



**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**December 5, 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

"Maybe Christmas (*he thought*) doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."

- The Grinch

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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 5, 2021

Presider: Elder Andy Leuenberger

## Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:1-2,6-7

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

Leader But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish.  
In the former time he brought into contempt the land of  
Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he  
has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the  
Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

People **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great  
light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on  
them has light shone.**

Leader For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the  
government shall be upon his shoulder,

People **And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty  
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Leader Of the increase of his government and of peace there will  
be no end,

People **On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to  
establish it and to uphold it**

Leader With justice and with righteousness from this time forth  
and forevermore.

People **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

*(Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century Music: 17th Century French Arrangement: Daniel Snoko 2011)*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood;  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
Spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth  
From the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish  
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

## Psalm 103:1 | Bless the Lord

*(Taizé: Jacques Berthier 1923-1994)*

Bless the Lord, my soul  
And bless God's holy name  
Bless the Lord, my soul  
Who leads me into life

## 2nd Advent Reading Psalm 24:7-10

## King of Kings

*(Words & Music: Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood 2018)*

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
'Till from heaven you came running  
There was mercy in your eyes  
To fulfill the Law and Prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of glory majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
Now we see that in your suff'ring  
You saw glory to behold  
Knowing you were our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died

For the morning that you rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
'Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
Then the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are re-stored

Then the Church of Christ was born  
And the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By his blood and in his name  
In his freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

## **Call to Confession: Ephesians 5:8**

At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Heavenly Father we confess this truth: You are light and in you no darkness can dwell. Yet Lord we acknowledge that even as children of the light, we still delight in darkness; we still run after the things our sinful heart's desire. We stumble around blindly after things that do not satisfy, and things that cause us destruction. O Savior we desire to live in the light; to be in fellowship with you! Oh God forgive us for our fickle hearts; forgive our sin, we ask. Help us! Change us! By your Spirit, draw us into the light that we might stand as radiant reflections of you in this dark world. For we ask these things through the Light of the World, your son and our savior, Jesus Christ.

## **Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon: Colossians 1:13-14**

[God] has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **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).*

## Come Thou Fount

*(Words: Robert Robinson & Martin Madan 1760 Music: Unknown)*

Come thou fount of every blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing thy grace.  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it,  
Mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by thy help I'm come,  
And I hope by thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God.  
He to rescue me from danger  
Interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let that grace now like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for thy courts above.

## 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: Matthew 16:13-23

### Keep the Cross in Christmas "The Christ and his Cross"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

**N**ow when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

<sup>21</sup>From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

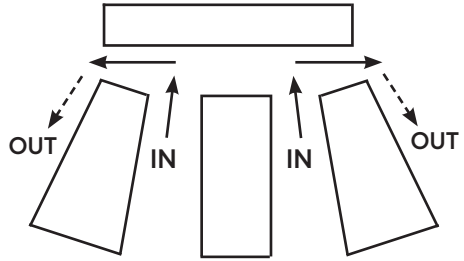




# Communion

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

## 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.

## **O Day of Peace - Come to Him**

*(Music: Josh Garrels 2016 Words: Carl Daw 1982)*

O day of peace that dimly shines  
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
Guide us to justice, truth, and love  
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
Our hearts from envy find release,  
Till by God's grace our warring world  
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
Nor shall the fierce devour the small  
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
A little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,  
All creatures find their true accord  
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
For all the earth shall know the Lord

(Bridge)

Come to Him with all your heart  
Come and lay your burdens down

For peace He came to give  
And Joy shall be the crown  
And Joy shall be the crown

## **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

**Prayer**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

*Tonight's Worship Service: David Snoke will be preaching on Colossians 1:11-20, 2:8-10 "The Incarnation."*

## Upcoming Events

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

<b>Christmas Coffee House</b>	Come and join us for an evening of music, talent, and fun! Contact <a href="mailto:pastormatt@cityreformed.org">pastormatt@cityreformed.org</a> if you are interested in performing.
<b>Christmas Eve Service Dec 24th @ 6:30 PM First Baptist Church 159 N Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213</b>	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.
<b>Older Adults Ministry Brainstorming Dec 16th @ 7PM Zoom</b>	Anyone interested in prayerfully exploring a new ministry opportunity for and by older adults is invited to join in a zoom call on Thursday evening, December 16th at 7:00 PM. We will pray and look at a number of ideas developing for older adult ministries, and hopefully plan for some activities for us. Please contact Joe Stehle if you have questions. The link for the call is <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3581117735">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3581117735</a>

## Volunteer and Employment Needs

<b>Evening Service Coordinators</b>	We are recruiting Evening Service Coordinators who will arrive at 5PM to unlock the building, greet people, answer questions, and close the building by 7PM. There is compensation and training provided for this position. Contact <a href="mailto:Zachary@cityreformed.org">Zachary@cityreformed.org</a> for more information.
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## Regular Events

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

<b>Agora Forum Mon 12/6/21 @ 7PM 3929 Coleman St., 15207</b>	When is a government legitimate? Many of the people opposing Nazis in movies we watched have wrestled with questions of just war and pacifism, which often come down to, when do we obey a government and when do we resist it? People have been castigated for both inaction against oppressors, and for vigilantism. Dave Snoke will give an overview of the concept of "legitimacy" in government theory, which underlies much of this debate.  Contact Alex ( <a href="mailto:amain8511@gmail.com">amain8511@gmail.com</a> ).
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<b>Wednesday Prayer Meetings</b> Wednesdays 8:30- 9:30 AM	Join our staff as they pray for our church. Wednesday weekly prayer is held on Zoom at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer">https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer</a>
<b>Global Missions Prayer</b> Fridays @ 6:30- 7 AM	Please consider praying with us for our mission partners on Friday mornings. Zoom link: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/crpcglobalprayer">https://tinyurl.com/crpcglobalprayer</a> Contact <a href="mailto:zachary@cityreformed.org">zachary@cityreformed.org</a> for questions

## 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 (<a href="mailto:ncho@ccojubilee.org">ncho@ccojubilee.org</a>)</li> <li>• CCO at PPU: Katelyn Spallinger (<a href="mailto:kspallinger@ccojubilee.org">kspallinger@ccojubilee.org</a>)</li> <li>• RUF at Pitt: Derek Bates (<a href="mailto:dbates@ruf.org">dbates@ruf.org</a>), Callie Miller (<a href="mailto:callie.miller@ruf.org">callie.miller@ruf.org</a>)</li> <li>• <a href="https://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 (<a href="mailto:amain8511@gmail.com">amain8511@gmail.com</a>)</i></li> <li>• <i>Men's New Hope (<a href="mailto:Joseph@cityreformed.org">Joseph@cityreformed.org</a>)</i></li> <li>• <i>Mommies' Group (<a href="mailto:Sandy@cityreformed.org">Sandy@cityreformed.org</a>)</i></li> <li>• <i>Wednesday Morning Prayer (<a href="mailto:Zachary@cityreformed.org">Zachary@cityreformed.org</a>)</i></li> <li>• <i>Men's Discipleship Committee (<a href="mailto:mdc@cityreformed.org">mdc@cityreformed.org</a>)- MENTORS NEEDED!</i></li> <li>• <i>Young Adult Women's Fellowship (<a href="mailto:Katelyn@cityreformed.org">Katelyn@cityreformed.org</a>)</i></li> </ul>

## 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)

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

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

# 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 Snoke

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.*