



**Sunday Evening Worship
December 9, 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

Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent; one waits, hopes, and does this, that, or the other- things that are of no real consequence- the door is shut, and can be opened only from the outside.

- Dietrech Bonhoeffer

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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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 9, 2018

Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-7

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

Leader I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

People **Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.**

Leader One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

People **On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

Leader They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

People **They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

Prayer of Invocation

In Christ Alone

(Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend 2001)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Til He returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Words: Phillips Brooks 1868; Melody: English Traditional "Forest Green")

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The Everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
The wond'rous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Call to Confession: Psalm 145:18-20

The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them. The LORD preserves all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

Prayer of Confession

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have been calloused to miracles that we have missed the wonder of Jesus' birth. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 145:8-9, 13b-14

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made... The LORD is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works. The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

Song of Renewal

Psalm 77:1-3

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke 2013)

(Congregants can sing both parts simultaneously)

I cry aloud to God
And he will hear my call.
When troubles surround
I seek the Lord

My soul will not rest,
I seek God and moan;
And when I meditate
My spirit faints.

Corporate & Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Matthew 2:1-12

"A King Revealed" - Dave Nameun Cho

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Numbers 24:17 / I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.

Psalms 72:8-11 / May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!

Jeremiah 23:5-6 / "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"

Matthew 27:11, 37 / Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ...And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Luke 2:4-7 / And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Words & Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard and 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.

(continued on next page)

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.

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction