



Sunday Evening Service
April 27, 2025

"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.

Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions. It's the goal of missions because in missions we simply aim to bring the nations into the white-hot enjoyment of God's glory. The goal of missions is the gladness of the peoples in the greatness of God. . . . "Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy!" (Ps. 67:3-4).

But worship is also the fuel of missions. Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can't commend what you don't cherish. Missionaries will never call out, "Let the nations be glad!" who cannot say from the heart, "I rejoice in the LORD. . . . I will be glad and exult in you, I will sing praise to thy name, O Most High" (Ps. 104:34; 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship."

- John Piper, Let the Nations be Glad, second edition, 17, emphasis original

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Worship – April 27, 2025

Presider: Elder Craig Kozminski

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

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

Leader Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

People **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

People **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**

Leader For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

People **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 34 | Gloria

(Words & Music: Mars Hill Music)

I sought for the King.
Then He heard my cry,
And delivered me
From my lonely fears.

They looked unto Him
In His radiance.
All their faces have
Been made unashamed.

Gloria! (4x)

*O, taste and see
That the Lord is good
All you people, all you saints
All you children of the King.*

All Glory Be To Christ

(Words & Music: Dustin Kensrue 2012)

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ

*All glory be to Christ our king, all glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ*

His will be done, his kingdom come, on earth as is above
Who is himself our daily bread, praise him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be, all glory be to Christ

Call to Confession: Isaiah 45:4-6

For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, you are eternal and unchanging, but our desires and actions turn on the wind. You see the end from the beginning, but we struggle to see anything beyond our immediate circumstances. You are sovereign over history and you hold the fate of nations in your hand, but we struggle to arrange the details of our lives.

And yet we are still slow to trust you. We resist giving control to you in the moment by moment details of life. We continue to hold onto things that we think we need. Forgive us. Humble us. Bring us to true repentance. Convince us of your steadfast love and lead us into paths of righteousness. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 45:22-25

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'
"Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed all who were incensed against him. In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory."

Congregational 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)

Eternal Weight of Glory

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2013)

Now the days and hours and moments
Of our suff'ring seem so long
And the toilsome wait and wond'ring
Threaten silence to our song

Now our pain is real and pressing
Where our faith is thin and weak
But our hope is set on Jesus
And we cling to him our strength

*For behold I tell a myst'ry
At the trumpet sound we'll wake
Death is swallowed up in vict'ry
When we meet our King of Grace*

*Every year we thought was wasted
Every night we cried How long
All will be a passing moment
In our Savior's vict'ry song*

Oh eternal weight of glory
Oh inheritance divine
We will see our Lord redeeming
Every past and future time

All our pains will be transfigured
Like the scars of Christ our Lord
We will see the weight of glory
And our broken years restored

We will see our wounded Savior
We'll behold him face to face
And we'll hear our anguished stories
Sung as vict'ry songs of grace

Scripture & Homily: Acts 20:1-16

"Missions & Worship: Why You Shouldn't Fall Asleep During a Sermon"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ²When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

⁷On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.

⁸There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." ¹¹And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹²And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

¹³But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending

himself to go by land. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

1 Kings 17:21 / Then he stretched himself upon the child three times and cried to the LORD, "O LORD my God, let this child's life come into him again."

2 Kings 1:2 / Now Ahaziah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Samaria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness."

1 Corinthians 16:2 / On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.

Song of Thanksgiving

All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

(Words: Edward Perronet 1780 & Music: Oliver Holden 1793)

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown him Lord of all

Ye chosen seed from Adam's race
Ye ransomed from the fall
Hail him who saves you by his grace
And crown him Lord of all
Hail him who saves you by his grace
And crown him Lord of all

Let ev'ry kindred ev'ry tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at his feet may fall
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all

Benediction