



**Sunday Evening Service**  
**March 9, 2025**

*"All my desire was the conversion of the heathen... I declare, now I am dying, I would not have spent my life otherwise for the whole world."*

*- David Brainerd, missionary to the Delaware people in the 18th century*

# Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Evening Worship – March 9, 2025  
Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

## **Call to Worship: Psalm 86:8-12**

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

Leader There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

People **All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.**

Leader For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

People **Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.**

## 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.

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

## Christ Is Lower Still

(Words & Music: Matt Maher, Kate Bluett, Doe Jones 2023)

Breathe in reach out  
Touch the hem of your garment now  
Help me heal me  
My mind my body and soul

*Let the King descend  
Living Word Made Flesh  
Lift this heavy heart  
To your throne O God  
In your wounds I find  
Room for all of mine  
When from grace I fell  
Christ was lower still*

Humbly lowly  
Jesus waits in the valley  
My savior suffers with me  
With him I'll rise again

'Till the earth is filled  
Christ is lower still

We lift it all up to you Lord  
We lift it all up to you Lord

## Call to Confession: Leviticus 19:17-18

"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 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."

## Prayer of Confession:

Father, we thank you that we can come to you empty-handed, knowing that by your grace in Jesus Christ we can be wholly accepted and good in your sight, not by any merit of our own, but by the merit of his life in us. Grant that we may be ever more transformed to your image, to live our lives in obedience to your calling, and to love others as you have loved us. Amen.

## Silent Confession

### Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 9:13-14

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

## 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](http://cityreformed.org/give); 3929 Coleman St., 15207)*

### The Great Commission

*(Words & Music: Daniel Justice Snoke 2022)*

At your call we follow  
In your name we worship  
In our doubting hearts be glorified

*All authority is mine therefore go  
Baptize all the world and teach them my Word  
By Father Son and Holy Spirit I am with you*

## Scripture & Homily: Acts 17:16-21, 22-34

"The Universal Gospel"

- Elder Dave Snoke

**N**ow while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. <sup>17</sup>So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. <sup>18</sup>Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. <sup>19</sup>And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" <sup>20</sup>For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." <sup>21</sup>Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

<sup>22</sup>So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup>For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup>And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, <sup>27</sup>that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup>for

“In him we live and move and have our being’;  
as even some of your own poets have said,  
“For we are indeed his offspring.’”

<sup>29</sup>Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

<sup>32</sup>Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”

<sup>33</sup>So Paul went out from their midst. <sup>34</sup>But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Additional Scripture

Psalm 67:1-5 / May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

Romans 2:12-16 / For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:21-24 / But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

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## Corporate Prayer

### Song of Thanksgiving

#### Nearer My God To Thee

*(Words: Sarah Adams 1841; Music: Lowell Mason 1856)*

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
Yet in my heart am I nearer, my God, to Thee.  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

There let the way appear, steps unto Heav'n;  
All that Thou sendest me, in mercy giv'n;  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee.  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Then, with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;  
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee.  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Then in my Father's home, safe and at rest,  
There in my Savior's love, perfectly blest;  
Age after age to be nearer, my God, to Thee.  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

## Benediction