



Sunday Morning Worship
June 2, 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

There's no doubt in my mind how harmful poverty is to people. It not only hurts to be hungry, it's demeaning and demoralizing to not have enough money to feed your kids or pay your rent. It's humiliating to try to explain to your spouse or your kids why you can't keep the water running and the lights on. It's a sad way of life to feel as if roaches, mice and rats have more freedom than you do.

- Randy Nabors, "Merciful"

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 – June 2, 2019
Presider: Elder Andy Leuenberger

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

Ascension Sunday Reading: Acts 1:6-11

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

Psalm 34 | Taste and See

(Words & Music: Joe Rigney & 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

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.

Jesus What a Friend for Sinners

(Words: J. Wilbur Chapman 1910; Melody: Rowland Hugh Prichard 1811; Arrangement: Daniel Snoke 2017)

Jesus! What a friend for sinners!
Jesus! Lover of my soul;
Friends may fail me, foes assail me,
He, my Savior, makes me whole.

Jesus! What a strength in weakness!
Let me hide myself in Him.
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,
He, my strength, my victory wins.

*Hallelujah! What a Savior!
Hallelujah! What a friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,
He is with me to the end.*

Jesus! What a help in sorrow!
While the billows o'er me roll,
Even when my heart is breaking,
He, my comfort, helps my soul.

Jesus, what a guide and keeper!
While the tempest still is high,
Storms about me, night has found me,
He my pilot, hears my cry.

Jesus! I do now receive Him,
More than all in Him I find.
He hath granted me forgiveness,
I am His, and He is mine.

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, 4:23-5:19

Nehemiah: Restoration After Exile

"Nehemiah's Social Concerns Part 2: Poverty" - 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...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 ⁸and said to them, "We, as far as we are able, have bought back our Jewish brothers who have been sold to the nations, but you even sell your brothers that they may be sold to us!" They were silent and could not find a word to say. ⁹So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? ¹⁰Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us abandon this exacting of interest. ¹¹Return to them this very day their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards,

and their houses, and the percentage of money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.”¹² Then they said, “We will restore these and require nothing from them. We will do as you say.” And I called the priests and made them swear to do as they had promised.¹³ I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, “So may God shake out every man from his house and from his labor who does not keep this promise. So may he be shaken out and emptied.” And all the assembly said “Amen” and praised the LORD. And the people did as they had promised.

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.¹⁵ The former governors who were before me laid heavy burdens on the people and took from them for their daily ration forty shekels of silver. Even their servants loded it over the people. But I did not do so, because of the fear of God.¹⁶ I also persevered in the work on this wall, and we acquired no land, and all my servants were gathered there for the work.¹⁷ Moreover, there were at my table 150 men, Jews and officials, besides those who came to us from the nations that were around us.¹⁸ Now 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.¹⁹ Remember 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.

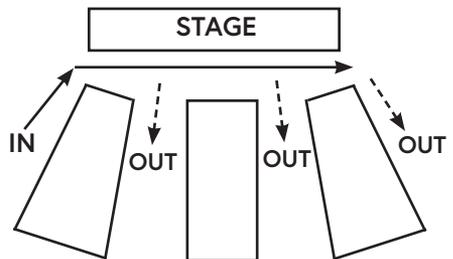
Communion

City Reformed Church invites all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sins and trust Christ alone for salvation, and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel, to receive Holy Communion with us. Parents with non-communing children are encouraged to bring their children forward during communion. The elders will lay a hand on their head and briefly pray for them as they serve you.

Communion will be served by elders to several people at a time at the front of the Church. When you are ready, please proceed up using the left aisle. At the ushers' guidance, you may move forward to receive the elements as a group. We encourage you to exit from the front via the nearest aisle.

Communion is served with wine and with grape juice. The wine is placed in the two outer circles of the communion tray, and the grape juice is placed in the inner circle. Because Jesus used wine during the first communion service, we believe using real wine is beneficial. However, participants are welcome to choose. There is also gluten-free bread available on each plate.

Please join us in song as we celebrate Christ dwelling with his church in the sacrament of communion.



Songs of Communion

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

Jesus with Thy Church Abide

(Words: Thomas Pollock 1871; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

Jesus, with Thy Church abide,
Be her Savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

Bid our strife and envy cease,
Grant the lovely gift of peace:
All her dreadful sin release.
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May her lamp of truth be bright,
Bid her bear aloft its light
Through the realms of endless night:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

Keep her life and doctrine pure,
Help her, patient, to endure,
Trusting in Thy promise sure:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May she one in doctrine be,
One in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in Thee:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find,
And the broken hearted bind:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May she thus all glorious be,
Spotless and from sin borne free,
Pure and bright, bring praise to Thee:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

Psalm 72 | Hail to the Lord's

(Words: James Montgomery 1821; Music: Sandra McCracken 2012)

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever,
That Name to us is Love.

The Anthem

(Words & Music: Henry Seeley, Jonathan Hunt, & Liz Webber 2007)

By His stripes we are healed
By His nail pierced hands we're free
By His blood we're washed clean
Now we have the victory

The pow'r of sin is broken
Jesus overcame it all
He has won our freedom
Jesus has won it all

*Hallelujah You have won the victory
Hallelujah You have won it all for me
'Cause death could not hold You down
You are the risen King
Seated in majesty
You are the risen King*

Our God is risen
He is alive
He won the victory
He reigns on high

Doxology

(Words: Thomas Ken 1674; Music: Louis Bourgeois 1510)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
(repeat)

Amen

Prayer

Announcements

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

Benediction

Tonight's Evening Service: Elder Jim Partridge will be preaching "Your Life in Christ: Apply What He Supplies!" on 2 Peter 1:3-11.