



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**December 19, 2021**

# 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](mailto:office@cityreformed.org) or visit our website: [cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org).

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## Reflections

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

- Matthew 2:10-11

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## About Us

### Sunday Morning Worship Service

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

LIVESTREAM: [tinyurl.com/CRPCLive](http://tinyurl.com/CRPCLive)

### Sunday Evening Service

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

### Church Office

3929 Coleman St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
412-720-7014  
[office@cityreformed.org](mailto:office@cityreformed.org)  
[cityreformed.org](http://cityreformed.org)

### Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)  
OR [cityreformed.org/give](http://cityreformed.org/give)  
Mail: Church Office address above "Attn:  
Bookkeeper" (please make checks  
payable to City Reformed Presbyterian  
Church)

### Church Center App:



# Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 19, 2021

Presider: Elder David Bacon

## Call to Worship: Micah 5:2-5

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

Leader But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

People **Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.**

Leader And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

People **And he shall be their peace.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## To Thee We Run

*(Words & Music: Eric J. Marshall 2012)*

When these days of shadow pass  
And suffering is no more  
A fire in the dark will glow  
And Christ our souls restore

*O Light Heaven shine down on earth  
O Joy Come and break the curse  
We praise the name above every name  
A light has come and Christ to Thee we run*

Holy child of mystery  
Please set ablaze our hearts  
With grace unending love so pure  
And pierce the ancient dark

As the tide of heaven's wrath  
Is washed beneath the sea  
A Living Stream shall quench our thirst  
For all eternity

## 4th Advent Reading Luke 1:39-55

### Amen Amen

*(Words & Music: Kate Robins and Neil Robins 2007)*

Let every creature rise and bring  
Their grateful praises to our King  
Angels descend with songs again  
And earth repeats a loud amen

*Amen amen  
Amen amen  
I found my life  
I found my life in him  
Amen amen*

Peace like a river from His throne  
Will flow to nations yet unknown  
His word a light where hope is dim  
And tribes unite to cry amen

And in this Child we'll find our rest  
And all the meek and lowly blessed  
An Infant tongue could sing the hymn  
Of hallelujah and amen

## **O Come All Ye Faithful**

*(Words & Music: John F. Wade 1841)*

O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God,  
Glory in the highest:

Yea, Lord we greet thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

## **Call to Confession: Ephesians 4:22-23**

Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Father, we need the forgiveness that is offered in Jesus Christ. We confess that we sin against you and against our neighbors. We cannot do enough good deeds to make up for it. Even our best actions are tainted by selfishness. If we were to stand before you without Jesus we would be lost.

So, we praise you for the grace that is ours in Christ Jesus. We are thankful that he suffered in our place. He was cursed in our place. He was rejected in our place. He lived a righteous life in our place. He died in our place. And he was raised for our salvation.

Draw our eyes back to the cross of Jesus Christ. We know that it is our only hope. Convict us, shape us, renew us, and change us as we understand more deeply the crucifixion of our savior. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon: John 3:16-17**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

## **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](http://cityreformed.org/give); 3929 Coleman St., 15207).*

## Peace

*(Words & Music: Sherri Youngward 2008)*

Peace, be still.

Lay all your worries down.

Be still, O My soul

Our God is in control.

And if God is for us,  
Then whom shall I fear?  
For our God is with us  
So lay down, be still.  
He is God.

*Hallelujah!*

*Our God has overcome.*

*Hallelujah!*

*Our Lord, Jesus Christ has won.*

*He is God*

# Pastoral Prayer

*At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Parents please have your children meet the teachers at the back of the sanctuary and pick them up after the sermon from Children's Church.*

## Sermon: Romans 12:1-2

### Keep the Cross in Christmas "Renewing Your Mind"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Additional Scripture

Romans 8:32 / He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

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## Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q35: What is sanctification?

**A: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace by which we are renewed in our whole person in the image of God and by which we are enabled more and more to die to sin and live to righteousness.**





# Songs of Thanksgiving

## Who Is This So Weak and Helpless

*(Words: William W. How 1867 Music: Christopher Miner 1997)*

Who is this, so weak and helpless,  
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,  
Rudely in a stable sheltered,  
Coldly in a manger laid?  
'Tis the Lord of all creation,  
Who this wondrous path has trod;  
He is Lord from everlast—ing,  
And to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,  
Walking sadly life's hard way,  
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping  
Over sin and Satan's sway?  
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,  
Who above the starry sky  
Is for us a place prepar—ing,  
Where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding  
Drops of blood upon the ground!  
Who is this, despised, rejected,  
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
'Tis our God, Who gifts and graces  
On His church is pouring down;  
Who shall smite in holy ven—geance  
All His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying  
While the rude world scoffs and scorns,  
Numbered with the malefactors,  
Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?  
'Tis our God Who lives forever  
'Mid the shining ones on high,  
In the glorious golden ci—ty,  
Reigning everlastingly.

# Hark The Herald Angels Sing

(Words: Charles Wesley 1739 Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840)

Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled  
Joyful all ye nations rise  
Join the triumph of the skies  
With angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem

*Hark the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King*

Come, Desire of nations, come,  
Fix in us thy humble home;  
Now display thy saving power,  
Ruined nature now restore;  
Let us Thee, though lost, regain,  
Thee, the life, of mortal Man:  
O! to all thyself impart,  
Give to each believing heart.

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell  
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace  
Hail the Sun of righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth

**Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

*Tonight's Communion Worship Service: Reverend John McCombs will be preaching on Philippians 2:1-11: "Humiliation & Exaltation"*

# Contact

**Pastors:**

- [Pastormatt@cityreformed.org](mailto:Pastormatt@cityreformed.org)
- [Joseph@cityreformed.org](mailto:Joseph@cityreformed.org)
- [John@cityreformed.org](mailto:John@cityreformed.org)
- [Nameun@cityreformed.org](mailto:Nameun@cityreformed.org)

**Deacons:** [Deacons@cityreformed.org](mailto:Deacons@cityreformed.org)

**Women's Ministry Council:** [sarahditch@gmail.com](mailto:sarahditch@gmail.com); [raleun@gmail.com](mailto:raleun@gmail.com)

**Men's Discipleship Committee:** [mdc@cityreformed.org](mailto:mdc@cityreformed.org)

**Women's Discipleship Committee:** [Sandy@cityreformed.org](mailto:Sandy@cityreformed.org)

# Upcoming Events

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<p><b>Christmas Eve Service</b>  <b>Dec 24th @ 6:30 PM</b>  <b>First Baptist Church</b>  <b>159 N Bellefield Ave,</b>  <b>Pittsburgh, PA 15213</b></p>	<p>Come join us for a candlelight service as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We will be joining the congregation of First Baptist for this event.</p>
<p><b>90 Days of Worship</b></p>	<p>Beginning on Monday, January 3, City Reformed will read through the Psalms together as we seek to establish better patterns of worship in our personal lives, in our families and as a congregation. We will offer daily readings and plans for personal/household worship from Jan 3, until Easter. We will also link other aspects of our regular ministries to this devotional plan.</p>
<p><b>90 Days Kickoff Event</b>  <b>Jan 2, 2022</b>  <b>5:50-6:30 PM @</b>  <b>Greenfield Chapel</b></p>	<p>On Sunday, January 2, we will hold a kick off event for 90 Days of Worship in place of our evening service. 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, @ Greenfield Chapel (3929 Coleman St. 15207). We will introduce the reading/worship plan, discuss ways this can be used by individuals and in small groups, and spend some time in singing and prayer.</p>
<p><b>Seminar:</b>  <b>When Do We Trust</b>  <b>Scientists?</b>  <b>Jan 5th @ 7-8:30PM</b>  <b>Greenfield Chapel</b></p>	<p>Our society is experiencing a breakdown of trust in the claims of scientists on such things as vaccines, sexual identity, evolution, global warming, and the impact of technology. How should a Christian approach scientific claims of truth? David Snoko will lead a discussion on our general approach to scientific claims, without attempting to resolve the debates on all of these issues.</p>
<p><b>Annual</b>  <b>Congregational</b>  <b>Meeting</b>  <b>Sun, Jan 23rd directly</b>  <b>following service</b></p>	<p>We will hold our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 23rd, directly following our morning worship service. All members of our congregation are encouraged to attend, as we will be voting on pertinent church decisions, such as the election of elders, deacons, and women's ministry council members.</p>

# Volunteer and Employment Needs

<p><b>Children's Church</b>  <b>Assistants and</b>  <b>Teachers</b></p>	<p>We are currently looking to add Lead Teachers to our Children's Church volunteer team! Adding 5 people to this team would allow Lead Teachers to make the one month commitment, once a year.          We are also looking to welcome additional Teacher Aids to assist Lead Teachers.          Contact <a href="mailto:AllisonH@cityreformed.org">AllisonH@cityreformed.org</a></p>
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<b>10 Minute Trainings</b>	<p>We will be conducting quick refresher sessions for our volunteer teams in January. We will have one volunteer team a week gather in the cafeteria following service for 10 minutes of refreshers and questions. If you are interested in joining a volunteer team, this is a great way to get some more information.</p> <p>January 2nd- Nursery and Children's Church  January 9th- Ushers  January 16th- Greeters  January 23rd- No training- Congregational Meeting  January 30th- Setup and Tear Down</p>
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## Regular Events

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<b>No Evening Service December 26th</b>	<p>We will not be having our regular evening service on Sunday, December 26th. We hope everyone can spend this time enjoying the holiday with your friends and family.</p>
<b>Tuesday Women's Bible Study break</b>	<p>The Tuesday Women's Bible Study discussing <i>In His Image</i> by Jen Wilkin will not be meeting on December 21 or 28 due to the Christmas holiday. We invite you to join them as they restart in the new year on January 4</p>

## Groups

<p><b>College Students</b> please refer to campus ministry contacts below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCO at CMU: Nameun Cho (ncho@cco jubilee.org)</li> <li>• CCO at PPU: Katelyn Spallinger (kspallinger@cco jubilee.org)</li> <li>• RUF at Pitt: Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org)</li> <li>• <a href="http://cityreformed.org/collegestudents">cityreformed.org/collegestudents</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Specialty Groups</b> meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, learning, and service. For a complete listing of current groups, please refer to the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Agora Forum- Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)</i></li> <li>• <i>Men's New Hope (Joseph@cityreformed.org)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mommies' Group (Sandy@cityreformed.org)</i></li> <li>• <i>Wednesday Morning Prayer (Zachary@cityreformed.org)</i></li> <li>• <i>Men's Discipleship Committee (mdc@cityreformed.org)- MENTORS NEEDED!</i></li> <li>• <i>Young Adult Women's Fellowship (Katelyn@cityreformed.org)</i></li> </ul>

# Community Groups

**Community Groups** meet for Bible study, fellowship, and service, and are some of the best opportunities to connect with church life - always open for visitors throughout the year. Please contact Pastor Joseph Bianco (Joseph@cityreformed.org) with any questions, and for a listing of current groups, refer to:

[www.cityreformed.org/community-groups](http://www.cityreformed.org/community-groups)

## Sunday

Fox Chapel\*- Watson Barker

North Hills\*\*- David Bacon

## Tuesday

Northside- Joe Benscoter & Nathan Schartner

Morningside\*- Jeff Winkler

## Wednesday

Near East Suburban- Jim Partridge

Regent Square- David Snoko

Baldwin/Greenfield\*- Joseph Bianco

East Suburban- Joe Stehle

West End\*- Jonathan Dodd

## Thursday

Greenfield/North Oakland- Ben Chidester

Forest Hills\*- Adam Schwab

\*Childcare provided

\*\* Kid's play area available

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