



Sunday Evening Worship
April 7, 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

We are not responsible to God for the soul that are saved, but we are responsible for the Gospel that is preached, and for the way in which we preach it.

- Charles Spurgeon

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 – April 7, 2019
Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Psalm 71:17-23

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

Leader O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

People **Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you?**

Leader You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.

People **You will increase my greatness and comfort me again.**

Leader I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

People **My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed.**

Prayer of Invocation

Let Us Love And Sing And Wonder

(Words: John Newton 1774; Music: Laura Taylor 2001)

Let us love and sing and wonder,
Let us praise the Savior's name,
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame,
He has washed us with his blood (3x),
He has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who brought us,
Pitied us when enemies.
Called us by his grace and taught us
Gave us ears and gave us eyes.
He has washed us with his blood (3x),
He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptations
Threaten hard to bear us down.
For the Lord our strong salvation
Holds in view the conqueror's crown
He who washed us with his blood (3x),
Soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice
Join and point to mercy's store.
When through grace in Christ our trust is
Justice smiles and asks no more.
He who washed us with his blood (3x),
Has secured our way to God.

Let us praise and join the chorus
Of the saints enthroned on high.
Here they trusted him before us
Now their praises fill the sky.
You have washed us with your blood (3x),
You are worthy, Lamb of God

Scripture Reading: Luke 4:16-21

Ah Holy Jesus How Hast Thou Offended

(Words: Johann Heerman 1630; Music: Herzliebster Jesu & Johann Crueger 1640)

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee:
I crucified thee.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
For our transgression, now the Son hath suffered;
For man's atonement, while he nothing heedeth,
God intercedeth.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
Think on thy mercy and thy love unswerving,
Not my deserving.

Call to Confession: Romans 4:1-8

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Prayer of Confession

Gracious heavenly Father, forgive us for misplacing our salvation. Too often we despair because of our sin, forgetting we have been justified by faith. We forget the work of your hand in our lives; years of your faithfulness, the trials you have brought us through, and the ever-present grace which sustains us. In moments of weakness, we comfort ourselves with sin and self-pity. Gracious Father, restore to us the joy of our salvation. Tell us again of the peace we have with you. Let us find our identity in your Son alone that we may rest in Him. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Song of Renewal

Psalm 51 | God Be Merciful To Me

(Words: Richard Redhead 1912; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

God, be merciful to me,
On Thy grace I rest my plea;
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within,
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess,
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;
I have sinned against Thy grace
And provoked Thee to Thy face;
I confess Thy judgment just.
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me,
And return, O God, to Thee.
Savior, all my guilt remove,
And my tongue shall sing Thy love.
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,
And my mouth shall praise accord.

Corporate & Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: 1 Peter 3:13-22

"Your Reason for the Hope" - Reverend Joseph Bianco

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Genesis 6:5-6 / The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart.

Genesis 8:20-22 / Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

Isaiah 61:1 / The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound....

Matthew 5:10 / "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Luke 4:16-21 / And 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. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And 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. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

John 3:5, 8 / Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God... The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Galatians 3:27 / For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Titus 3:5 / ...he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit....

2 Peter 2:5 / ...if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly....

Song of Thanksgiving

Psalm 34 | Gloria

(Words & Music: Mars Hill Music)

I sought for the King.
Then He heard my cry,
And delivered me
From my lonely fears.

They looked unto Him
In His radiance.
All their faces have
Been made unashamed.

Gloria! (4x)

*O, taste and see
That the Lord is good
All you people
All you saints
All you children of the King. (2x)*

Gloria! (4x)

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction