



Sunday Evening Worship
May 5, 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

I believe that this Communist regime's persecution against the church is a greatly wicked, unlawful action. As a pastor of a Christian church, I must denounce this wickedness openly and severely. The calling that I have received requires me to use non-violent methods to disobey those human laws that disobey the Bible and God. My Savior Christ also requires me to joyfully bear all costs for disobeying wicked laws.

But this does not mean that my personal disobedience and the disobedience of the church is in any sense "fighting for rights" or political activism in the form of civil disobedience, because I do not have the intention of changing any institutions or laws of China. As a pastor, the only thing I care about is the disruption of man's sinful nature by this faithful disobedience and the testimony it bears for the cross of Christ.

As a pastor, my disobedience is one part of the gospel commission. Christ's great commission requires of us great disobedience. The goal of disobedience is not to change the world but to testify about another world.

- Pastor Wang Yi, Early Rain Church, "My Declaration of Faithful Disobedience"

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
w: cityreformed.org

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 – May 5, 2019
Presider: Reverend John McCombs

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:89-95

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

Leader Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

People Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.

Leader If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

People I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts. The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies.

Prayer of Invocation

Lion and the Lamb

(Words & Music: Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, & Leeland Mooring 2015)

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord almighty

*Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him*

*Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
And every knee will bow before Him*

So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
Our God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord almighty

Who can stop the Lord almighty
Who can stop the Lord almighty

Scripture Reading: Revelation 5:11-14, 6:9-11

Jesus Lover of My Soul

(Words: Charles Wesley 1740; Music: Greg Thompson 2000)

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high!
Hide me, O my Savior, hide
Till the storm is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
Receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed
Help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head,
The shadow of Thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am
Thou full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art
Let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart,
To all eternity.

Call to Confession: Luke 6:22-26

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets."

Prayer of Confession: Ambrose of Milan, ca. 339-397

O Lord, who has mercy on all, take away from me my sins,
and mercifully kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit.
Take away from me the heart of stone,
and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore you,
a heart to delight in you,
to follow and to enjoy you,
for Christ's sake. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Revelation 3:12

The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

Song of Renewal

Psalm 77:1-3

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke 2013)

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: 1 Peter 4:12-19

"A Theology of Persecution" - David Snoke

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 5:10-12 / "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Luke 8:16 / "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light."

John 15:20 / "Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours."

Romans 8:16-17 / 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.

2 Timothy 3:12 / Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

Hebrews 12:3 / Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Song of Thanksgiving

For All The Saints

(Words: William W. How 1864; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

For all the saints,
Who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith
Before the world confessed,
Thy Name, O Jesus,
Be forever blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia...

Thou wast their rock,
Their fortress and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain
In the well fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness
Drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia...

O blest communion,
Fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle,
They in glory shine;
Yet all are one in
Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Allelu...

The golden evening
brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful
warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm
of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Allelu...

But lo! There breaks
a yet more glorious day;
The saints triumphant
rise in bright array;
The King of glory
passes on his way,
Alleluia, Allelu...

From earth's wide bounds,
from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl
streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction