



Sunday Evening Service
May 7, 2023

"This is the kind of comprehensive attraction you should be looking for in a future partner. So many people choose their marriage partner on the basis of looks and money- rather than on character, mission, future self, and mythos- that they often find themselves married to a person they don't really respect that much."

Tim Keller ~ "Meaning of Marriage"

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – May 7, 2023

Call to Worship: Psalm 26:6-12

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

Leader I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O LORD,
proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous
deeds.

People **O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place
where your glory dwells.**

Leader Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with
bloodthirsty men,

People **In whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands
are full of bribes.**

Leader But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be
gracious to me.

People **My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I
will bless the LORD.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 104 | Rejoice in All Your Works

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2014)

Every mouth that cries for food,
Every lung that yearns for breath,
Every eye that searches through the dark for light—
All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied.

(continued on next page)

*Oh rejoice in all your works,
King of Heaven, King of Earth!
Every creature you have made declares your praise.
We rejoice in all you've made,
God of all-sustaining grace!
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we sing your praise!*

Every tree that thirsts for rain,
Every bird that seeks its nest,
Every heart that waits in hope to be made glad—
All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied

May the pond'rings of my heart,
And the song upon my lips,
With the chorus of creation join in praise:
To the God who made all things,
To the Spirit who sustains,
To the Son who over all creation reigns!

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

Call to Confession: Isaiah 52:11

Depart, depart, go out from there; touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of her; purify yourselves, you who bear the vessels of the LORD.

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: Ezekiel 20:41-42

As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers.

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 Come To The Altar

(Words & Music: Christopher Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, and Wade Joye 2015)

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

*O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

"Unequally Yoked"

-Reverend Joseph Bianco

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹⁷Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,

¹⁸and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

^{7:1}Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

2 Samuel 7:14 / "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men."

Matthew 7:19 / Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Revelation 18:4 / Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues."

Sermon Outline:

Main idea: Paul is calling believers to separate from evil, lest they become separated from God.

The problem: To be yoked is to be constrained and constraint can feel constraining

Main Points:

What is unequal yoking?

Ways Christians unequally yoke themselves

The Gospel - God yoked to me

Conclusion

Song of Thanksgiving

Come Thou Fount

(Words: Robert Robinson & Martin Madan; 1760 Music: Unknown)

Come thou fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by thy help I'm come,
And I hope by thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God.
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be.
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.

Benediction