



Sunday Morning Worship
April 14, 2024

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

"At this time, Center City Church (CCC) is an idea, vision and a prayer of a small group of evangelical Christians, that God might build a new church in Oakland...Such a new church, however, should not be seen as a platform or soapbox for taking on the culture, pushing an agenda in the name of Christ, satisfying certain egos, or creating a power base. CCC should have a faithful and bold witness, but it should also be a church where we are trained, comforted and challenged. It should be a place of warmth and affirmation of that which is good in God's sight. It should be a place where children encounter models that will influence them for a lifetime."

—From "Center City Church," Bill Maston and David Snoke, 1999

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

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

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-720-7014
office@cityreformed.org
cityreformed.org

Welcome
Information:



Sunday Evening Worship Service

5:30PM
Greenfield Chapel
3929 Coleman Street
Pittsburgh PA, 15207

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)

Morning Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – April 14, 2024

Presider: Reverend John McCombs

Call to Worship: Psalm 28:6-9

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

Leader Blessed be the LORD! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

People **The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;**

Leader My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

People **The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.**

Leader Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!

People **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**

Prayer of Invocation

Rising Sun

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan, Kyle Lee, and David Leonard 2012)

Praise Him all you sinners
Sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God

We lift high His glory
Shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

*Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning You shine forever
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Jesus you're greater than the rising sun*

Praise His Name forever
Speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

For The Beauty Of The Earth

(Words: Follitt Pierpoint 1864; Music: Conrad Kocher 1838)

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and moon and stars of light
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For the joy of human love
Brother sister parent child
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For Thy church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

For Thyself best gift divine
To the world so freely given
For that great great love of Thine
Peace on earth and joy in heaven
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

Christ Our Hope In Life And Death

(Words & Music: Jordan Kauflin, Keith Getty, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa, and Matthew Merker 2020)

What is our hope in life and death
Christ alone Christ alone
What is our only confidence
That our souls to Him belong
Who holds our days within His hand
What comes apart from His command
And what will keep us to the end
The love of Christ in which we stand

*O sing hallelujah
Our hope springs eternal
O sing hallelujah
Now and ever we confess
Christ our hope in life and death*

What truth can calm the troubled soul
God is good God is good
Where is His grace and goodness known
In our great Redeemer's blood
Who holds our faith when fears arise
Who stands above the stormy trial
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh
Unto the shore the rock of Christ

Unto the grave what will we sing
Christ He lives Christ He lives
And what reward will heaven bring
Everlasting life with Him
There we will rise to meet the Lord
Then sin and death will be destroyed
And we will feast in endless joy
When Christ is ours forevermore

Call to Confession: 1 John 4:20-21

If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, you love your people as we are. But you also are working to change us. You have promised that your eternal purposes include forming us into the image of your Son, Jesus Christ. We confess that instead of seeking to grow up into maturity, we are too often content to remain the same. Change seems scary and we value comfort and security too much. Help us to see the glory of the cross and the beauty of our upward call in Christ. Help us to know Jesus better and become more like him. We pray that your love would fill our hearts and lead us to truly love our brothers and sisters. Do this, so that Jesus will be glorified in our lives. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 4:15-19

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because he first loved us.

Baptism: Penelope Rose Martin

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Please take a moment during the brief interlude to fill out your Care Card to submit prayer requests and reflections of gratitude. 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).

I Know That My Redeemer Lives - Glory Hallelujah

(Words & Music: Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher, and Marty Sampson 2015)

I know that my redeemer lives
Glory hallelujah
What comfort this sweet sentence gives
Glory hallelujah

*Shout on pray on we're gaining ground
Glory hallelujah
The dead's alive and the lost is found
Glory hallelujah*

He lives he lives who once was dead
Glory hallelujah
He lives my everlasting Head
Glory hallelujah

He lives to bless me with his love
Glory hallelujah
He lives to plead for me above
Glory hallelujah

He lives all glory to his name
Glory hallelujah
He lives my Jesus still the same
Glory hallelujah

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Please pick them up after the sermon from Children's Church.

Sermon: Acts 2:36-47

"The Philosophy of Ministry of City Reformed"

- Elder Dave Snoke

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 11:19 / "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds."

Matthew 22:1-9 / And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast."' But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'"

Luke 14:12-13 / He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind."

John 8:31-32 / So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Ephesians 4:11-12 / And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

Phillippians 1:21-22a / For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me.

Creedal Response: Westminster Larger Catechism #63

Q. What are the special privileges of the visible church?

A. The visible church has the privileges of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, despite the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and the offers of grace by Christ to all the members of the visible church in the ministry of the Gospel, testifying that whoever believes in him will be saved, and excluding none who are willing to come to him.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Jesus with Thy Church Abide

(Words: Thomas Pollock 1871; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

Jesus, with Thy Church abide,
Be her Savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

Bid her strife and envy cease,
Grant the lovely gift of peace:
All her dreadful sin release.
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May her lamp of truth be bright,
Bid her bear aloft its light
Through the realms of endless night:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

Keep her life and doctrine pure,
Grant her, patient, to endure,
Trusting in Thy promise sure:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May she one in doctrine be,
One in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in Thee:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find,
And the broken hearted bind:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

May she thus all glorious be,
Spotless and from sin borne free,
Pure and bright, bring praise to Thee:
We beseech Thee, hear us. (2x)

Salvation Belongs To Our God

(Words & Music: Adrian Howard & Pat Turner 1985)

Salvation belongs to our God
Who sits upon the throne
And unto the Lamb
Praise and glory wisdom and thanks
Honor and power and strength

*Be to our God forever and ever
Be to our God forever and ever
Be to our God forever and ever, Amen*

And we the redeemed shall be strong
In purpose and unity
Declaring aloud
Praise and glory wisdom and thanks
Honor and power and strength

Benediction

At tonight's Worship Service, Reverend Joseph Bianco will be preaching from Acts 8:1-8, "The Scattered... Preach"

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>RUF at Pitt Grad Banquet Food Request: Sat, April 20</p>	<p>Help us to celebrate our RUF at Pitt Senior Class & to hear them reflect on God's work! Food can be delivered to City Reformed Greenfield bldg. Sat, April 20, 4:30-6:15pm, or drop-off arranged with Callie. Sign up here: https://tinyurl.com/y6ea4b9w; talk to Sarah Gould, or contact Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org)</p>
<p>Women's Prayer Group: Thursdays, 10:30 - 11:30 AM Greenfield Chapel</p>	<p>Women's prayer group, meeting on Thursday mornings from 10:30-11:30 at Greenfield building. Come pray with us! If you plan to come, please contact Luda so we can add your prayer requests prior to meeting: 314-229-2023.</p>
<p>Sunday School Brunch: April 21st, 9-9:50AM, WT Cafeteria</p>	<p>Join us to wrap up Sunday School and showcase what we've learned! The morning will begin with breakfast, followed by a time of fellowship and short presentations by each class. All are invited, including Adult CE! Contribute something for the table here: https://tinyurl.com/SSBrunch24</p>
<p>Gym Worship Dates: April 21 & April 28 WT 10:15AM</p>	<p>Instead of our normal Auditorium space, prepare your backs for worship in the bleachers of the Gym on these dates, due to WT's production! Services will be a bit shorter than normal and fellowship just as lovely in a different space. Thank you for flexing with us!</p>
<p>CRPC 20th Anniversary Dinner: April 27th</p>	<p>CRPC will be celebrating 20 years of life together at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oakland. Reservations can be made at the table in the Foyer this week *if you haven't yet! PLEASE RSVP as we have limited spots! RSPVs - https://www.cityreformed.org/20th-anniversary-celebration.html</p>
<p>Children's Ministry Assistant, Women's Ministry & Office NEEDS</p>	<p>We are seeking part-time women's ministry, office, and children's ministry assistants to care for our church. Jobs will be tailored to reflect the gifts and strengths of the individual filling this role and a sample job description will be provided upon request. For Children's Ministry need, contact: Becki@cityreformed.org and for women's and office needs, please contact office@cityreformed.org</p>

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

Regular Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>College Shuttle Schedule</p>	<p>9:30AM- PPU: 201 Wood St; Contact: Kaia: kaianoeljohnson@gmail.com 9:45AM- Pitt: 4024 O'Hara St; Contact: Maya: mayakang523@gmail.com or David: DGT12@pitt.edu</p>
<p>Agora Forum: Every other Monday 7 PM: 3929 Coleman</p>	<p>We discuss theology and popular culture topics from a Christian perspective. We meet every other Monday at the Greenfield Chapel at 7 pm (3929 Coleman St). Contact Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com).</p>
<p>Bean Sprouts Ministry</p>	<p>Although many of us are retired, anyone who is free for lunch once a month is welcome. Contact Joe Stehle for more information: joestehle@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Mommies' Discipleship Group: 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7-9 PM</p>	<p>Join us for a time of fellowship and encouragement as we pray for one another and study the book of Colossians. Contact Sandy for more info: sandy@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Additional Mommies Discipleship Group: 3rd Saturday of each month, 9:30AM - 11AM</p>	<p>This summer (May-August), Emily Schartner will be hosting at 1111 Morningside Avenue and we will be studying the Psalms together. On nice days, Dads are encouraged to bring their kids to the Highland Park Super Playground for a playdate! Please note that the first meeting is May 25th to avoid a scheduling conflict.</p>
<p>Wednesday Prayer Meetings: 8:30-9:30 AM</p>	<p>All are welcome to join our Wednesday prayer community. We begin with Scripture, move to a general opening prayer of adoration/thanksgiving, then share specific prayer requests and pray through them. Held on Zoom at: https://tinyurl.com/crcpwnednesdayprayer.</p>
<p>Global Missions Prayer: Mondays @ 9 PM</p>	<p>Join our church in prayer for missions partners. This week we will be praying for Donnie and Kara Williams. Held on Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/crcpglobalprayer.</p>
<p>Young Adult Women's Discipleship Group: Bi-Weekly Wednesdays @ 7 PM</p>	<p>Meets at Amelia Morrissey's Home on the North Side. Current study is: "Delight: A Walk through Psalms 1-30." For more info, contact Lindsay Karr (lindsay.karr@gmail.com).</p>
<p>Youth Group: Bi-Weekly Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 PM</p>	<p>All middle and high school youth are welcome to join us, 6th through 12th grade. Please contact Pastor John (john@cityreformed.org) for more information.</p>
<p>CRPC Storytime: Greenfield Chapel Every other Monday</p>	<p>Toddler/Preschooler Storytime and free play at the Greenfield Chapel. SPRING Semester Dates: April 15 & 29. (10-11:30 AM). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Taylor Kilbride taylorgkilbride@gmail.com.</p>

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 (gavin.breeden@ruf.org, callie.miller@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

Specialty Groups meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, learning, and service.

- *Agora Forum (amain8511@gmail.com)*
- *Men's New Hope (Joseph@cityreformed.org)*
- *Mommies' Group (Sandy@cityreformed.org)*
- *Wednesday Morning Prayer (Nameun@cityreformed.org)*
- *Men's Discipleship Committee (mdc@cityreformed.org)*
- *Young Women's Discipleship Group (lindsay.karr@gmail.com)*
- *Ultimate Frisbee (danielrtoney@gmail.com)*
- *Board Game Gatherings (gatcheson@gmail.com)*

Leadership

Elders

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