



Sunday Evening Service
September 22, 2024

"Admirably and healthily the Spirit has so arranged the Scriptures that by the plainer passages he might meet our desires and by the obscurer remove our contempt."

- Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD)

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Worship – September 22, 2024

Presider: Elder David Bacon

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:1-9

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

Leader Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

Leader The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

People **The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

Leader The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

People **He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

People **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Leader The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare,

People **And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**

Prayer of Invocation

How Firm a Foundation

(Words: R. Keene & George Keith 1787; Music: American Folk)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow,
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply,
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,
I will never, no, never, no, never forsake."

Isaiah 2 | Come Let Us Walk In The Light

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke 2019)

Come to the mountain of the LORD
A home for the nations
Come to the hill above all hills
Greater than kingdoms
People from all the earth will flow
Into his presence

*Come let us walk in the light of the LORD.
Come let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

(continued on next page)

Let us go up to meet with God
And follow his pathway
Let the LORD teach us in the Word
That goes out from Zion
The Law of the LORD will be the light
That leads us to worship

Bring your dispute before the LORD
And look for his justice
Bring to our God your love for war
Replace it with mercy
Nations will lay their weapons down
And take up forgiveness

Call to Confession: Psalm 119:1-6

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

Prayer of Confession: Psalm 119:25-28, 41-42, 81-82

My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word! When I told of my ways, you answered me; teach me your statutes! Make me understand the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works. My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!... Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; then shall I have an answer for him who taunts me, for I trust in your word... My soul longs for your salvation; I hope in your word. My eyes long for your promise; I ask, "When will you comfort me?"

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Lamentations 3:21-26

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

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)

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan 1923)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Scripture & Homily: Psalm 119:17-24, 105-112, 129-130 "A Light to My Path: The Clarity of Scripture"

- Elder Ben Chidester

Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. ¹⁸Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law. ¹⁹I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me! ²⁰My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times. ²¹You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments. ²²Take away from me scorn and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies. ²³Even though princes sit plotting against me, your servant will meditate on your statutes. ²⁴Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors...

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

¹⁰⁶I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. ¹⁰⁷I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word! ¹⁰⁸Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your rules. ¹⁰⁹I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. ¹¹⁰The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. ¹¹¹Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. ¹¹²I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end...

¹²⁹Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. ¹³⁰The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional References

Matthew 13:10-16 / Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ""You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."

Acts 17:10-11 / The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

2 Peter 3:15-16 / And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 1.7 / All things in Scripture are not alike plain in themselves, nor alike clear unto all; yet those things which are necessary to be known, believed, and observed for salvation, are so clearly propounded, and opened in some place of Scripture or other, that not only the learned, but the unlearned, in a due use of the ordinary means, may attain unto a sufficient understanding of them.

Song of Thanksgiving

We Are Listening

(Words & Music: Jeremy Quillo 2006)

Father I long to be wise
To see with new eyes
The truth that was written by your hand
Father speak truth into me
For I still believe
That you always help me understand

We are listening to your word
We are listening to your word

*Morning and evening we come
To delight in the Word of our God
Give us eyes to see
Give us faith to hear
That the Lord has come
That the Lord is here*

Father I long to see Christ
The Truth and New Life
Your Word that has made the universe
Father speak now I believe
And I am set free
By the Word that lived and died for me

Benediction