



Sunday Evening Service
December 15, 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

Before you heal someone, ask him if he's willing to give up the things that made him sick.

- Hippocrates

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

6:00PM
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 – December 15, 2019
Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:33-40

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

Leader Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

People **Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!**

Leader Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways. Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.

People **Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your rules are good. Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!**

Prayer of Invocation

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Words & Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard & Charles Wesley)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us:
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art--
Dear desire of eve'ry nation,
Joy of eve'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Day-spring from on high, appear:
Come thou promised Son of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth—
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall--
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever;
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone—
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Speak O Lord

(Words & Music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty)

Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience
Holy reverence true humility
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity
Cause our faith to rise
Cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority
Words of power that can never fail
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory

Catechism Readings: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 23. What offices does Christ carry out as our redeemer?

A. Christ, as our redeemer, carries the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his state of humiliation and his state of exaltation.

Q. 24. How does Christ carry out the office of a prophet?

A. Christ carries out the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Call to Confession: Isaiah 61:8-9

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

Prayer of Confession

Father we are thankful that you have not left us in silence, but you have spoken to us. You have revealed your words through the prophets and apostles. Jesus himself is called "The Word." He took on human nature and lived among us – grace and truth embodied. Now you call us to speak your words to each other. We confess that our words are often careless and hurtful. Instead of building up they tear down. Instead of pointing to Christ we seek to make ourselves look good. Forgive us and renew us. May we hear again - with new ears - your gracious words of forgiveness. "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Help us to live in these words, rest on these words and speak these words to others. Help us to love and to speak truth to others in love. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 61:10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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.

Once In Royal David's City

(Words: Cecil F. Alexander 1848; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett 1849)

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from Heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in Heav'n above,
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in Heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Luke 4:14-30

"Jesus, the Prophet Rejected" - Reverend Nameun Cho

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

¹⁶And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²²And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, “Is not this Joseph's son?” ²³And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, “Physician, heal yourself.” What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.” ²⁴And he said, “Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. ²⁵But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land,

²⁶and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. ²⁹And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But passing through their midst, he went away.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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

We Are Listening

(Words & Music: Jeremy Quillo 2006)

Father, I long to be wise.
To see you with new eyes,
The truth that was written by your hand.
Father speak truth into me
Because I still believe
That you always help me understand.

(continued on next page)

We are listening to your word. (2x)

*Morning and evening we come
To delight in the word of our God.
Give us eyes to see.
Give us faith to hear,
That the Lord has come,
That the Lord is here.*

Father, I long to see Christ:
The truth and new life,
Your word that has made the universe.
Father speak, now I believe.
I have been set free
By the word that lived and died for me.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

(Words: Liturgy of St. James 4th Century; Melody: 17th Century French; Arrangement: Daniel Snoke 2011)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry: _____

Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Christmas Doxology

(Words: Thomas Ken 1674; Music: Louis Bourgeois 1510)

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent did thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost for evermore.

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
