



Sunday Evening Communion Service
May 21, 2023

"Martin Luther opened the Reformation by nailing the Ninety-Five Theses to the door of Wittenberg Cathedral. The very first of the theses was: "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." On the surface this looks a little bleak! Luther seems to be saying Christians will never be making much progress. But of course that wasn't Luther's point at all. He was saying that repentance is the way we make progress in the Christian life. Indeed, pervasive, all-of- life-repentance is the best sign that we are growing deeply and rapidly into the character of Jesus."

~Tim Keller

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Communion Worship – May 21, 2023
Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:7-11

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

Leader I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

People **I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

Leader Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

People **You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Prayer of Invocation

O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus

(Words: Samuel T. Francis 1800's; Music: Thomas J. Williams 1890)

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless free.
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love.
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread His praise from shore to shore.
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, never more.
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
Died to call them all his own.
How for them he intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best.
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me.
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to thee.

All Who Are Thirsty

(Words & Music Glenn Robertson and Brenton Brown 1998)

All who are thirsty
all who are weak
come to the fountain
dip your heart in the stream of life
let the pain and the sorrow
be washed away,
in the wave of his mercy
as deep cries out to deep, we sing

*Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come*

*Holy Spirit, come
Holy Spirit, come
Holy Spirit, come
Holy Spirit, come*

Call to Confession: Deuteronomy 30:11-14

"For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

Prayer of Confession: *English Book of Common Prayer, 1662*

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults; restore those who are penitent according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: *Jeremiah 31:31-33*

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

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).

Psalm 51 | God Be Merciful To Me

(Words: Richard Redhead; 1912 Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

God, be merciful to me,
On Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within,
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess,
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace
And provoked Thee to Thy face;
I confess Thy judgment just.
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

(continued on next page)

Sinners then shall learn from me,
And return, O God, to Thee.
Savior, all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing Thy love.
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord.

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 7:8-13

"Repentance Unto Life"

-Elder Dave Snoke

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. ⁹As 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.

¹⁰For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. ¹¹For 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. ¹²So 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. ¹³Therefore 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.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Luke 3:8-9 / "Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Acts 11:18/ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Hebrews 6:1 / Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God...

Hebrews 12:4-6 / In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

2 Peter 3:9 / The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Westminster Confession of Faith 15: "Of Repentance Leading to Life"

1. Repentance leading to life is an evangelical grace, the doctrine of which is to be preached by every minister of the Gospel, as well as the doctrine of faith in Christ.
2. By it a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature and righteous law of God, and on the realization of God's mercy in Christ to those who are penitent, grieves for and hates his sins so much that he turns away from them all to God, planning and working hard to walk with God in all the ways of his commandments.
3. Although repentance is not to be rested in as any payment for sin or as any cause of the pardon of sin, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ, yet it is of such necessity to all sinners, that no one may expect pardon without it.
4. As there is no sin so small that it does not deserve damnation, so there is no sin so great that it can bring damnation on those who truly repent.
5. People ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is each one's duty to work hard to repent of his particular sins, particularly.

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-communicating 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

All I Have Is Christ

(Words & Music: Jordan Kauflin 2008)

*Hallelujah all I have is Christ
Hallelujah Jesus is my life*

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that you would own
A rebel to your will
And if you had not loved me first
I would refuse you still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Now Lord I would be yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow your commands
Could never come from me
O Father use my ransomed life
In any way you choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

(Words: J. Wilbur Chapman 1910; Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard 1811)

Jesus what a friend for sinners
Jesus Lover of my soul
Friends may fail me foes assail me
He my Savior makes me whole

Jesus What a strength in weakness
Let me hide myself in Him
Tempted tried and sometimes failing
He my strength my victory wins

*Hallelujah What a Savior
Hallelujah What a friend
Saving helping keeping loving
He is with me to the end*

Jesus what a help in sorrow
While the billows o'er me roll
Even when my heart is breaking
He my comfort helps my soul

Jesus what a guide and keeper
While the tempest still is high
Storms about me, night has found me
He my pilot hears my cry

Jesus I do now receive Him
More than all in Him I find
He hath granted me forgiveness
I am His and He is mine

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)

Benediction