



**Sunday Evening Service**  
**June 11, 2023**

*"Traditional religion says, 'I give God a good moral record, so he has to bless me.' The gospel says, 'God gives me a good moral record through Christ, so I want to bless him.' . . . Religion says, 'If I obey, then God will love and accept me.' The gospel says, 'God loves and accepts me, therefore I want to obey.'"*

*--Tim Keller*

# Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Evening Worship – June 11, 2023  
Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

## Call to Worship: Psalm 112:4-9

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

Leader Light dawns in the darkness for the upright; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

People **It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.**

Leader For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever.

People **He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.**

Leader His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

People **He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.**

## Prayer of Invocation

### Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder

*(Words: John Newton 1774; Music: Laura Taylor 2001)*

Let us love and sing and wonder,  
Let us praise the Savior's name,  
He has hushed the law's loud thunder,  
He has quenched Mount Sinai's flame,  
He has washed us with his blood (3x),  
He has brought us nigh to God.

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Let us love the Lord who bought us,  
Pitied us when enemies.  
Called us by his grace and taught us  
Gave us ears and gave us eyes.  
He has washed us with his blood (3x),  
He presents our souls to God.

Let us sing though fierce temptations  
Threaten hard to bear us down.  
For the Lord our strong salvation  
Holds in view the conqueror's crown  
He who washed us with his blood (3x),  
Soon will bring us home to God.

Let us wonder grace and justice  
Join and point to mercy's store.  
When through grace in Christ our trust is  
Justice smiles and asks no more.  
He who washed us with his blood (3x),  
Has secured our way to God.

Let us praise and join the chorus  
Of the saints enthroned on high.  
Here they trusted him before us  
Now their praises fill the sky.  
You have washed us with your blood (3x),  
You are worthy, Lamb of God

## **How Firm a Foundation**

*(Words: R. Keene & George Keith 1787; Music: American Folk)*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
"To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?"

"In every condition, in sickness, in health;  
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;  
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,  
As thy days may demand, shall My strength ever be."

*(continued on next page)*

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!  
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow,  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply,  
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,  
I will never, no, never, no, never forsake."

## **Call to Confession: Luke 12:13-15**

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

## **Prayer of Confession:**

**Father, you have made us, and you have redeemed us in Christ. You guard us and keep us by your Holy Spirit. You shower us with blessings and shield us from many harms. We have many reasons to trust you, for you have proven yourself to be faithful. And yet we struggle to trust you. Again and again we trust things that can be seen – our position, our money, our reputation, our abilities. Like Israel before us, we plan to 'flee on our swift horses.' We fail to find our strength in quietness before you. Remind us of your gospel promises. Help us to know the depth of your forgiveness and of your fatherly love. Give us grace to return to you and to trust Christ more fully. Amen.**

# Silent Confession

## Assurance of Pardon: Luke 12: 29-32

And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his[a] kingdom, and these things will be added to you. "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

## 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).*

### Christ Is Mine Forevermore

*(Words & Music: Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson 2015)*

Mine are days that God has numbered  
I was made to walk with Him  
Yet I look for worldly treasure  
And forsake the King of kings  
But mine is hope in my Redeemer  
Though I fall His love is sure  
For Christ has paid for every failing  
I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow  
Darkness not yet understood  
Through the valley I must travel  
Where I see no earthly good  
But mine is peace that flows from heaven  
And the strength in times of need  
I know my pain will not be wasted  
Christ completes His work in me

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Mine are days here as a stranger  
Pilgrim on a narrow way  
One with Christ I will encounter  
Harm and hatred for His name  
But mine is armour for this battle  
Strong enough to last the war  
And He has said He will deliver  
Safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city  
Where beside the King I walk  
For there my heart has found its treasure  
Christ is mine forevermore

Come rejoice now O my soul  
For His love is my reward  
Fear is gone and hope is sure  
Christ is mine forevermore

## Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

"Bountiful and Sparse"

-Reverend Joseph Bianco

**T**he point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.<sup>7</sup>Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

<sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup>As it is written,

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;  
his righteousness endures forever.”

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous

in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup>For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup>By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup>while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Additional Scripture

Psalms 112:9 / He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

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Proverbs 11:24-25/ One gives freely, yet grows all the richer, another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

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Matthew 5:16 / In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

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1 Corinthians 1:4-5 / I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—

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## Sermon Outline

**Main Point:** People who understand God's grace are people who are generous.

**Fallen Condition:** There are so many bad reasons that people are generous such as guilt, payback, compulsion and obligation.

**Main Points:** 3 points on generosity

1. Do we really believe that God will provide for us?
2. How can we respond to God's provision in our lives?
3. How can we become liberal in our giving?

**Conclusion:** The greatest gift

# Song of Thanksgiving

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan 1923)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see:  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

## Benediction