



Sunday Morning Worship
December 29, 2019

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. Please stop by the Welcome Table in the foyer - we would love to meet you! If you would like more information, please fill out one of the info cards on the table, refer to our print newsletter, *City This Month*, or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world;
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in his sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

- C.H. Woolston, Baptist Minister, born 1856, died 1927

Please speak to an usher or greeter if you have any questions about the nursery and children's programs.

- *There is a nursery for children infant – 3 during the service.*
- *Cry Room space is available during the service off the foyer and Board Room.*
- *Children's bulletins are available at the side table for those staying in service.*

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 29, 2019

Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Matthew 11:25-30

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

Leader At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

People **Yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.**

Leader All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

People **Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

Leader Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

People **For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

Prayer of Invocation

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.

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.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14

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

Hosanna

(Words & Music: Israel Houghton, Sidney Mohede, and M. Sidney 2010)

Hosanna, in the highest
Let our King be lifted up
Hosanna

Call to Confession: Matthew 18:1-4

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Prayer of Confession

Lord, we want to come to you in prayer with simple words and with childlike dependence. We need you. We can't manage our lives on our own. We are dependent upon your grace. We can't live for justice, mercy and truth in our own power. We can't break out of our cycles of selfishness on our own. We look to you.

O Lord, show your strength in our weakness. Magnify the grace of your Son, Jesus, as you meet us in our weakness. We look to Jesus—the One who was crushed for our sin and iniquity. Forgive us and help us for His sake, we pray. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

As offering bags are passed, we ask that members and regular attendees consider contributing as an act of worship. Those who are not a regular part of our church are not expected to participate.

Away In A Manger

(Words & Music: James Ramsey Murray, John Thomas McFarland, & Martin Luther)

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Mark 10:13-16

"Let the Children Come to Me" - Reverend John McCombs

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."
¹⁶And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 19:13-15 / Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away.

Mark 9:36-37 / And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Mark 9:42 / "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea."

Mark 10:48 / And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Luke 18:15-17 / Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

2 Corinthians 6:11-13 / We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

Revelation 1:17-18 / When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."

Scriptural Response: Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

Jesus I Am Resting Resting

(Words & Music: David Hampton & Jean Sophia Pigott 1998)

Jesus I am resting resting
In the joy of what Thou art
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee
And Thy beauty fills my soul
For by Thy transforming power
Thou hast made me whole

*Jesus I am resting resting
In the joy of what Thou art
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart*

Oh how great Thy loving kindness
Vaster broader than the sea
Oh how marvelous Thy goodness
Lavished all on me
Yes I rest in Thee Beloved
Know what wealth of grace is Thine
Know Thy certainty of promise
And have made it mine

Simply trusting Thee Lord Jesus
I behold Thee as Thou art
And Thy love so pure so changeless
Satisfies my heart
Satisfies its deepest longings
Meets supplies its ev'ry need
For he wraps me 'round with blessings
Thine is love indeed

Ever lift Thy face upon me
As I work and wait for Thee
Resting 'neath Thy smile Lord Jesus
Earth's dark shadows flee
Brightness of my Father's glory
Sunshine of my Father's face
Keep me ever trusting resting
Fill me with Thy grace

Angels We Have Heard On High

(Words & Music: Unknown 18th Century French Carol)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

See within a manger laid
Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth
Mary Joseph lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth

Prayer

Announcements

At the beginning of announcements parents are dismissed to pick up their children from nursery.

Benediction

Tonight's Evening Service: Reverend Matt Koerber will be preaching "Jesus as King: A Friend in Dark Places" on 2 Timothy 4:6-22.
