



**Sunday Evening Worship
January 20, 2019**

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

For this end, the knowledge of God's benefits avails much; for, when their value appears to us, all other things will be deemed worthless, especially when we consider what Christ and his blessings are; for everything without him is but dross.

- John Calvin

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM
Twentieth Century Club
4201 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Oakland)

Church Office (Open Tues - Fri)

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

Sunday Evening Worship Service

6:30PM
3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207 (Greenfield)

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 20, 2019

Presider: Reverend John McCombs

Call to Worship: Psalm 91:9-16

Please stand for the call to worship if you are able.

Leader Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

People **For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**

Leader On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

People **"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."**

Prayer of Invocation

O God Of Our Salvation

(Words & Music: Michael Bleecker and Matt Boswell 2009)

O God of our salvation
Who reigns upon the throne
The sov'reign Father great is He
From Whom all blessings flow

*O God of our salvation
From Whom redemption comes
O Father Son and Spirit
The blessed Three in One*

Behold the Son our Savior
Who for our sin was slain
The Christ Who purchased with His blood
The wretched souls of men

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O God the Holy Spirit
Revealing deity
The fount of life and love divine
Throughout eternity

O God of our salvation
Who reigns upon the throne
The sov'reign Father great is He
From Whom all blessings flow

Scripture Reading: Romans 10:14-15

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

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: "Resting on God", *The Valley of Vision*, Arthur Bennett

Oh God, I come to You as a sinner with cares and sorrows, to leave every concern entirely to You - every sin which calls for Christ's precious blood. Revive deep spirituality in my heart. Let me live near to the great Shepherd: hear His voice, know its tones, and follow its calls. Keep me from deception by causing me to abide in truth. Keep me from harm by helping me to walk in the power of the Spirit. Give me intense faith in the eternal truth, burning into me by experience the things I know. Let me never be ashamed of the truth of the gospel, that I may bear its reproach and live in a way that vindicates it. Let me see Jesus as its essence and find in it the power of the Spirit.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Joel 2:28-32

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls."

Song of Renewal

Isaiah 43

(Author Unknown)

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you,
And the waves will not overcome you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name;
You are mine.

For I am the Lord, your God (echo)
I am the Lord, your God
I Am The Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Repeat)

I am the Lord (Do not fear)
I am the Lord (Do not fear)
I am the Lord (Do not fear)
I am the Lord (Do not fear)

When you walk through the fire,
You'll not be burned,
And the flames will not consume you.
Do not fear,
For I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name;
You are mine.

Corporate & Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: 1 Peter 1:3-12

"God Will Finish" - Reverend Joseph Bianco

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 13:16-17 / But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

John 20:29 / Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Romans 5:3-5 / Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 8:37-39 / No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 3:5-7 / ...he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

James 1:2-4 / Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

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-communing 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 will be served by elders to several people at a time at the front of the church. When you are ready, please proceed up using the left aisle. At the ushers' guidance, you may move forward to receive the elements as a group. Please return to your seat using the right aisle.

Communion is served with wine and with grape juice. The wine is placed in the outer circle of the communion tray, and the grape juice is placed in the inner circle. The bread is gluten-free.

Songs of Communion

Psalm 24 - We Long To See You

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2015)

Almighty God, we long to see you.
Open our hearts and make them pure.
Spirit, we wash our hands in mercy.
Come teach our souls to love your truth.

Eternal Weight Of Glory

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough)

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suff'ring seem so long;
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song.
Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak,
But our hope is set on Jesus;
And we cling to him, our strength.

*For behold! I tell a myst'ry:
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
"Death is swallowed up in vict'ry!"
When we meet our King of Grace
Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song*

Oh eternal weight of glory!
Oh inheritance divine!
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time.
All our pains will be transfigured,
Like the scars of Christ our Lord.
We will see the weight of glory,
And our broken years restored.

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We will see our wounded Savior.
We'll behold him face to face;
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace.

Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried "How long?"
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song

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.
Amen

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction