



**Sunday Evening Worship
December 16, 2018**

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

Reflect upon your present blessings – of which every man has many – not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

- Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol and Other Christmas Writings"

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
e: office@cityreformed.org
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 – December 16, 2018

Presider: Reverend John McCombs

Call to Worship: Psalm 135:1-7, 13-14

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

Leader Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD, give praise, O servants of the LORD, who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God!

People **Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant! For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself, Israel as his own possession.**

Leader For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

People **He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouses.**

Leader Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, throughout all ages.

People **For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.**

Prayer of Invocation

Come You People of the Promise

(Words: Joy Patterson 1994; Melody: Unknown Polish Tune; Arrangement: Daniel Snoke 2016)

Come you people of the promise
Sing for joy the time is near
God the covenant fulfilling
Soon among us will appear
As proclaimed in prophet's story
Christ will come in humble glory
God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel

(continued on next page)

Long in darkness we have waited
Through the shadows made our way
Gloom and sorrow our companions
As we longed for signs of day
Great our need for hope and healing
This the light our God revealing
God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel

God's own Son shall dwell among us
Shadows vanish in that Light
Earth shall know His peace and justice
Christ who comes shall rule in might
Let our joy dispel all sadness
He who comes turns tears to gladness
God with us Emmanuel
God with us Emmanuel

Scripture Reading: Acts 20:35

God With Us

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan 2012)

You have come to bring peace
To be love, to be nearer to us
You have come to bring life
To be light, to shine brighter in us.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

*Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our redemption
God with us, You are God with us.*

You have come to be hope
To this world for Your honor and name.
You have come to take sin
To bear shame and to conquer the grave.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

You are here and
You are holy
We are standing
In Your glory (Lord)

Call to Confession: James 4:1-4

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and merciful Father, we confess to you that our minds are often distracted, distant from your word, and focused only on ourselves. We confess to you that we have failed to build up our brother and sister, and in our selfishness, have forgotten your beloved. We have desired selfish gain above loving your people and even our prayers have been tainted by sin. By grace upon grace, you offer the way of forgiveness. We plead this grace because of the finished work of Christ. We pray that you will conform our hearts to your holy Word and that we will be made ever more into the image of Christ, dying to sin and living unto righteousness.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: James 4:5-10

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Song of Renewal

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

(Words: Charles Wesley 1739; Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840)

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King*

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
Now display thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore;
Let us Thee, though lost, regain,
Thee, the life, of mortal Man:
O! to all thyself impart,
Give to each believing heart.

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth

Corporate & Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Genesis 12

"Blessed to Bless" - Reverend Joseph Bianco

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

¹⁰Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." ¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵And when the princes

of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

¹⁷But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go." ²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

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 two outer circles of the communion tray, and the grape juice is placed in the inner circle. The bread is gluten-free.

Songs of Communion

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

(Words: Louis F. Benson 1889; Melody: English Traditional)

O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air.

The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing alway.

O sing a song of Nazareth,
Of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
And of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth
In every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name
On all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee,
Of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea
And bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee,
Dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word,
Falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary,
Its glory and dismay,
Of him who hung upon the tree,
And took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary
Is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
Is mighty now to save.

Joy To The World

(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music Lowell Mason's 1800's adaption of George Handel's "Messiah" 1742)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

(continued on next page)

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

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

CCLI License #2473859

All scripture verses are the English Standard Version (ESV), unless otherwise noted.