



Sunday Evening Service
March 5, 2023

"When sorrow is excessive it does hurt; and even sorrow for sin is too great when it unfits for other duties, and drives men to despair."

~ Matthew Henry

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – March 5, 2023

Call to Worship: Psalm 24:7-10

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

Leader Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

People **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

Leader Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient
doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this
King of glory?

People **The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

Prayer of Invocation

O Worship The King

(Music: Johann Haydn 1700's; Words: Robert Grant 1833)

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might and sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

(continued on next page)

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail.
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might, unchangeable Love,
whom angels delight to worship above!
Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,
in true adoration shall sing to your praise!

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

Call to Confession: 1 Corinthians 5:6-7a

Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, we confess that in our lives a little leaven leavens the whole lump. We confess the way we allow lesser sins to go unnoticed and unrepented. We confess sins of our tongue like slander, gossip and white lies. We confess sins of our hearts like lust and covetousness. We confess sins of omission, like failing to show up or to keep our word. We confess all our sins, large and small and ask that you would fully remove the leaven from the lump. We look to the sacrifice of Jesus to cover our sins. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Corinthians 5:7b-8

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

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).

Jesus I Come

(Words: William Sleeper 1887 Music: Greg Thompson 2000)

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness, and light
Jesus, I come to Thee,
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 2:5-17

"To Hear His Pardoning Voice"

-Reverend Joseph Bianco

Now if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but in some measure—not to put it too severely—to all of you. ⁶For such a one, this punishment by the majority is enough, ⁷so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. ¹⁰Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, ¹¹so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

¹²When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 28:19-20 / Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

1 Corinthians 5:1 / It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife.

Hebrews 10:10 / And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Sermon Outline

Proposition: In Christ, retribution changes to restoration, and offenses into forgiveness.

*To see the law by Christ fulfilled
And hear His pardoning voice,
Changes a slave into a child,
And duty into choice. – William Cowper*

Fallen Condition: withholding forgiveness, severe discipline, concealing your gifts (withholding, overreacting, concealing) – When people hurt you or cause you pain, the temptation is to withhold or return to them pain with increased severity.

Main ideas:

1. (Purposes of discipline) Discipline is restorative and repentance sorrowful
2. (Practice of forgiveness) Forgiveness is the test of faith and the path of escaping Satan's designs
3. (Perfume of the Christian life) Your Christian life, led always by the triumph of Jesus, spreads the aroma of Jesus whether pleasant or putrid

Song of Thanksgiving

Poor Sinner Dejected with Fear

(Words: William Gadsby; Music: Katy Bowser & Matthew Perryman Jones 2001)

Poor sinner, dejected with fear,
Unbosom thy mind to the Lamb;
No wrath on His brow He does wear,
Nor will He poor mourners condemn;
His arm of omnipotent grace
Is able and willing to save;
A sweet and a permanent peace
He'll freely and faithfully give.

Come just as thou art, with thy woe,
Fall down at the feet of the Lamb;
He will not, He cannot say, "Go",
But surely will take out thy stain
A fountain is opened for sin,
And thousands its virtues have proved
He'll take thee, and plunge thee therein,
And wash thee from filth in His blood.

The soul that on Jesus relies,
He'll never, no never deceive;
He freely and faithfully gives
More blessings than we can conceive;
Yea, down to old age He will keep,
Nor will He forsake us at last;
He knows and is known by His sheep;
They're His, and He will hold them fast.

Benediction