



Sunday Evening Service
January 12, 2020

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. Please feel free to stick around after the service and ask questions about who we are and what we do! If you would like more information, please refer to our print newsletter, *City This Month*, or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

Prayer is like waking up from a nightmare to reality. We laugh at what we took so seriously inside the dream. We realize that all is truly well. Of course, prayer can have the opposite effect; it can puncture illusions and show us we are in more spiritual danger than we thought.

- Timothy Keller, "Prayer"

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM
Twentieth Century Club (Until 1/26)
4201 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Oakland)
Morning Venue Change - February 2020

Sunday Evening Worship Service

6:00PM
3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207 (Greenfield)

Church Office (Open Tues - Fri)

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
t: 412-720-7014
e: office@cityreformed.org
w: cityreformed.org

Donations

Online: cityreformed.org/give
Mail: to the Church Office address above
"Attn: Allison" (please make checks payable to
City Reformed Presbyterian Church)

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Worship – January 12, 2020

Presider: Reverend John McCombs

Call to Worship: Psalm 63:1-8

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

Leader O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

People **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

Leader Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

People **So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.**

Leader My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

People **When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**

Leader For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

People **My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 34 | Taste and See

(Words & Music: Joe Rigney & Shane Barnard 2015)

I sought the Lord and He answered me
And delivered me from ev'ry fear
Those who look on Him are radiant
They'll never be ashamed
They'll never be ashamed

This poor man cried and the Lord heard me
And saved me from my enemies
The Son of God surrounds His saints
He will deliver them
He will deliver them

*Magnify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name together
Glorify the Lord with me
Come exalt His name forever*

O taste and see that the Lord is good
O blessed is he who hides in Him
O fear the Lord O all you saints
He'll give you ev'rything
He'll give you ev'rything

Let us bless the Lord
Ev'ry day and night
Never ending praise
May our incense rise

Psalm 82 | The Hand of God

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2017)

The hand of God gave you pow'r to reign
So that you might stand for the weak
He made you judge so the fatherless
And the poor could rest in your strength
But you have left them in darkness
And the earth's foundations shake

*How long O Lord before your justice reigns
Rise up O Lord for you the nations wait*

Catechism Reading: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 98. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is offering up our desires to God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and with thankful acknowledgment of his mercies.

Call to Confession: Matthew 26:36-41

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God and heavenly Father, we confess that we too are like Peter, abandoning you in the garden. You call us to remain with you, and our flesh pulls us away; you call us to stay up, to remain watchful, to pray, and our fears and worldly concerns distract us. Let your Spirit give us fervency in prayer, watchfulness against temptation, and strength to remain present in the difficulties of life. Forgive us and keep us from all temptation. We pray in Christ's most holy name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 8:12-14

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We do not take a formal offering in our evening service. If you feel led to contribute as an act of worship, an offering box is available in the back corner of the sanctuary.

Psalm 85 | Speak Peace

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko & Paul Zach 2019)

*Speak peace to your people
Speak peace to your saints
Speak peace to your people
Speak peace to all the earth*

Surely his salvation is at hand
Unfailing love and truth have met
Righteousness will cover all the earth
And his glory will fill the land

Lord revive your joy in us again
And let us hear what you will say
Will your anger always be on us
Will you not restore us again

You have covered all our sin
We have been restored again
Show us your unfailing love
Grant us salvation

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Romans 8:26-28

"The God Who Prays" - Reverend Joseph Bianco

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 6:6 / But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:9 / Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

Mark 11:25 / "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Romans 8:34 / Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Philippians 4:6 / ...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

James 5:13-14 / Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

1 John 5:6-8 / This is he who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

1 John 5:13-14 / And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Song of Thanksgiving

Wonderful Merciful Savior

(Words & Music: Dawn Rodgers & Eric Wyse 1989)

Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb could
Rescue the souls of men
Oh, You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace our
Hearts always hunger for
Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost their way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Almighty, infinite, Father,
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh, we're falling before Your throne

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction