



Sunday Evening Service
April 2, 2023

"I have often told the story of the time, years ago, when one of my daughters crawled into bed with me one morning. I kept my eyes shut and, as children will, she tried to wake me up by poking and punching me and trying to get me to open my eyes. Finally, she crawled up and sat right on my chest and, reaching down, pried open my eyelid. Then she leaned over and said, "Are you in there, Daddy?"

You know, I have often thought how true it is that even a baby understands that man is more than an animated piece of beefsteak. He is a spirit, dwelling in a body. But it is a temporary arrangement at best."

-Ray Stedman (Authentic Christianity)

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – April 2, 2023
Presider: Elder Dave Bacon

Call to Worship: Psalm 89:1-8

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

Leader I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

People **You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"**

Leader Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

People **God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones and awesome above all who are around him? O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?**

Prayer of Invocation

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

(Words & Music: Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Matthew Merker 2020)

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

*O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death*

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore

Christ Is Mine Forevermore

(Words & Music: Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson 2015)

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings

But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good

But mine is peace that flows from heaven
And the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes His work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name

But mine is armour for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now O my soul
For His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore

Call to Confession: 1 Corinthians 13:11-12

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious Heavenly Father, we confess that too often we act like children, tossed here and there by every wind and wave. We confess that we have not given up childish ways, but cling to momentary comforts and fleeting pleasures. We confess selfish actions, impulsivity, and faithlessness. Help us to grow up. Help us to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Jesus, that our childish ways may cease and maturity may come. Although we cannot see you now but dimly, as through a veil, one day we will see each other face to face. Help us to live now as the people you are making us to be. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

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).

On Jordan's Stormy Banks

(Words: Samuel Stennett 1787; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,
And cast a wishful eye
To Canaan's fair and happy land,
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,
Shines one eternal day;
There God the Son forever reigns,
And scatters night away.

I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound (I am bound)
I am bound for the promised land!

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath
Can reach that healthful shore;
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,
Are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place,
And be forever blessed?
When shall I see my Father's face,
And in His bosom rest?

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

"Lead me to the Rock"

-Reverend Joseph Bianco

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we

are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Job 19:26-27 / "And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!"

Isaiah 57:2 / ...he enters into peace; they rest in their beds who walk in their uprightness.

Luke 16:23-24 / "... and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'"

Acts 1:25 / "... to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."

1 Thessalonians 4:14 / For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Jude 1:6-7 / And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Proposition: Because we will all die, prepare for death in such a way that the expectation of heaven-unseen, is more real than your present condition which you now see.

FCF: Fearful of loss – what if I lose the good life?

You must walk by faith and not by sight.

How do we walk by faith?

Main points:

1. Prepare for God's house
2. Long for God's house
3. Find courage in God's house

Conclusion: Easter and the Eternal State

Pastor Scruggs ~ *"Through tears, we trust that she is in the arms of Jesus who will raise her to life once again"*

Song of Thanksgiving

Farther On

(Sharp Note Hymn)

As we travel through the desert
Storms beset us on our way
But beyond the River Jordan
Lies a field of endless days

*Farther on still go farther
Count the mile stones one by one
Jesus will forsake you never
It is better farther on*

Oh my brother are you weary
Of the roughness of the road
Does your strength begin to fail you
Let the Savior bare your load

Jesus Jesus with go with you
He will lead you to the throne
He who dyed has garments for you
And the winepress trod alone

At my grave will you be singing
Though you weep for one that's gone
Singing as we once did singing
It is better farther on

Benediction