



Sunday Morning Worship
May 26, 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

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

- Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol"

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 in the foyer and Board Room.*
- *Children's bulletins are available at the side table for those staying in service.*
- *During the service, children 4 – 7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church.*

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Morning Worship – May 26, 2019
Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Psalm 103:1-6

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

Leader Bless the LORD O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

Leader Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

People Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Leader Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Prayer of Invocation

Come Ye Sinners

(Words: Joseph Hart 1759; Music: Southern Harmony Folk 1835; Arrangement: Daniel Snoke 2018)

Come ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity love and pow'r
He is able, He is able
He is willing doubt no more

(continued on next page)

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome
God's free bounty, glorify
True belief and true repentance
Ever'y grace that brings you nigh
Without money, without money
Come to Jesus Christ and buy

Let not conscience make you linger
Nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him
This He gives you, this He gives you
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Come ye weary, heavy laden
Bruised and broken by the Fall
If you tarry 'till you're better
You will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Lo! incarnate God ascended
Pleads the merit of His blood
Venture on Him, venture wholly
Let no other trust intrude
None but Jesus, none but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good.

Eastertide Reading: Psalm 9:7-12

Psalm 9 | Hope of the Poor

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2015)

The Lord is a home for all the oppressed
In times of trouble and need.
To all who will come and trust in His name,
A refuge and strength He will be.

*The needy will not be forsaken,
And the hope of the poor will not die;
For God who is mighty in judgment
Does not forget their cry!*

Arise, O my Lord and answer my call;
My heart cries out to be heard!
I've no other hope than your gracious love;
I trust and cling to your word.

The Lord has heard our cry!
The Lord has heard our cry!
The Lord has not forsaken us;
The Lord has heard our cry!

So sing out to God who sits on the throne,
Proclaim his marvelous ways!
Our rescue has come! For all he has done,
We offer our lives in praise!

The Lord has heard our cry!
The Lord has heard our cry!

Maker of the Heavens

(Words & Music: Jennifer Randolph 1986)

Maker of the heavens, Painter of the sky
The greatest work reserved for such as I
The angels long to sing about
The gift you gave to me
The love of God so unrestrained and free

*You, oh Lord, are the fragrance of my praise
The finest words could never bear my heart
You, oh Lord, are the essence of my praise
I treasure you for who you are.*

Maker of the heavens, Painter of the sky
The day will come when I will see your face
I've loved you since I've known you
And I long to know you more
Each day my heart sails farther from the shore

Call to Confession: Psalm 103:8-10

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Prayer of Confession

Father you are faithful. You are merciful and gracious and you abound in steadfast love.

But we confess that we are not faithful. We withhold mercy from others and we rush to judgment. We are quick to anger and we abound in selfishness and sin. Our hope is that you are faithful even when we fall short.

We are thankful for Christ. We need his blood to cleanse our sin and iniquity. We look to his blood to remove our transgressions, now and forever. Forgive us and renew us. Make us people who are growing in mercy, grace, patience and love. Form us into the image of Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 103:11-13

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

During this song we will pass offering bags through the congregation. We ask that our members and regular attendees thoughtfully consider their contribution as an act of worship - a response to God's grace in our lives. Those who are not a regular part of our church are not expected to participate in the offering.

Heal Us Emmanuel

(Words: William Cowper 1779; Music: Kevin Twit, Lucas Morton 2015)

*Heal us, Emmanuel, here we are
We long to feel Thy touch
Deep wounded souls to Thee we fly
O Savior hear our cry*

Our faith is feeble, we confess
We faintly trust Thy word
But will You pity us the less?
Be that far from You Lord!

Remember him who once applied
With trembling for relief
"Lord, I believe," with tears he cried
"O help my unbelief!"

She, too, who touched you in the press
And healing virtue stole
Was answered, "Daughter, go in peace
Thy faith has made you whole."

Like her, with hopes and fears we come
To touch You if we may
O send us not despairing home
Send none unhealed away

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. The leaders will bring the children to children's church and then back to the worship service after the sermon.

Sermon: Nehemiah 4:15-5:7a, 5:14, 5:18-19

Nehemiah: Restoration After Exile

"Nehemiah's Social Concerns Part 1: Security" - Reverend Matt Koerber

When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. ¹⁶From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, ¹⁷who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. ¹⁸And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. ²⁰In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.” ²¹So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²²I also said to the people at that time, “Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day.” ²³So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

^{5:1}Now there arose a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish brothers. ²For there were those who said, “With our sons and our daughters, we are many. So let us get grain, that we may eat and keep alive.” ³There were also those who said, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our houses to get grain because of the famine.” ⁴And there were those who said, “We have borrowed money for the king’s tax on our fields and our vineyards.

⁵Now our flesh is as the flesh of our brothers, our children are as their children. Yet we are forcing our sons and our daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but it is not in our power to help it, for other men have our fields and our vineyards.” ⁶I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these words. ⁷I took counsel with myself, and I brought charges against the nobles and the officials...

¹⁴Moreover, from the time that I was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, neither I nor my brothers ate the food allowance of the governor...¹⁸Now what was prepared at my expense for each day was one ox and six choice sheep and birds, and every ten days all kinds of wine in abundance. Yet for all this I did not demand the food allowance of the governor, because the service was too heavy on this people. ¹⁹Remember for my good, O my God, all that I have done for this people.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Leviticus 19:18 / You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

Micah 6:8 / He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 25:34-36 / "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'"

2 Corinthians 8:9 / For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Galatians 6:10 / So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

James 2:15-17 / If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 67. What is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, "You shall not murder."

Q. 68. What is required in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment requires all lawful efforts to preserve our own life and others.

Q. 69. What is forbidden in the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment forbids the taking away of our own life or the life of our neighbor unjustly, as well as anything that tends to that.

Additional Creedal Statement: Lausanne Covenant Article 5, Christian Social Responsibility

We affirm that God is both the Creator and the Judge of all men. We therefore should share his concern for justice and reconciliation throughout human society and for the liberation of men and women from every kind of oppression. Because men and women are made in the image of God, every person, regardless of race, religion, colour, culture, class, sex or age, has an intrinsic dignity because of which he or she should be respected and served, not exploited. Here too we express penitence both for our neglect and for having sometimes regarded evangelism and social concern as mutually exclusive. Although reconciliation with other people is not reconciliation with God, nor is social action evangelism, nor is political liberation salvation, nevertheless we affirm that evangelism and socio-political involvement are both part of our Christian duty. For both are necessary expressions of our doctrines of God and Man, our love for our neighbour and our obedience to Jesus Christ. The message of salvation implies also a message of judgment upon every form of alienation, oppression and discrimination, and we should not be afraid to denounce evil and injustice wherever they exist. When people receive Christ they are born again into his kingdom and must seek not only to exhibit but also to spread its righteousness in the midst of an unrighteous world. The salvation we claim should be transforming us in the totality of our personal and social responsibilities. Faith without works is dead.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

Your Labor Is Not in Vain

(Words & Music: Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach, and Wendell Kimbrough 2017)

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you
Is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out
And the sea it may groan
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown

*For I am with you I am with you
I am with you I am with you
For I have called you
Called you by name
Your labor is not in vain*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth
For all that is old will at last be made new
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit

The houses you labor to build
Will fina'ly with laughter and joy be filled
The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed
And all that is broken be healed

I Want to Know You

(Words & Music: James Proctor, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, & Rich Thompson 2016)

I've tried in vain a thousand ways
My fears to quell my hopes to raise
But what I need your word has said
Is ever only Jesus

You died you live you reign you plead
There's love in all your words and deeds
This weary heart finds all it needs
In ever only Jesus

*I want to know you Jesus my Lord
King of the Heavens king of my soul
I trade my treasure and all my rewards
Jesus to know you then know you more*

Though some should curse me for your name
I have no fear I have no shame
You stand with me for all my days
My ever only Jesus

Like wave after wave on the ocean
Like all of the sand on the shore
Your beauty and glory are endless
O Jesus I must know you more

Prayer

Announcements

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

Benediction

Tonight's Evening Service: Reverend John McCombs will be preaching "Servants by Faith & Multiplying in Grace" on 2 Peter 1:1-2.