



Sunday Evening Communion Service
October 15, 2023

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – October 15, 2023

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-7a

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

Leader Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Leader For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

People **Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

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.

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, unchangeable Love,
Whom angels delight to worship above!
Your ransomed creation, with glory ablaze,
In true adoration shall sing to your praise!

Jesus Messiah

(Words & Music: Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves, and Chris Tomlin 2008)

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

*Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all*

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Call to Confession: Psalm 95:7b-11

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways." Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

Prayer of Confession:

Father, your holiness is the purity of light. You call us to know the truth and practice the truth. But we confess that we have failed. We have walked in darkness. We cannot say that we have not sinned, or we would be lying. We have sinned in our thoughts, in our words and our deeds. We have not loved you with all of our hearts and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We look to the blood of Jesus to cleanse us from our sin. Teach us to walk in your light. Teach us to be faithful and just as you are faithful and just. Help us to find true fellowship with one another. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Acts 3:17-20a

"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence 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)

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

(Words & Music: Stuart Townend 1995)

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That he should give his only Son
To make a wretch his treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns his face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon his shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from his reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Scripture & Homily: Acts 4:32-5:11

"Great Fear Before a Holy God"

- Reverend John McCombs

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

^{5:1}But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ²and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." ⁵When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. ⁶The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

⁷After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes,

for so much.” ⁹But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” ¹⁰Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Ezekiel 11:17-21 / "Therefore say, 'Thus says the Lord God: I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.' And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. But as for those whose heart goes after their detestable things and their abominations, I will bring their deeds upon their own heads, declares the Lord 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-communicating 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

Psalm 130 | From Depths of Woe

(Words: Martin Luther 1524; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

From the depths of woe I raise to thee
The voice of lamentation;
Lord turn a gracious ear to me
And hear my supplication;
If thou iniquities dost mark
Our secret sins and misdeeds dark
Oh who shall stand before thee? (echo) 2x

To wash away the crimson stain
Grace, grace alone availeth;
Our works, alas, are all in vain;
In much the best life faileth;
No man can glory in thy sight
All must alike confess thy might
And live alone by mercy (echo) 2x

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,
And not in mine own merit;
On him my soul shall rest, his word
Upholds my fainting spirit;
His promised mercy is my fort,
My comfort, and my sweet support
I wait for it with patience (echo) 2x

What though I wait the livelong night
And 'til the dawn appeareth;
My heart still trusteth in his might;
It doubteth not nor feareth;
Do thus oh ye of Israel's seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed
And wait 'til God appeareth (echo) 2x

Though great our sins and sore our woes,
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our shepherd good and true is he,
Who will at last his Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow (echo) 2x

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.
(repeat)

Amen

Benediction

Sunday, October 29, we will be celebrating the Reformation with a special service held at Bellefield Presbyterian Church in Oakland @ 5:30 PM