



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**May 14, 2023**

# 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](mailto:office@cityreformed.org) or visit our website: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org).

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## Reflections

"Sometimes the level of need around the world is so overwhelming, it is difficult to believe that the body of Christ has incredible potential to meet many of these needs in Jesus' name. As described in our research, church member giving is declining as a portion of income, and was 2.17% in 2016. If Americans who identify with the historically Christian church had chosen to give 10% to their congregations in 2016, rather than the 2.17% given that year, there would have been an additional \$172 billion available for work through the church."

- John and Sylvia Ronsvalle

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## About Us

### Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM  
Winchester Thurston Auditorium  
5059 Ellsworth Ave  
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

LIVESTREAM: [tinyurl.com/CRPCLive](http://tinyurl.com/CRPCLive)

### Sunday Evening Service

5:30PM  
Greenfield Chapel  
3929 Coleman Street  
Pittsburgh PA, 15207

### Church Office

3929 Coleman St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-720-7014  
[office@cityreformed.org](mailto:office@cityreformed.org)  
[cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org)

### Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)  
OR [cityreformed.org/give](http://cityreformed.org/give)  
Mail: Church Office address above "Attn:  
Bookkeeper" (please make checks  
payable to City Reformed Presbyterian  
Church)

### Welcome Information:



# Morning Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – May 14, 2023

Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

## Call to Worship: Psalm 37:1-7a

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

Leader Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!

People **For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**

Leader Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

People **Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

Leader Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

People **Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## **Praise to the Lord the Almighty**

*(Words: Joachim Neander 1680; Translator: Catherine Winkworth 1863; Music: Anonymous 1665)*

Praise to the Lord,  
The Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him for  
He is thy health and salvation!

*All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.*

Praise to the Lord,  
Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings,  
Yea, so gently sustaineth!

*Hast thou not seen how all your longings have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?*

Praise to the Lord,  
Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee.  
Surely His goodness and  
Mercy here daily attend thee.

*Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee.*

Praise to the Lord,  
O let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath,  
Come now with praises before Him.

*Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.*

## **Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:15-20**

# God The Uncreated One (King Forevermore)

*(Words & Music: Aaron Keyes and Pete James 2016)*

God the uncreated One  
The Author of salvation  
Wrote the laws of space and time  
And fashioned worlds to His design  
The One whom angel hosts revere  
Hung the stars like chandeliers  
Numbered every grain of sand  
Knows the heart of every man  
He is King forever  
He is King forever  
He is King forevermore

God our fortress and our strength  
The Rock on which we can depend  
Matchless in His majesty  
His power and authority  
Unshaken by the schemes of man  
Never changing Great I am  
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall  
He is faithful through it all  
Crown Him King forever  
Crown Him King forever  
Crown Him King forevermore

Mighty God in mortal flesh  
Forsaken by a traitor's kiss  
The curse of sin and centuries  
Did pierce the lowly Prince of Peace  
Lifted high the sinless man  
Crucified the spotless Lamb  
Buried by the sons of man  
Rescued by the Father's hand  
To reign as King forever  
Reign as King forever  
Reign as King forevermore

*(continued on next page)*

King eternal God of grace  
We crown You with the highest praise  
Heaven shouts and saints adore  
You're holy holy holy Lord  
What joy in everlasting life  
All is love and faith is sight  
Justice rolls and praises rise  
At the name of Jesus Christ  
King of kings forever  
King of kings forever  
King of kings forevermore

### **For The Beauty Of The Earth**

*(Words: Folliot Pierpoint 1864; Music: Conrad Kocher 1838)*

For the beauty of the earth  
For the glory of the skies  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies  
Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night  
Hill and vale and tree and flower  
Sun and moon and stars of light  
Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love  
Brother sister parent child  
Friends on earth and friends above  
For all gentle thoughts and mild  
Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise

For Thy church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love  
Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise

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For Thyself best gift divine  
To the world so freely given  
For that great great love of Thine  
Peace on earth and joy in heaven  
Lord of all to Thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise

## **Call to Confession: Psalm 37:16-17, 21-24**

Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous... The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off. The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Father, let not our hearts be tight and closed; let our hearts be free and open, blessed and full of blessing to others. Let us not cling to the things of this world like sand that slips through our fingers the more tightly we grasp it, but instead let our hands be open and lifted up to you to be filled. Jesus, we thank you that on the Tree you took our Curse, so that we can be fully forgiven and without need to fear condemnation or any danger this world may have, as you will take us home to be with you as your children. Spirit, fill us to receive your joy and to love those around us. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 37:28-29**

For the LORD loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever, but the children of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.

## Member Testimony: Hannah Westman

## Corporate Prayer

## Song of Renewal

*We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Take a moment and fill out your care card and please use offering bags or direct giving online or via mail (cityreformed.org/give; 3929 Coleman St., 15207).*

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*(Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan 1923)*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

# Pastoral Prayer

*At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Parents please have your children meet the teachers at the back of the sanctuary and pick them up from G8 after the sermon from Children's Church.*

## Sermon:

**Malachi 3:1-12**

**"But is the Tithe for Today?"**

- Elder Dave Snoke

**B**ehold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?' <sup>8</sup>Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. <sup>9</sup>You are cursed with a curse,

for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. <sup>10</sup>Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. <sup>11</sup>I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup>Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

**Leader** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

## Additional Scriptures

Matthew 5:27-29 / "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell."

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Matthew 23:23-26 / "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean."

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Luke 12:32-34 / "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

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Acts 2:44-47 / And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

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# Scripture Response: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-12

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work...

...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.

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## Sermon Outline

- I. The context of Malachi 3
  - The Messiah will confront and challenge
  - The scholar class actually made the Law easier to obey by reducing it to legalism
  - We can often do this ourselves, to try to justify ourselves
- II. The specific case of the tithe
  - Used for priests (worship) and helping the poor
  - Jesus does not overturn this principle, but expands it, to a lifestyle of great generosity
  - The New Testament church practiced radical generosity
- III. The spirit of the tithe is blessing to the whole community
  - The "prosperity Gospel" errs by taking an individualistic approach, which is ultimately for selfish gain
  - God does want to pour out blessing
- IV. Specific questions
  - If you are in financial crisis, let the church help you
  - We have a huge degree of freedom to decide what is "prudent"
  - The local church should be our main avenue for giving, as it involves corporate wisdom
  - A good start is to treat others to parties and meals!

# Songs of Thanksgiving

## Psalm 9 | Hope of the Poor

*(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2015)*

The Lord is a home for all the oppressed  
In times of trouble and need.  
To all who will come and trust in His name,  
A refuge and strength He will be.

*The needy will not be forsaken,  
and the hope of the poor will not die;  
For God who is mighty in judgment  
Does not forget their cry!*

Arise, O my Lord and answer my call;  
My heart cries out to be heard!  
I've no other hope than your gracious love;  
I trust and cling to your word.

The Lord has heard our cry!  
The Lord has heard our cry!  
The Lord has not forsaken us;  
The Lord has heard our cry!

So sing out to God who sits on the throne,  
Proclaim his marvelous ways!  
Our rescue has come! For all he has done,  
We offer our lives in praise!

## **We Will Feast in the House of Zion**

*(Words & Music: Sandra McCracken 2015)*

*We will feast in the house of Zion  
We will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more*

We will not be burned by the fire  
He is the Lord our God  
We are not consumed by the flood  
Upheld protected gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn  
My soul be not afraid  
For the promised morning oh how long?  
Oh God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed  
You are the Faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together bring shalom

## **Benediction**

***At tonight's Worship Service, Reverend Matt Koerber will be preaching from 2 Corinthians 7:2-16 "Ministry from the Heart"***

# Announcements

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<p><b>Called Congregational meeting: May 21st, 11:50AM-1:20PM</b></p>	<p>We will be voting on Nameun Cho's Associate Pastor call and OEC recommendations. Bagel hour is extended! Please plan on staying as we do need a quorum!</p>
<p><b>VBS 2023 July 10-14</b></p>	<p>VBS Registration is OPEN! Our theme this year is Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity. Kids will learn from Daniel each day, and will have opportunities to share their faith with the "Babylonians" they meet at the Marketplace and during games. Sign up to attend or volunteer at <a href="http://www.myvbs.org/CRPC">www.myvbs.org/CRPC</a></p>
<p><b>Building Work Day May 20, 9AM-3PM</b></p>	<p>We will be renovating the Greenfield Chapel, primarily taking out the basement ceiling. All skill levels are welcome. For more information refer to email sent 5/8 or, contact Gary: <a href="mailto:gatcheson@gmail.com">gatcheson@gmail.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Westman Celebration May 27, 4-8PM Snoke Abode: 955 LaClair Street. 15218</b></p>	<p>Eric and Hannah Westman are moving! Please join us for a goodbye gathering on Saturday, May 27th as we celebrate their time in Pittsburgh and what their friendship has meant to so many in our church and community. We will gather at the Snoke's abode: 955 LaClair Street, 15218. Feel free to stop by anytime from 4-8pm.</p>
<p><b>Parking Information</b></p>	<p>With soccer season upon us, we are hoping to save the parking lot for those that have strollers and/or have needs to enter the handicapped entrance. If you can street park, please do. Otherwise, if you use the lot consider putting a "park behind me" magnet &amp; pull forward.</p>
<p><b>New Grief Share Recovery Ministry at CRPC</b></p>	<p>Have you recently lost a family member or friend? GriefShare is an international, biblically based ministry to help you navigate and receive support in your grief journey after the loss of a loved one. Support group meeting times TBD. Contact Katrina (<a href="mailto:katrina.campbell.170@gmail.com">katrina.campbell.170@gmail.com</a>) to learn more. Check out <a href="http://Griefshare.org">Griefshare.org</a></p>
<p><b>Women's Summer Study Tuesdays @ 7:30-9PM, from June 6th - July 18th</b></p>	<p>Join us for a six-week study on Jen Wilkin's book "Ten Words to Live By" meeting on Tuesday nights from 6/6-7/18 from 7:30-9pm (except 7/4) at Sam's Highland Park home. Contact Rachael Leuenberger (<a href="mailto:raleuen@gmail.com">raleuen@gmail.com</a>) or Sam Phillip (<a href="mailto:samantharaephilip@gmail.com">samantharaephilip@gmail.com</a>) for more info!</p>
<p><b>New Baby Care Items!</b></p>	<p>We're happy to offer the use of a rocking chair in the cafeteria to help with feeding &amp; rocking babies and a changing table between the stairs and G8 (past the restrooms) for your use. We hope these items make caring for babies a little bit easier at church.</p>

# Regular Events

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<p><b>Agora</b> Every other Monday @ 7PM 3929 Coleman St.</p>	<p>We discuss theology and popular culture topics from a Christian perspective. We meet every other Monday at the Greenfield Chapel at 7 pm (3929 Coleman St). The next meeting is May 15. We will be beginning a summer series "How to think about God". Often we brush over the deep theology of God's nature, on such things as the Trinity, God's eternity, why God wants worship, his relationship to creation, etc. Some things are a mystery, but the Bible also tells us much. In this series we will look at the basic theology of God, drawing from the creeds of the historical church. This week, David Snoke will discuss God's eternity and simplicity." Contact Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com).</p>
<p><b>Game NIGHT:</b> 1st Monday night of every month: June 5th: 6-9PM</p>	<p>Join us June 5th from 6-9PM for the next monthly board game night (first Monday of each month) in the Greenfield chapel. Contact Gary Atcheson for more details gatcheson@gmail.com.</p>
<p><b>Youth Group</b> Wednesday Nights EVO 250 S. Pacific Ave., Pittsburgh, PA, 15224</p>	<p>Calling all 6th-12th graders at City Reformed! Join us at EVO, City Reformed's combined youth group with Fourth Presbyterian Church (EPC) and Seeds of Hope Anglican Church. Light snacks, fellowship, games, prayer, and a variety of interactions with God's Word fill our time together. Contact Pastor John with questions at john@cityreformed.org. <b>Spring YG dates: 5/17, and 5/31.</b></p>
<p><b>Bean Sprouts Ministry</b></p>	<p>Although many of us are retired, anyone who is free for lunch, please join us (and bring a friend!) at 12pm once a month: May 17th is our next date. We will have an Iranian friend share his story! Contact Joe Stehle: joestehle@gmail.com.</p>
<p><b>Mens Discipleship</b></p>	<p>Please contact Adam Schwab (ahs27@pitt.edu ) if you are interested in getting more connected.</p>
<p><b>Wednesday Prayer Meetings</b> 8:30-9:30 AM</p>	<p>Join our staff as they pray for our church. Wednesday weekly prayer is held on Zoom at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer">https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer</a>.</p>
<p><b>Global Mission Prayer</b> Mondays @9PM</p>	<p>Join our church in prayer for our mission partners. We will be praying for Andy and Bev Warren - Ethiopia. <b>Zoom link: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/crpcglobalprayer">https://tinyurl.com/crpcglobalprayer</a>.</b></p>
<p><b>Young Adult Women's Discipleship Group</b></p>	<p>Wednesdays bi-weekly @ 7PM at Katelyn Spallinger's Home (1815 Sarah St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203): For more info contact Katelyn Spallinger (katelyn@cityreformed.org).</p>
<p><b>Ultimate Frisbee</b> 12:45 Sundays</p>	<p>Anyone who is interested in playing Ultimate Frisbee is welcome to join us after Church (12:45) at Westinghouse Park.</p>

# 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: Gavin Breeden & Callie Miller (gavin.breeden@ruf.org, callie.miller@ruf.org)
- [cityreformed.org/collegestudents](http://cityreformed.org/collegestudents)

**Specialty Groups** meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, learning, and service.

- *Agora Forum- Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)*
- *Men's New Hope (Joseph@cityreformed.org)*
- *Mommies' Group (Sandy@cityreformed.org)*
- *Wednesday Morning Prayer (Nameun@cityreformed.org)*
- *Men's Discipleship Committee (mdc@cityreformed.org)*
- *Young Women's Discipleship Group (Katelyn@cityreformed.org)*
- *Ultimate Frisbee (danielrtoney@gmail.com)*
- *Board Game Gatherings (gatcheson@gmail.com)*

# Leadership

## Elders

**Rev. Matthew Koerber:**  
pastormatt@cityreformed.org

**Rev. Joseph Bianco:**  
joseph@cityreformed.org

**Rev. John McCombs:**  
john@cityreformed.org

**Rev. Nameun Cho:**  
nameun@cityreformed.org

**Andy Leuenberger:**  
ahleuenberger@gmail.com

**David Bacon:**  
bacon1986@gmail.com

**Jim Partridge:**  
partridge.je6@gmail.com

**Joe Stehle:**  
joestehle@gmail.com

**Dave Snoke:**  
snoke@hey.com

## Women's Ministry Council

**Debbie Bacon:** dpasewark@gmail.com

**Sarah Cho:** sarahjycho@gmail.com

**Rachael Leuenberger:** raleuen@gmail.com

**Sandy Snoke:** sandy@cityreformed.org

**Hannah Westman:** hannita44@gmail.com

**Irene Winkler:** renew77@gmail.com

**Sarah Winkler:** sarahditch@gmail.com

## Deacons

**Gary Atcheson:** gatcheson@gmail.com

**Neil Friedrich:** njfried@gmail.com

**Bill Gould:** wwgould@verizon.net

**Cyril Isaac:** dukecyrillus@gmail.com

**Kyle McMillan:** kyle.mcmillan90@gmail.com

**Bob Simonelli:** simonellir1756@gmail.com

**Daniel Toney:** danielrtoney@gmail.com

**Eric Westman:** westman.a.eric@gmail.com