Notes

Additional Scripture

Judges 2:10 / And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

Matthew 7:13 / "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many."

Matthew 7:24-27 / "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

John 15:3 / "Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you."

1 John 2:19 / They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

Revelation 2:4-5 / "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent."

Creedal Response: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 79. Can true believers fall away from the state of grace because of their imperfections and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with?

A. Because of the unchangeable love of God; his decree and covenant to give them perseverance; their inseparable union with Christ; his continual intercession for them; and the Spirit and seed of God abiding in them; true believers can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but are kept by the power of God through faith to salvation.

Song of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final song if you are able.

How Firm a Foundation

(Words: R. Keene & George Keith 1787; Melody: American Folk)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow,
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply,
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,
I will never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

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

Life Together

<p>Attending Services "In-Person"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sundays 9AM & 11AM• Every Other Sunday 5PM <p><i>Winchester Thurston (WT) 5059 Ellsworth, 15213</i></p> <p>Church Center App</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• **Please Sign Up for Indoor Services on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations. For assistance, contact Sol@cityreformed.org.• For services INDOORS at WT, please submit the WT Screening Form (tinyurl.com/WTscreening) - one per Sunday per household - on the Sunday morning you attend (not before Sunday).• Before attending, please self-assess the health and recent activities of you and your household (Review "Safe & Sound": tinyurl.com/SafeCRPCSound).• Mandatory **MASK** policy (all over 2 yrs old)• Please maintain social distancing between households.• **CHECK IN WITH A GREETER IN-PERSON upon arrival.**• Morning Service will Livestream one of the services indefinitely.
<p>Open Evening Communion Service</p> <p>Next Sunday 4/25 @ 5PM</p> <p><i>WT Parking Lot 5059 Ellsworth Ave, 15213</i></p>	<p>In-person service held OUTDOORS, with communion served (pre-packaged individual cups). Please review instructions for attending at: cityreformed.org/evening-service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No Advance Sign-Ups required• Please bring your own chairs/blankets to sit on
<p>Graduate Recognition</p> <p>Next Sun 4/25 All Services</p>	<p>If you are graduating (from high school, college, or an advanced degree) OR you know who is, <i>please let us know - by Wednesday 4/21</i>. Thank you for helping us acknowledge this very special Class of 2021. Contact Sol@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Serve at City tinyurl.com/ServantCity</p>	<p>One of the main constraints for our reopening plan (e.g. children's ministry) is to determine how many volunteers are able to help. Please consider serving by completing the "Serve at City" google form: tinyurl.com/ServantCity.</p>
<p>Directory Update</p>	<p>We are currently working on updating our directory. New to City Reformed and interested in being included? Or would you like to update your info? Contact Chrissie (chrissie@cityreformed.org).</p>

<p>Agora Forum Mon 4/19 @ 7PM 3929 Coleman St., 15207 tinyurl.com/CRPCAgora</p>	<p>Daniel Maienshein will be giving a talk "Necessitarianism, Humeanism, and God: An Overview of the Laws of Nature and God's Role in It All". Contact Alex (amain8511@gmail.com).</p>
<p>PPWM Spring Event THIS Sat 4/24 @ 10:15AM First Reformed PCA 12900 Frankstown Rd Penn Hills 15235 tinyurl.com/PPWMSpring</p>	<p>Join the women of our presbytery for a morning of teaching and encouragement from 1 Thessalonians. Sandy Snoko from our church will be the keynote speaker! Limited in-person attendance is available as well as a livestream option — please register! Contact Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org).</p>
<p>SAVE-THE-DATE!! Vacation Bible School (VBS) July 26-30</p>	<p>We are moving ahead with plans for an in-person VBS 2021! Children 4 yrs old to rising 5th graders. VBS details are coming soon! Mark your calendars! Contact Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Women's Evening Bible Study Mondays @ 6-7:30PM</p>	<p>Join us Monday evenings over Zoom for "Becoming a Women of Purpose." Contact Cathy Taylor (Lawyerdad5@aol.com).</p>
<p>Tuesday Ladies Study Tuesdays @ 10-11:15AM</p>	<p>Ladies, join us Tuesday mornings over Zoom. Contact Tracy (partridge.ta@gmail.com).</p>
<p>Global Missions Prayer Fridays @ 6:30AM tinyurl.com/CRPCmissionsprayer</p>	<p>Join CRPC Missions Committee weekly for 30 min Zoom prayer. Contact Abbey Mae (methodam1@gmail.com) or Susan (susan@thealexanders.ws).</p>
<p>Young Adult Women's Fellowship Every other Saturday</p>	<p>This is an informal gathering of women in the Church. The purpose is for us to do life together, get to know each other, and to foster a sense of community. You can expect, zoom conversations, zoom workouts, hikes, service etc. Contact Zenny@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Youth Group</p>	<p>Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a series of events throughout the spring and summer! Contact Becki@cityreformed.org or Ben@cityreformed.org for info about our upcoming events.</p>
<p>NEED: Church Maintenance Position</p>	<p>We are looking to hire a part-time maintenance person for the building (~8 hr/mo). Contact Gary (building@cityreformed.org).</p>
<p>Men's Discipleship Committee</p>	<p>MEN who are interested in discipleship through a mentoring relationship, contact Adam at mdc@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>

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Caring for Each Other and the Deacon's List	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.
Make Connections via Online Media	<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 Adam at mdc@cityreformed.org.

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 (kspallinger@ccojubilee.org)
- RUF at Pitt: Derek Bates (dbates@ruf.org), Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

PPWM Spring Event

Saturday, April 24, 2021

10:15am-12:30pm

"Hope for the Journey"

With Sandy Snoke

Join us In-Person
at First Reformed Presbyterian Church
in Penn Hills

or
Virtually



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.
