



Sunday Morning Worship
December 12, 2021

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you would like more information, please contact us at office@cityreformed.org or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

"My theology is found in four little words. Jesus died for me"

- Charles Spurgeon

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM

Winchester Thurston Auditorium
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

Sunday Evening Service

5:30PM

Greenfield Chapel
3929 Coleman Street
Pittsburgh PA, 15207

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-720-7014
office@cityreformed.org
cityreformed.org

Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)
OR cityreformed.org/give

Mail: Church Office address above "Attn:
Bookkeeper" (please make checks
payable to City Reformed Presbyterian
Church)

Church
Center App:



Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 12, 2021

Presider: Reverend Nameun Cho

Call to Worship: Psalm 49: 1-9

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

Leader Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world, both low and high, rich and poor together! My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

People I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle to the music of the lyre. Why should I fear in times of trouble, when the iniquity of those who cheat me surrounds me, those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?

Leader Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life,

People For the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice, that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 72 | Hail to The Lord's Anointed

(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.

3rd Advent Reading Isaiah 7:13-14

O Come O Come Emmanuel

(Words: 1400's French Mass Music: Veni Emmanuel (Chant))

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou Son of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Wait for the Lord

(Taizé)

Wait for the Lord
Whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord
Keep watch, take heart.

Call to Confession: Titus 3:1-3

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, we thank you that through Christ Jesus, you have changed our hearts, our minds, and our actions. Yet, we confess that too often we can forget who we are and to whom we belong. We confess the ways we act like the rest of the world. We confess the times we are disobedient, working evil instead of good. We confess the misuse of our tongue, to destroy and not build up. We confess when we are harsh instead of gentle, discourteous instead of kind. Let us not fall back into slavery! Forgive and restore us that we may deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow our Savior. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Titus 3: 4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 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, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Testimonial: Suzannah Clarke

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Please direct giving online or via mail (cityreformed.org/give; 3929 Coleman St., 15207).

His Mercy Is More

(Words & Music: Matt Boswell & Matt Papa 2016)

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient all knowing He counts not their sum
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

*Praise the Lord
His mercy is more
Stronger than darkness new every morn
Our sins they are many His mercy is more*

What patience would wait as we constantly roam
What Father so tender is calling us home
He welcomes the weakest the vilest the poor
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment His life was the cost
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
Our sins they are many His mercy is more

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Parents please have your children meet the teachers at the back of the sanctuary and pick them up after the sermon from Children's Church.

Sermon: Matthew 16:24-28

Keep the Cross in Christmas "The Cross-marked Life"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 7:11 / "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

Matthew 10:38 / "And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

Luke 9:23, 26 / And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me... For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

John 4:36 / Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.

2 Timothy 2:11-13 / The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

1 Peter 5:10 / And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

Sermon Outline: Matthew 16:24-28

Proposition: Just as Christ's life was marked by the cross, so your life as a follower of Jesus, must be a cross-marked life.

Fallen condition: The temptations and trials of this world will compete for your eternity

Main Points: What's involved in following Jesus?

1. What defines a cross marked life?
2. The competition for your life.
3. The payment for our suffering.

Conclusion: The clod and the pebble

Creedal Response: Westminster Confession 16:5 (adapted)

God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

(Words: Henry Lyte 1825 Music: Bill Moore 2001)

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heaven are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me,
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
O while Thou dost smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me,
Show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure,
Come disaster, scorn and pain
In Thy service, pain is pleasure,
With Thy favor, loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father,
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather;
All must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station,
Something still to do or bear.
Think what Spirit dwells within thee,
Think what Father's smiles are thine,
Think that Jesus died to win thee,
Child of heaven, canst thou repine?

Haste thee on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer.
Heaven's eternal days before thee,
God's own hand shall guide us there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days,
Hope shall change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

I Love You Lord

(Words & Music: Laurie Klein 1978)

I love you, Lord
And I lift my voice
To worship you,
O my soul rejoice!
Take joy, my King,
In what you hear,
May it be a sweet,
Sweet sound in your ear.

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

Tonight's Worship Service: David Snoke will be preaching on Hebrews 2:5-11, 2:17-18, 4:14-16, 5:7-9 "Fully God and Fully Man"

Upcoming Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

Christmas Coffee House Fri, Dec 17th @ 7-9PM	Come and join us for an evening of music, talent, and fun! Those interested in performing must fill out the informational form at https://tinyurl.com/crpcCCHsignups Contact donmcmillan697@gmail.com
Christmas Eve Service Dec 24th @ 6:30 PM First Baptist Church 159 N Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213	Come join us for a candlelight service as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will be joining the congregation of First Baptist for this event.
Older Adults Ministry Brainstoriming Dec 16th @ 7PM Zoom	Anyone interested in prayerfully exploring a new ministry opportunity for and by older adults is invited to join in a zoom call on Thursday evening, December 16th at 7:00 PM. We will pray and look at a number of ideas developing for older adult ministries, and hopefully plan for some activities for us. Please contact Joe Stehle if you have questions. The link for the call is https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3581117735
90 Days of Worship	Beginning on Monday January 3, City Reformed will read through the Psalms together as we seek to establish better patterns of worship in our personal lives, in our families and as a congregation. We will offer daily readings and plans for personal/household worship from Jan 3, until Easter. We will also link other aspects of our regular ministries to this devotional plan.
90 Days Kick Off Event	On Sunday January 2, we will hold a kick off event for 90 Days of Worship in place of our evening service. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, @ Greenfield Chapel (3929 Coleman St. 15207). We will introduce the reading/worship plan, discuss ways this can be used by individuals and in small groups, and spend some time in singing in prayer.
Renewing Our Minds: Science and Faith	On Wednesday, January 5, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, we will have a presentation by Dr. David Snoke in regard to Science in Faith. Dr. Snoke is a professor of Physics and an ordained elder the PCA. He will be addressing the particular topic of how to evaluate scientific claims in an increasingly divided culture.

Volunteer and Employment Needs

<p>Children's Church Teachers and Assistants</p>	<p>We are currently looking to add Lead Teachers to our Children's Church volunteer team! Adding 5 people to this team would allow Lead Teachers to make the one month commitment, once a year.</p> <p>We are also looking to welcome additional Teacher Aids to assist Lead Teachers.</p> <p>Contact AllisonH@cityreformed.org</p>
<p>10 Minute Trainings Every Sunday in January</p>	<p>We will be conducting quick refresher sessions for our volunteer teams each Sunday in January. We will have one volunteer team gather in the cafeteria for 10 minutes of refreshers and questions each week. If you are interested in joining a volunteer team, this is a great way to get some more information.</p> <p>January 2nd- Nursery and Children's Church January 9th- Ushers January 16th- Greeters January 23rd- Setup January 30th- Tear Down</p>

Regular Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>Youth Group Christmas Party</p>	<p>Today is the final Youth Group of the year! Any kids grades 6-12 are welcome to join us for lunch and a Christmas party from 12:30-2:30 at the Greenfield building.</p>
<p>No Evening Service December 26th</p>	<p>We will not be having our regular evening service on Sunday, December 26th. We hope you all can spend this time enjoying the holiday with your friends and family.</p>

Groups

<p>College Students please refer to campus ministry contacts below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCO at CMU: Nameun Cho (ncho@ccojubilee.org) • CCO at PPU: Katelyn Spallinger (kspallinger@ccojubilee.org) • RUF at Pitt: Derek Bates (dbates@ruf.org), Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org) • cityreformed.org/collegestudents 	
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Specialty Groups meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, learning, and service. For a complete listing of current groups, please refer to the website.

- *Agora Forum- Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)*
- *Men's New Hope (Joseph@cityreformed.org)*
- *Mommies' Group (Sandy@cityreformed.org)*
- *Wednesday Morning Prayer (Zachary@cityreformed.org)*
- *Men's Discipleship Committee (mdc@cityreformed.org)- MENTORS NEEDED!*
- *Young Adult Women's Fellowship (Katelyn@cityreformed.org)*

Contact

Pastors:

- Pastormatt@cityreformed.org
- Joseph@cityreformed.org
- John@cityreformed.org
- Nameun@cityreformed.org

Men's Discipleship Committee: mdc@cityreformed

Women's Discipleship Committee: Sandy@cityreformed.org

Community Groups

Community Groups meet for Bible study, fellowship, and service, and are some of the best opportunities to connect with church life - always open for visitors throughout the year. Please contact Pastor Joseph Bianco (Joseph@cityreformed.org) with any questions, and for a listing of current groups, refer to:

www.cityreformed.org/community-groups