



Sunday Evening Communion Service
March 19, 2023

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Communion Worship – March 19, 2023

Call to Worship: Psalm 37:3-4, 23-24, 39-40

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

Leader Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.

People **Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart...**

Leader The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way;

People **though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand...**

Leader The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

People **The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.**

Prayer of Invocation

Jesus I Am Resting Resting

(Words & Music: David Hampton & Jean Sophia Pigott 1998)

Jesus I am resting resting
In the joy of what Thou art
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart
Thou hast bid me gaze upon Thee
And Thy beauty fills my soul
For by Thy transforming power
Thou hast made me whole

*Jesus I am resting resting
In the joy of what Thou art
I am finding out the greatness
Of Thy loving heart*

Oh how great Thy loving kindness
Vaster broader than the sea
Oh how marvelous Thy goodness
Lavished all on me
Yes I rest in Thee Beloved
Know what wealth of grace is Thine
Know Thy certainty of promise
And have made it mine

Simply trusting Thee Lord Jesus
I behold Thee as Thou art
And Thy love so pure so changeless
Satisfies my heart
Satisfies its deepest longings
Meets supplies its ev'ry need
For he wraps me 'round with blessings
Thine is love indeed

Ever lift Thy face upon me
As I work and wait for Thee
Resting 'neath Thy smile Lord Jesus
Earth's dark shadows flee
Brightness of my Father's glory
Sunshine of my Father's face
Keep me ever trusting resting
Fill me with Thy grace

Psalm 24 | We Long to See You

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2015)

Almighty God, we long to see you.
Open our hearts and make them pure.
Spirit, we wash our hands in mercy.
Come teach our souls to love your truth.

Call to Confession: Deuteronomy 4:29-30

But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey his voice.

Prayer of Confession:

O God, we confess we have often been apathetic, failing to seek or even care about justice in the affairs that surround us. We have failed to truly love and value mercy as You do, nor extend it to others as You have to us. Our walk before You is frequently characterized by presumption rather than humility. Though we are but jars of clay, You have chosen us to be vessels of Your mercy and grace to a hurting world. Make us respond to Your love by displaying and extending the gospel of grace in word and deed to others with the joy of the Lord as our strength. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Deuteronomy 4:4, 31

But you who held fast to the Lord your God are all alive today... For the LORD your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that he swore to them.

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).

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.

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 4:1-18

"Treasures in Jars of Clay"

-Reverend Nameun Cho

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ²But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you.

¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with

you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Romans 7:21-25 / So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Jude 24-25 / Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

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

Abide with Me

(Words: Henry Francis Lyte 1847; Music: Justin Smith 2007)

Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me oft as I left Thee
On to the close Lord abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power
Who, like Thyself my guide and stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death Where grave thy victory
I triumph still abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
In life in death Lord abide with me

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

(Words & Music: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, & Michael Farren 2018)

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

(continued on next page)

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

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

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**

Sunday

Fox Chapel*- Watson Barker

North Hills**- David Bacon

Tuesday

Northside- Joe Benscoter & Nathan Schartner

Morningside*- Jeff Winkler

West Hills*- Jonathan Dodd

Wednesday

Near East Suburban- Jim Partridge

Regent Square- David Snoke

Baldwin/Greenfield*- Joseph Bianco

East Suburban- Joe Stehle

Thursday

Shadyside - Ben Chidester

Forest Hills*- Adam Schwab

*Childcare provided

** Kid's play area available