



Sunday Morning Worship
September 14, 2025

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

"When we embrace the fellowship of his sufferings, it changes everything. Instead of nourishing slights and running from the suffering inherent in life and love, we embrace Christ in the suffering. It's all about who you know."

– Paul E. Miller, *J-Curve: Dying and Rising with Jesus in Everyday Life*

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM
Winchester Thurston Auditorium
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

Sunday Evening Worship 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)

Welcome
Information:



Morning Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – September 14, 2025

Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Philippians 2:5-10

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

Leader Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

People **But emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**

Leader And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

People **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,**

Leader So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

People **And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer of Invocation

Approach My Soul

(Words & Music: Jordan Kauflin and Laura Story)

Approach my soul the mercy seat
Where Jesus answers prayer
There humbly fall before his feet
For none can perish there
Thy promise is my only plea
With this I venture nigh
Thou calls our burdened souls to Thee
And such O Lord am I

Oh wondrous love
Oh boundless grace
Rejoice my soul forever
Christ has made a way

Bowed down beneath a load of sin
By satan sorely pressed
By wars without and fears within
I come to Thee for rest
Be Thou my shield and hiding place
That sheltered near Thy side
I may my fierce accuser face
And tell him Thou hast died

O wondrous love to bleed and die
To bear the cross and shame
That guilty sinners such as I
Might plead Thy gracious name
The tempted soul he tells be still
My promised grace receive
'Tis Jesus speaks I must I will
I can I do believe
'Tis Jesus speaks I must I will
I can I do believe

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:7–12

Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

(Words: George Croly 1854; Music: Daniel Snoko 2020)

Spirit of God descend upon my heart
Wean it from sin through all its pulses move
Stoop to my weakness mighty as Thou art
Make me to love Thee as I ought to love
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

I ask no dream no prophet ecstasies
No sudden rending of the veil of clay
No angel vision no revealing skies
Take now the dimness of my soul away
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

Hast Thou not bid us love Thee God and King
All all Thine own soul heart and strength and mind
I see the cross there teach my heart to cling
O let me seek Thee O and let me find
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear
Come check my rising doubt, my rebel sigh
Teach me the patience of unanswered pray'r
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love
One holy passion filling all my frame
Baptize my life with heav'ns descended Dove
My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame
Spirit of God descend upon my heart

Glorify Thy Name

(Words & Music: Donna Adkins 1976)

Father we love you
We worship and adore you
Glorify thy name in all the earth
Glorify thy name (2x)
Glorify thy name in all the earth

Jesus we love you
We worship and adore you
Glorify thy name in all the earth
Glorify thy name (2x)
Glorify thy name in all the earth

Spirit we love you
We worship and adore you
Glorify thy name in all the earth
Glorify thy name (2x)
Glorify thy name in all the earth

Call to Confession: James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

Prayer of Confession:

Lord, help us to love you. Not just to respect you or just to obey you but to love you. Help us to love your Word, to love your ways, and to love your character, high and holy yet also near and gracious to the broken and contrite in heart. We love you because you first loved us. Help us to see your love for us, which seeks us out, and your eternal goodness. Help us to love your people who represent you, though imperfectly, and to love our neighbors who are made in your image. We fail in love; send your Holy Spirit to give us life and love, obedience and rest in you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Membership Vows: The Kwee Family

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Cards and donations can be placed in offering bags. Giving can also be directed online (cityreformed.org/give) or sent via mail (3929 Coleman St., 15207).

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!

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-6 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 in room 115.

Sermon: Acts 16:1a, 6-34

"Mission of the Church Part 3 of 3: Witness in Philippi"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra...⁶And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

⁷And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

⁸So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my

house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

¹⁶As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. ¹⁷She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.” ¹⁸And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. ²⁰And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. ²¹They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.” ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” ²⁹And the jailer called for lights and rushed in,

and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.

³⁰Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” ³¹And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Acts 2:23-24 / This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Colossians 2:11-12 / In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q 27. What did Christ's humiliation consist of?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted of his being born in a low condition, living under the Law, undergoing the miseries of this life, undergoing the wrath of God and the cursed death of the Cross, and in being buried and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Q 28. What does Christ's exaltation consist of?

A. Christ's exaltation consists of his rising again from the dead on the third day, ascending to heaven, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and coming to judge the world on the last day.

Additional Creedal Statements

WCF 3:1 / God, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordained everything that ever happens, yet in such a way that God is not the author of sin nor is violence done to the will of the creatures, nor is the power or possibility of secondary causes taken away, but rather established.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Behold Him

(Words & Music: Mitch Wong & Paul Baloche 2019)

He who was before there was light
Walked across the pages of time
He who made every living thing
Behold him
He who heard humanity's cry
Left his throne to wake as a child
He became like the least of us
Behold him

*Jesus Son of God Messiah
The Lamb the roaring Lion
Oh be still and behold Him
Jesus Alpha and Omega
Our God the risen Savior
Oh be still and behold him*

He who dined with sinners and saints
Healed the blind the lost and the lame
Even now he is in our midst
Behold him
He who chose a criminal's end
Paid with blood to settle our debt
Buried death as He rose to life
Behold him

Holy holy holy
Is the Lord God Almighty
Worthy worthy worthy
To receive all praise

In Christ Alone

(Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend 2001)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless Babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For ev'ry sin on him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am his and he is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the pow'r of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No pow'r of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
'Til he returns or calls me home
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

Benediction

At tonight's Worship Service, Elder Ben Chidester will be preaching from 1 Corinthians 12:4-13, "Imitating Our Servant-hearted, Tiune God" in our series on the Apostles' Creed.

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

Fall Gift Pickup Children's Ministry Families	Any school-aged children who have not picked up a set of Bible tabs or "Entering His Presence" should come visit Miss Becki in the foyer after church this week or next week! Contact: becki@cityreformed.org
RUF at Pitt Thursdays, 9 PM David Lawrence Hall, 104	RUF Large Group Worship and Bible Study is meeting on Thursdays in David Lawrence Hall Room 104 this semester at Pitt. All college students welcome!
Women's Bible Study Tuesdays 9:45 AM-11:45 AM Greenfield Chapel	Studying Revelation using Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation by Nancy Guthrie. Contact Tracy (partridge.ta@gmail.com) or Luda (luda.bates@gmail.com). Childcare provided.
Women's Brunch Saturday, September 20 10-12:00 PM 300 Saline Street	Come hear women reflect on the ways that God has created them in Christ Jesus for good works (Eph 2:10). We are especially eager to include college women! Register at https://tinyurl.com/2vyndeu4 . Contact Amanda (mooreae1@gmail.com)
Tie-Dye/Backyard Bonfire (MS & HS) Saturday, September 20 6:30 PM-8:30 PM	All MS and HS students are invited to join us for food and fellowship at the McMillan's house! We will provide one t-shirt to tie-dye per student, but students can bring additional clothing to dye. See you there!
Children's Church Training September 26, 7:30-9 PM, September 27, 9-10:30 AM	If you are a Children's Church teacher or are interested in learning about serving, please plan to join us for one of two identical training sessions! Both will be hosted at Coleman Street. Contact: becki@cityreformed.org
Membership Class October 3-4 300 Saline Street	Looking to learn more about our church and/or pursue formal membership? Consider attending our dual-session class at 300 Saline Street. Registration now open at https://tinyurl.com/y7re3vp7
Men's Prayer Breakfast Saturday, October 11 9-10:30 AM 300 Saline Street	Men, and young men of City Reformed, please join us for a nourishing breakfast and a time of fellowship and spiritual reflection on our <i>Caring for One Another</i> teaching series! Registration is now open at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/CRPCFall25PB
Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministry (PRISM) You can connect with a student!	PRISM needs connection partners! It's a wonderful opportunity to invest in the life of an international student. Complete a profile & be matched to a student at https://tinyurl.com/crpc-prism25 . Talk to Bethany Beck or a Missions Committee member to learn more.
Youth Ministry Job Opening	The Youth Ministry is looking for a male candidate to engage in discipleship relationships with our male youth. Email nameun@cityreformed.org to apply or for more information.

Regular Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

College Shuttle Sundays	9:30AM - PPU: 201 Wood St; Contact: Amy: amy@cityreformed.org 9:40AM - Duquesne University: 1015 Forbes Ave; Contact: Nameun: nameun@cityreformed.org 9:55AM - PITT: 4024 O'Hara St; Contact: Gavin: gavin.breeden@ruf.org
Agora Forum Biweekly Mondays, 7 PM 300 Saline Street	We discuss theology and popular culture topics from a Christian perspective. The next meeting is September 22. Contact Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)
Global Missions Prayer Mondays @ 9:00 PM	We will be praying for the Jones' at City Presbyterian this week on September 15th. Held on Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/CRPCglobalprayer2024
Bean Sprouts 3rd Wednesday 12:00 PM	The next Bean Sprouts meeting will be Wednesday, September 17th at noon in the Greenfield Chapel. Contact Joe Stehle: joestehle@gmail.com.
Wednesday Prayer Meetings 8:30-9:30 AM	Please join us for Scripture reading, adoration, thanksgiving, and sharing prayer requests. Held on Zoom at: https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer .
Youth Group Biweekly Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM Greenfield Chapel	This is an opportunity for our MS & HS students to connect with God through His Word & with one another through games, Bible teaching, discussion, & prayer. Series: Questions God asks His people in the Bible.
Young Adult Women's Discipleship Group Biweekly Wednesdays, 7:00 PM	Meets on the North Side. Current study: Psalms 31-60. Contact Lindsay Karr for more info: lindsay.karr@gmail.com .
Men's New Hope Bi-Weekly Wednesdays	A ministry for men struggling with various kinds of sexual sin where we practice accountability, scripture reading, and book work. If you are interested in joining, you'll need to first meet with the group leader. Please contact joseph@cityreformed.org for more information.
Thursday Women's Bible Study 1:00-3:00 PM	Women's Bible study on The Attributes of God Thursdays from 1:00-3:00PM at Cathy Taylor's House. Contact Cathy Taylor for more info at lawyerdad5@aol.com
Young Adults Fellowship	Young Adults Fellowship is a monthly time of fellowship, food, and connection for young adults at City. Contact Michele Kloes, michele.kloes@gmail.com , for more info.
Ultimate Frisbee Thursdays	Ultimate frisbee group meets Thursday evenings. All skill levels are welcome! Contact Dan Toney (danielrtoney@gmail.com) for more information.

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All scripture verses are the English Standard Version (ESV), unless otherwise noted.

College Students please refer to campus ministry contacts below:

- CMU: Chris Bollinger (cwbollinger@gmail.com)
- CCO at PPU: Matt Koerber (pastormatt@cityreformed.org)
- RUF at Pitt: Gavin Breeden, Callie Miller, and Abbay Kocsis (gavin.breeden@ruf.org, callie.miller@ruf.org, abbay.kocsis@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

Community Groups meet for Bible study, fellowship, and service. Contact Elder Ben Chidester (ben@cityreformed.org) or visit our website at www.cityreformed.org/community-groups/

Sunday:

Fox Chapel A - Watson Barker

Fox Chapel B - Damon Claus

North Hills - David Bacon

Monday:

Forest Hills - Adam Schwab

Morningside - James Lettow

Tuesday:

Friendship - Michael Hilton

Bellevue/North Side - Joe Benscoter

Squirrel Hill - Ben Chidester

Tuesday (cont):

Shaler - Dan Toney

Wednesday:

Baldwin/Greenfield - Max Winters

Regent Square - Dave Snoke

Thursday:

Shadyside - Chris Bollinger

West Hills - Jon Dodd

Friday:

East Suburban - Joe Stehle

Leadership

Elders

Rev. Matthew Koerber:

pastormatt@cityreformed.org

Rev. Joseph Bianco:

joseph@cityreformed.org

Rev. John McCombs:

john@cityreformed.org

Rev. Nameun Cho:

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David Bacon:

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Ben Chidester:

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Craig Kozminski:

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Joe Stehle:

joestehle@gmail.com

Dave Snoke:

snoke@hey.com

Women's Ministry Council

Debbie Bacon: dpasewark@gmail.com

Amanda Moore: mooreae1@gmail.com

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Sarah Winkler: sarahditch@gmail.com

Linda Kephart: lindaskep@gmail.com

Deacons

Neil Friedrich: njfried@gmail.com

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