



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**June 16, 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](http://cityreformed.org).

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## Reflections

The real black, diabolical Pride, comes when you look down on others so much that you do not care what they think of you. Of course, it is very right, and often our duty, not to care what people think of us, if we do so for the right reason; namely, because we care so incomparably more what God thinks.

- C.S. Lewis, "Mere Christianity"

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*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.*
- *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 – June 16, 2019

Presider: Reverend Derek Bates

## Call to Worship: Psalm 61

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

Leader Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint.

People **Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,**

Leader For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

People **Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!**

Leader For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

People **Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!**

Leader May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!

People **So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.**

## Prayer of Invocation

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*(Words & Music: Martin Luther 1529)*

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right man on our side,  
The man of God's own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabbaoth, his name,  
From age to age the same,  
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim,  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo, his doom is sure;  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,  
No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,  
Through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill;  
God's truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is forever.

# Scripture Reading: Psalm 46

## Psalm 34 | Taste and See

*(Words & Music: Joe Rigney and Shane Barnard)*

I sought the Lord and He answered me  
And delivered me from ev'ry fear  
Those who look on Him are radiant  
They'll never be ashamed  
They'll never be ashamed

This poor man cried and the Lord heard me  
And saved me from my enemies  
The Son of God surrounds His saints  
He will deliver them  
He will deliver them

*Magnify the Lord with me  
Come exalt His name together  
Glorify the Lord with me  
Come exalt His name forever*

O taste and see that the Lord is good  
O blessed is he who hides in Him  
O fear the Lord O all you saints  
He'll give you ev'rything  
He'll give you ev'rything

Let us bless the Lord  
Ev'ry day and night  
Never ending praise  
May our incense rise

## Psalm 24 | We Long To See You

*(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2015)*

Almighty God, we long to see you.  
Open our hearts and make them pure.  
Spirit, we wash our hands in mercy.  
Come teach our souls to love your truth.

## **Call to Confession: Matthew 5:43-48**

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

## **Prayer of Confession**

Gracious heavenly Father, if you should mark iniquities, who could stand? Not only do we fail to love our enemies, we fear them. Not only are we imperfect in obedience, our sin is great. Not only do we fail to forgive as we are forgiven, we harbor hate. The more we gaze into your perfect law, the more you reveal the depth of our transgressions. Forgive us for excusing and reducing our sin. Forgive us for the love we lack and the commands we defy. We have no hope, save Jesus Christ. Thank you for our Savior. Because he is perfect, we can be restored. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 130:3-8**

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

# **Baptism:** Elorah Joy Bianco, daughter of Joseph & Camden Bianco

## **Question to the Congregation:**

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

## **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.*

### **Psalms 130 | From the Depths of Woe**

*(Words: Martin Luther 1524; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)*

From the depths of woe I raise to thee  
The voice of lamentation;  
Lord turn a gracious ear to me  
And hear my supplication;  
If thou iniquities dost mark  
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark  
Oh who shall stand before thee? *(echo) 2x*

To wash away the crimson stain  
Grace, grace alone availeth;  
Our works, alas, are all in vain;  
In much the best life faileth;  
No man can glory in thy sight  
All must alike confess thy might  
And live alone by mercy *(echo) 2x*

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,  
And not in mine own merit;  
On him my soul shall rest, his word  
Upholds my fainting spirit;  
His promised mercy is my fort,  
My comfort, and my sweet support  
I wait for it with patience *(echo) 2x*

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What though I wait the livelong night  
And 'til the dawn appeareth;  
My heart still trusteth in his might;  
It doubteth not nor feareth;  
Do thus oh ye of Israel's seed,  
Ye of the Spirit born indeed  
And wait 'til God appeareth (echo) 2x

Though great our sins and sore our woes,  
His grace much more aboundeth;  
His helping love no limit knows,  
Our utmost need it soundeth.  
Our shepherd good and true is he,  
Who will at last his Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow (echo) 2x

## **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 6

### "From Conspiracy to Confidence—God's Work Completed"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

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Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), <sup>2</sup>Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. <sup>3</sup>And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" <sup>4</sup>And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner. <sup>5</sup>In the same way Sanballat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. <sup>6</sup>In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Geshem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall. And according to these reports you wish to become their king. <sup>7</sup>And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now the king will hear of these reports. So now come and let us take counsel together." <sup>8</sup>Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." <sup>9</sup>For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen my hands.

<sup>10</sup>Now when I went into the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah, son of Mehetabel, who was confined to his home, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple. Let us close the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you. They are coming to kill you by night." <sup>11</sup>But I said, "Should such a man as I run away? And what man such as I could go into the temple and

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live? I will not go in.” <sup>12</sup>And I understood and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. <sup>13</sup>For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me a bad name in order to taunt me. <sup>14</sup>Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid.

<sup>15</sup>So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. <sup>16</sup>And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. <sup>17</sup>Moreover, in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobiah, and Tobiah’s letters came to them. <sup>18</sup>For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecaniah the son of Arah: and his son Jehohanan had taken the daughter of Meshullam the son of Berechiah as his wife. <sup>19</sup>Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence and reported my words to him. And Tobiah sent letters to make me afraid.

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Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Additional Scripture

1 Chronicles 8:12 / The sons of Elpaal: Eber, Misham, and Shemed, who built Ono and Lod with its towns...

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2 Chronicles 23:6 / Let no one enter the house of the LORD except the priests and ministering Levites. They may enter, for they are holy, but all the people shall keep the charge of the LORD.

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Psalms 126:2 / Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

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Isaiah 43:1 / But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

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Jeremiah 36:5 / And Jeremiah ordered Baruch, saying, "I am banned from going to the house of the LORD...."

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Ezekiel 13:17, 22-23 / "And you, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own hearts. Prophesy against them... Because you have disheartened the righteous falsely, although I have not grieved him, and you have encouraged the wicked, that he should not turn from his evil way to save his life, therefore you shall no more see false visions nor practice divination. I will deliver my people out of your hand. And you shall know that I am the LORD."

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John 14:26 / But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

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## Credal Response: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q182. How does the Spirit help us to pray?

**A. Since we do not know what to pray for as we ought, the Spirit helps our infirmities by enabling us to understand for whom, for what, and how prayer is to be made, and by working and enlivening in our hearts (although not in all persons, nor at all times, in the same degree) all those appreciations, desires, and graces which are needed for the right performance of this duty.**

# Songs of Thanksgiving

*Please stand for the final songs if you are able.*

## O God Our Help in Ages Past

*(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: William Croft & Tommy Walker 1998)*

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

*O God You are  
You are our help You are our helper  
To all generations You will be  
Forever and ever  
Our Shield and our Eternal Hope  
O Lord You are the Ancient of Days  
And worthy of our praise*

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

## On Jordan's Stormy Banks

*(Words: Samuel Stennett 1787; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)*

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand,  
And cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land,  
Where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains,  
Shines one eternal day;  
There God the Son forever reigns,  
And scatters night away.

*I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for the promised land!*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath  
Can reach that healthful shore;  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death,  
Are felt and feared no more.

When shall I reach that happy place,  
And be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face,  
And in His bosom rest?

## Prayer

## Announcements

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

## Benediction

***Tonight's Evening Service: David Snoke will be preaching "Faith Based on Eyewitness Testimony" on 2 Peter 1:16-21.***