



*"This is a great honor, that we are God's messengers to assure the world of its salvation. It is the highest honor conferred on the Gospel, that it is declared to be the embassy of mutual reconciliation between God and men, (2 Corinthians 5:20.) In a word, it is a wonderful consolation to devout minds to know that the message of salvation brought to them by a poor mortal man is ratified before God."*

*- Calvin's Commentaries*

**Sunday Evening Communion Service  
November 16, 2025**

# Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – November 16, 2025

Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

## Call to Worship: Psalm 92:12-15

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

Leader The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

People **They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.**

Leader They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,

People **To declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## Psalm 90 | O God Our Help In Ages Past

*(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: William Croft 1708)*

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,  
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received its frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home!

## Speak O Lord

*(Words & Music: Stuart Townend and Keith Getty 2005)*

Speak O Lord as we come to you  
To receive the food of your holy Word  
Take your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All your purposes for your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity

And by grace we'll stand on your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us  
Speak O Lord till your church is built  
And the earth is filled with your glory

## **Call to Confession: Hebrews 13:16-17**

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Obeys your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious heavenly Father we are all men and women under authority, and even Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped. Jesus willingly submitted himself to the will of the Father, so we too can submit ourselves to the authorities that you have placed over us in our lives. We confess to you our pride that keeps us from obedience. We confess our fears of trusting authority. We confess our cynical hearts and skeptical attitudes. Give us faith to believe that authority is good for our lives. Help us to obey with gladness and not with groaning. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon: Philippians 2:5-11**

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, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## **Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. § The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,\* the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

§ Christ suffered God's wrath on the cross

\* Universal church

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

## Speak Peace (Psalm 85)

*(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke and Paul Zach 2019)*

Speak peace to your people  
Speak peace to your saints  
Speak peace to your people  
Speak peace to all the earth

Surely his salvation is at hand  
Unfailing love and truth have met  
Righteousness will cover all the earth  
And his glory will fill the land

Lord revive your joy in us again  
And let us hear what you will say  
Will your anger always be on us  
Will you not restore us again

You have covered all our sin  
We have been restored again  
Show us your unfailing love  
Grant us salvation

## **Scripture & Homily: Matthew 16:18-19 & Ephesians 4:11-16**

**"The Church... Really?"**

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

### **Matthew 16:18-19**

**A**nd I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

**A**nd he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup>so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup>Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

**Leader** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

# Communion

*City Reformed Church invites all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sins and trust Christ alone for salvation, and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel, to receive Holy Communion with us. Parents with non-communing children are encouraged to bring their children forward during communion. The elders will lay a hand on their head and briefly pray for them as they serve you.*

*Communion is served with wine and with grape juice. The wine is placed in the two outer circles of the communion tray, and the grape juice is placed in the inner circle. Because Jesus used wine during the first communion service, we believe using real wine is beneficial. However, participants are welcome to choose. There is also gluten-free bread available on each plate.*

*Please join us in song as we celebrate Christ dwelling with his church in the sacrament of communion.*

# Songs of Communion

## The Church's One Foundation

*(Words: Samuel Stone; Music: Brian Moss)*

The church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation  
By water and the Word:  
From heav'n he came and sought her  
To be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her,  
And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,  
Yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation  
One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses,  
With ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder  
Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping,  
Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping  
Shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish!  
Her dear Lord to defend,  
To guide, sustain, and cherish,  
Is with her to the end;  
Though there be those that hate her,  
And false sons in her pale,  
Against or foe or traitor  
She ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation,

And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious  
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
With God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly,  
On high may dwell with thee.

## **Doxology**

*(Words: Thomas Ken 1674; Music: Louis Bourgeois 1510)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen

## **Benediction**

# Announcements

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

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| <b>RUF at Pitt</b><br>Thursdays, 9 PM<br>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!                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Women's Bible Study</b><br>Tuesdays<br>9:45 AM-11:45 AM<br>Greenfield Chapel                    | Studying Revelation using Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation by Nancy Guthrie. Contact Tracy ( <a href="mailto:partridge.ta@gmail.com">partridge.ta@gmail.com</a> ) or Luda ( <a href="mailto:luda.bates@gmail.com">luda.bates@gmail.com</a> ). Childcare provided.                                                                  |
| <b>Deacons Fund</b>                                                                                | Each year we take a special collection for our deacons' fund at the Thanksgiving dinner. Please prayerfully consider making a generous contribution at this time.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Christmas Parade</b><br><b>December 5, 7PM</b><br>3929 Coleman St                               | Greenfield hosts a Christmas Parade every 1st Friday in December. Join us as we welcome folks into our building immediately following the parade for hot chocolate, Christmas crafts and singing Christmas carols.                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Women's Christmas Wreath Making</b><br>December 6, 10AM-12PM<br>300 Saline St                   | Feel free to bring a snack or treat to share, drinks will be provided. The cost per wreath is \$20. You do not need to make a wreath to attend. Register on Planning Center by Nov 23 ( <a href="https://tinyurl.com/CRPC2025Wreath">https://tinyurl.com/CRPC2025Wreath</a> ). Contact Linda ( <a href="mailto:lindaskep@gmail.com">lindaskep@gmail.com</a> ) |
| <b>Youth Ministry Christmas Party</b><br>December 17, 6:30PM-8:30PM<br>Greenfield Chapel           | Save the date for our annual Youth Ministry Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange! More info to follow.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministry (PRISM)</b><br>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 <a href="https://tinyurl.com/crpc-prism25">https://tinyurl.com/crpc-prism25</a> . Talk to Bethany Beck or a Missions Committee member to learn more.                                         |
| <b>Youth Ministry Job Opening</b>                                                                  | The Youth Ministry is looking for a male candidate to engage in discipleship relationships with our male youth. Email <a href="mailto:nameun@cityreformed.org">nameun@cityreformed.org</a> to apply or for more information.                                                                                                                                  |