



Sunday Evening Worship Service
April 14, 2024

"It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world, as that God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission – God's mission."

*–Christopher J.H. Wright, The Mission of God's People:
A Biblical Theology of the Church's Mission*

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – April 14, 2024
Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Matthew 10:26-31

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

Leader "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.

People **What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.**

Leader And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

People **Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.**

Leader But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

People **Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.**

Prayer of Invocation

O Worship The King

(Music: Johann Haydn 1700's; Words: Robert Grant 1833)

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love
Our shield and defender the Ancient of Days
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise

O tell of his might and sing of his grace
Whose robe is the light whose canopy space
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm

(continued on next page)

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite
It breathes in the air it shines in the light
It streams from the hills it descends to the plain
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain

Frail children of dust and feeble as frail
In you do we trust nor find you to fail
Your mercies how tender how firm to the end
Our Maker Defender Redeemer and Friend

O measureless might ineffable love
While angels delight to worship above
The humbler creation though feeble their ways
With true adoration shall all sing your praise

Psalm 126

(Words & Music: Isaac Wardell 2012)

Our mouths, they were filled,
Filled with laughter;
Our tongues, they were loosed,
Loosed with joy.
Restore us, O Lord!
Restore us, O Lord!

*Although we are weeping,
Lord help us keep sowing
The seeds of Your Kingdom
For the day You will reap them.
Your sheaves we will carry;
Lord, please do not tarry!
All those who sow weeping
Will go out with songs of joy.*

The nations will say
"He has done great things!"
The nations will sing
Songs of joy.
Restore us, O Lord!
Restore us, O Lord!

Call to Confession: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, we confess the myriad of ways that we have lost heart! When the world afflicts us, how quickly we forget that in every affliction you are preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. Forgive our narrow-sightedness. Forgive us for distrusting your eternal promises. Help us in every affliction, to cling to Jesus, believing with all of our hearts that not one hair falls from our heads apart from your sovereign decree. Cause us to look to the unseen eternal things, rather than the transient. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 43:1-4a

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life."

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; 3929 Coleman St., 15207)

All Things New

(Words: Horatius Bonar 1779; Music: Clint Wells 2009)

Come Lord and tarry not
Bring the long-looked-for day
O why these years of waiting here
These ages of delay?
Come for your saints still wait
Daily ascends their sigh
The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come;"
Do you not hear our cry?

*O come and make all things new
Come and make all things new
Come and make all things new
Build up this broken earth
Come and make all things new
All things new*

Come for creation groans
Impatient while you stay
Worn out in labor pains of hope
Still bound by earth's decay
Come for love waxes cold
Its steps are faint and slow
Our faith is pressed by unbelief
Hope's lamp burns dim and low

Scripture & Homily: Acts 8:1-8

"The Scattered... Preach"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

⁴Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was much joy in that city.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 10:16-23 / "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Song of Thanksgiving

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

Benediction