



Sunday Evening Worship
November 21, 2021

Reflection

Idolatry and immorality are bedfellows; where you have one, you also, sooner or later, have the other.

—Barry G. Webb

"God's Law or Chaos"

—Bumper Sticker

Call to Worship: Hebrews 12:3-11

Leader Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

People **In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.**

Leader And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

People **It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?**

Leader If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

People **Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?**

Leader For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

People **For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

Prayer of Invocation

O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus

(Words: Samuel T. Francis 1800's Music: Thomas J. Williams 1890)

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless free.
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love.
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread His praise from shore to shore.
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, never more.
How he watches o'er his loved ones,
Died to call them all his own.
How for them he intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best.
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me.
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to thee.

Call to Confession:

Romans 1:28-32, 2:1-4

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God,

insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them... Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Prayer of Confession:

O Father, our sin has made a complete and total mess of your good creation. We are so not what you created us to be; this is true as individuals, in our marriage and family relationships, and in our neighborly and societal relations.

And yet, Lord Jesus, you have made a way for us to "put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness". Thank you for your costly sacrifice that makes provision for forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration.

Spirit of God, we ask you to graciously apply all the benefits of redemption that are ours in Christ Jesus, and enable us to live faithfully and winsomely in these challenging times, for Jesus' greater glory.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon:

Ephesians 2: 4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

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).

O Come To The Altar

(Words & Music: Christopher Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, and Wade Joye 2015)

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

*O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ*

(continued on next page)

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've
found

Scripture & Homily:

Judges 19: 1-4, 22-30; 20: 1-13, 26-28, 43-48; 21: 1-7, 13-18, 23-25

"Doing Good by Doing Right??"

- Elder Jim Partridge

^{19:1}In those days, when there was no king in Israel, a certain Levite was sojourning in the remote parts of the hill country of Ephraim, who took to himself a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. ²And his concubine was unfaithful to him, and she went away from him to her father's house at Bethlehem in Judah, and was there some four months. ³Then her husband arose and went after her, to speak kindly to her and bring her back. He had with him his servant and a couple of donkeys. And she brought him into her father's house. And when the girl's father saw him, he came with joy to meet him. ⁴And his father-in-law, the girl's father, made him stay, and he remained with him three days. So they ate and drank and spent the night there.

^{19:22}As they were making their hearts merry,

behold, the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house, beating on the door. And they said to the old man, the master of the house, "Bring out the man who came into your house, that we may know him." ²³And the man, the master of the house, went out to them and said to them, "No, my brothers, do not act so wickedly; since this man has come into my house, do not do this vile thing. ²⁴Behold, here are my virgin daughter and his concubine. Let me bring them out now. Violate them and do with them what seems good to you, but against this man do not do this outrageous thing." ²⁵But the men would not listen to him. So the man seized his concubine and made her go out to them. And they knew her and abused her all night until the morning. And as the dawn began to break, they let her go. ²⁶And as morning appeared, the woman came and fell down at the door of the man's house where her master was, until it was light.

²⁷And her master rose up in the morning, and when he opened the doors of the house and went out to go on his way, behold, there was his concubine lying at the door of the house, with her hands on the threshold. ²⁸He said to her, "Get up, let us be going." But there was no answer. Then he put her on the donkey, and the man rose up and went away to his home. ²⁹And when he entered his house, he took a knife, and taking hold of his concubine he divided her, limb by limb, into twelve pieces, and sent her throughout all the territory of Israel. ³⁰And all who saw it said, "Such a thing has never happened or been seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day; consider it, take counsel, and speak."

^{20:1} Then all the people of Israel came out, from Dan to Beersheba, including the land of Gilead, and the congregation assembled as one man to the LORD at Mizpah. ²And the chiefs of all the people, of all the tribes of Israel, presented

themselves in the assembly of the people of God, 400,000 men on foot that drew the sword.

³(Now the people of Benjamin heard that the people of Israel had gone up to Mizpah.) And the people of Israel said, "Tell us, how did this evil happen?" ⁴And the Levite, the husband of the woman who was murdered, answered and said, "I came to Gibeah that belongs to Benjamin, I and my concubine, to spend the night. ⁵And the leaders of Gibeah rose against me and surrounded the house against me by night. They meant to kill me, and they violated my concubine, and she is dead. ⁶So I took hold of my concubine and cut her in pieces and sent her throughout all the country of the inheritance of Israel, for they have committed abomination and outrage in Israel. ⁷Behold, you people of Israel, all of you, give your advice and counsel here."

⁸And all the people arose as one man, saying, "None of us will go to his tent, and none of us will return to his house. ⁹But now this is what we will do to Gibeah: we will go up against it by lot, ¹⁰and we will take ten men of a hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, and a hundred of a thousand, and a thousand of ten thousand, to bring provisions for the people, that when they come they may repay Gibeah of Benjamin for all the outrage that they have committed in Israel." ¹¹So all the men of Israel gathered against the city, united as one man.

¹²And the tribes of Israel sent men through all the tribe of Benjamin, saying, "What evil is this that has taken place among you? ¹³Now therefore give up the men, the worthless fellows in Gibeah, that we may put them to death and purge evil from Israel." But the Benjaminites would not listen to the voice of their brothers, the people of Israel.

^{20:26} Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that

day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. ²⁷And the people of Israel inquired of the LORD (for the ark of the covenant of God was there in those days, ²⁸and Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron, ministered before it in those days), saying, "Shall we go out once more to battle against our brothers, the people of Benjamin, or shall we cease?" And the LORD said, "Go up, for tomorrow I will give them into your hand."

^{20:43} Surrounding the Benjaminites, they pursued them and trod them down from Nohah as far as opposite Gibeah on the east. ⁴⁴Eighteen thousand men of Benjamin fell, all of them men of valor. ⁴⁵And they turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon. Five thousand men of them were cut down in the highways. And they were pursued hard to Gidom, and 2,000 men of them were struck down. ⁴⁶So all who fell that day of Benjamin were 25,000 men who drew the sword, all of them men of valor. ⁴⁷But 600 men turned and fled toward the wilderness to the rock of Rimmon and remained at the rock of Rimmon four months. ⁴⁸And the men of Israel turned back against the people of Benjamin and struck them with the edge of the sword, the city, men and beasts and all that they found. And all the towns that they found they set on fire.

^{21:1} Now the men of Israel had sworn at Mizpah, "No one of us shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin." ²And the people came to Bethel and sat there till evening before God, and they lifted up their voices and wept bitterly. ³And they said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, why has this happened in Israel, that today there should be one tribe lacking in Israel?" ⁴And the next day the people rose early and built there an altar and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. ⁵And the people of Israel said, "Which of all the tribes of Israel did not come up in the assembly to the LORD?" For they had taken a great oath concerning him who did not come up to the LORD

to Mizpah, saying, "He shall surely be put to death." ⁶And the people of Israel had compassion for Benjamin their brother and said, "One tribe is cut off from Israel this day. ⁷What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn by the LORD that we will not give them any of our daughters for wives?"

^{21:13} Then the whole congregation sent word to the people of Benjamin who were at the rock of Rimmon and proclaimed peace to them. ¹⁴And Benjamin returned at that time. And they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead, but they were not enough for them. ¹⁵And the people had compassion on Benjamin because the LORD had made a breach in the tribes of Israel.

¹⁶Then the elders of the congregation said, "What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since the women are destroyed out of Benjamin?" ¹⁷And they said, "There must be an inheritance for the survivors of Benjamin, that a tribe not be blotted out from Israel. ¹⁸Yet we cannot give them wives from our daughters." For the people of Israel had sworn, "Cursed be he who gives a wife to Benjamin."

^{21:23} And the people of Benjamin did so and took their wives, according to their number, from the dancers whom they carried off. Then they went and returned to their inheritance and rebuilt the towns and lived in them. ²⁴And the people of Israel departed from there at that time, every man to his tribe and family, and they went out from there every man to his inheritance.

²⁵In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God**

Additional Scripture

Joshua 24:33/ And Eleazar the son of Aaron died, and they buried him at Gibeah, the town of Phinehas his son, which had been given him in the hill country of Ephraim.

Hosea 9:9, 10:9-10/ They have deeply corrupted themselves as in the days of Gibeah: he will remember their iniquity; he will punish their sins. From the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not the war against the unjust overtake them in Gibeah? When I please, I will discipline them, and nations shall be gathered against them when they are bound up for their double iniquity.

Romans 1:18-27 / For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion

for one another, men committing shameful acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Romans 2: 12-16/ For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

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

Come Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted

(Words: Joseph Swain 1785 Music: Kevin Twit 2013)

Come ye souls by sin afflicted
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down
By the broken law convicted
Through the cross behold the crown
Look to Jesus (3x)
Mercy flows through Him alone

Take His easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet
Christ will give you strength to bear it
While His grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory (3x)
Where His ransomed captives meet

Blessèd are the eyes that see Him
Blest the ears that hear His voice
Blessèd are the souls that trust Him
And in Him alone rejoice
His commandments (3x)
Then become their happy choice
Sweet as home to pilgrims weary
Light to newly opened eyes
Like full springs in deserts dreary
Is the rest the cross supplies
All who taste it (3x)
Shall to rest immortal rise

Psalm 85 | Speak Peace

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke & 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

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.

Benediction

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you are new, we would love to meet you! Please contact us at office@cityreformed.org. If you would like to contact a pastor, please email nameun@cityreformed.org. And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, we will pray for you. Please send prayer requests to Pastor Joseph through prayer@cityreformed.org.

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15 AM
Winchester Thurston Auditorium
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

Sunday Evening Service

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

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
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w: cityreformed.org

Donations

Online: cityreformed.org/give
Mail: to the Church Office address above "Attn: Bookkeeper" (checks payable to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)