



**Sunday Evening Worship**  
**December 2, 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](http://cityreformed.org).

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## Reflections

What self denial! What self abasement! What self emptying! He, whom no infinitudes can hold, is contained within infant's age, and infant's form. Can it be, that the great "I AM THAT I AM" shrinks into our flesh?

- Henry Law (1797-1884)

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## 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](mailto:office@cityreformed.org)  
w: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org)

### Sunday Evening Worship Service

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

### Donations

Online: [cityreformed.org/give](http://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 2, 2018

Presider: Dave Nameun Cho

## Call to Worship: Psalm 2:1-9

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

Leader Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot in vain?

People **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart, and cast away their cords from us."**

Leader He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

People **Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."**

Leader I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

People **"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."**

## 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.

# Scripture Reading: Luke 1:39-52

## 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: Luke 2:25, 27-32, 34-35**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him... And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ... And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

## **Prayer of Confession: Psalm 51:1-4, 8-12**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment... Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon: Luke 1:76-79**

"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

## **Testimony:** Ben Chidester

### **Song of Renewal**

#### **What Wondrous Love Is This**

*(Words: Anonymous; Melody: American Folk Southern Harmony)*

What wondrous love is this  
O my soul O my soul  
What wondrous love is this O my soul  
What wondrous love is this  
That caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul for my soul  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul

When I was sinking down  
Sinking down sinking down  
When I was sinking down sinking down  
When I was sinking down  
Beneath God's righteous frown  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul for my soul  
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul

To God and to the Lamb  
I will sing I will sing  
To God and to the Lamb I will sing  
To God and to the Lamb  
Who is the Great I Am  
While millions join the theme  
I will sing I will sing  
While millions join the theme I will sing

And when from death I'm free  
I'll sing on I'll sing on  
And when from death I'm free I'll sing on  
And when from death I'm free  
I'll sing and joyful be  
And thro' eternity I'll sing on I'll sing on  
And thro' eternity I'll sing on

### **Corporate & Pastoral Prayer**

## Sermon: Malachi 2:17-3:7

"Who Can Endure the Day of His Coming?" - David Snoke

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**Y**ou have wearied the LORD with your words. But you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

<sup>3:1</sup>"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>6</sup>"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'

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Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

# Additional Scripture

Isaiah 8:8-10 / ...and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel. Be broken, you peoples, and be shattered; give ear, all you far countries; strap on your armor and be shattered; strap on your armor and be shattered. Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

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Matthew 3:4-10 / Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

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Matthew 11:7-10, 13 / As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' ...For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John....

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Matthew 25:31-32 / "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

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# Songs of Thanksgiving

## Hail To The Lord's Anointed

(Words: James Montgomery 1821; Music: Sandra McCracken 2012)

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
Great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression,  
To set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
And rule in equity.

(continued on next page)

He comes with comfort speedy  
To those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy,  
And bid the weak be strong.  
To give them songs for sighing,  
Their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers  
Upon the fruitful earth,  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
Spring in His path to birth.  
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.  
His Name shall stand forever,  
That Name to us is 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**

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