



**Sunday Evening Service**  
**May 14, 2023**

*"Since holiness is the main thing that excites, draws, and governs all gracious affections, it is no wonder that all such affections tend to holiness. That which men love, they desire to have and to be united to, and possessed of. That beauty which men delight in, they desire to be adorned with. Those acts which men delight in, they necessarily incline to do."*

*~Jonathan Edwards, "The Religious Affections"*

# Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Evening Worship – May 14, 2023  
Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

## Call to Worship: Joel 2:23-28a

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

Leader Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before.

People **The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.**

Leader I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you

People **You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.**

Leader And my people shall never again be put to shame.

People **You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.**

Leader And my people shall never again be put to shame.

People **And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.**

## Prayer of Invocation

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

*(Words: Follitt 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 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

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

# I Want to Know You

(Words & Music: James Proctor, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, & Rich Thompson 2016)

I've tried in vain a thousand ways  
My fears to quell my hopes to raise  
But what I need your word has said  
Is ever only Jesus

You died you live you reign you plead  
There's love in all your words and deeds  
This weary heart finds all it needs  
In ever only Jesus

*I want to know you Jesus my Lord  
King of the Heavens king of my soul  
I trade my treasure and all my rewards  
Jesus to know you then know you more*

Though some should curse me for your name  
I have no fear I have no shame  
You stand with me for all my days  
My ever only Jesus

Like wave after wave on the ocean  
Like all of the sand on the shore  
Your beauty and glory are endless  
O Jesus I must know you more

## **Call to Confession: Joel 2:12-13**

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that you call us to be a holy people, separate from the world and distinct in character. You call us to pursue justice and faithfulness as a light to those around us. We confess the ways we have hid our light under a bushel. We confess how we have touched unclean things and defiled ourselves in your sight. We have given into the temptations around us and in doing so, we look no different from those who surround us. Forgive us gracious Father, and help us to walk in your ways. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon: Joel 2:32**

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

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

## Thy Mercy My God

*(Words & Music Isaac Watts, John Stocker, and Sandra McCracken 2001)*

Thy mercy my God is the theme of my song  
The joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue  
Thy free grace alone from the first to the last  
Hath won my affections and bound my soul fast

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair  
But through Thy free goodness my spirits revive  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart  
Dissolved by Thy goodness I fall to the ground  
And weep for the praise of the mercy I found

Great Father of mercies Thy goodness I own  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son  
All praise to the Spirit whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy and pardon and righteousness mine

## Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 7:2-16

"Ministry from the Heart"

-Reverend Matt Koerber

**M**ake room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.

<sup>3</sup>I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together. <sup>4</sup>I am acting with great boldness toward you; I have great pride in you; I am filled with comfort. In all our affliction, I am overflowing with joy.

<sup>5</sup>For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted at every turn—fighting without and fear within. <sup>6</sup>But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, <sup>7</sup>and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your

longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.

*<sup>8</sup>For even if I made you grieve with my letter, I do not regret it—though I did regret it, for I see that that letter grieved you, though only for a while. <sup>9</sup>As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.*

*<sup>10</sup>For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. <sup>11</sup>For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. <sup>12</sup>So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.*

*<sup>13</sup>Therefore we are comforted.*

*And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.*

<sup>14</sup>For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. <sup>15</sup>And his affection for you is even greater, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling. <sup>16</sup>I rejoice, because I have complete confidence in you.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

## **Additional Scripture**

Matthew 22:37-40 / And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

# Song of Thanksgiving

## Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

*(Words: George Croly 1854; Music: Daniel Snoke 2020)*

Spirit of God descend upon my heart  
Wean it from sin through all its pulses move  
Stoop to my weakness mighty as Thou art  
Make me to love Thee as I ought to love  
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

I ask no dream no prophet ecstasies  
No sudden rending of the veil of clay  
No angel vision no revealing skies  
Take now the dimness of my soul away  
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee God and King  
All all Thine own soul heart and strength and mind  
I see the cross there teach my heart to cling  
O let me seek Thee O and let me find  
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear  
Come check my rising doubt, my rebel sigh  
Teach me the patience of unanswered pray'r  
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love  
One holy passion filling all my frame  
Baptize my life with heav'ns descended Dove  
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame  
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

## Benediction