



Sunday Morning Worship
April 25, 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 or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said "Repent," he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance.

- Martin Luther

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Services

9AM & 11AM

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

SIGN-UPS: crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-720-7014
office@cityreformed.org
cityreformed.org

Church Center App:



Sunday Evening Communion Service

Winchester Thurston Parking Lot
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

SUNDAY 4/25 | 5PM

Donations

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

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Morning Worship – April 25, 2021
Presider: Reverend Derek Bates

Call to Worship: | John 1:1-4

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

Leader That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

People **The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—**

Leader That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

People **And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.**

Prayer of Invocation

Rising Sun

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan, Kyle Lee, and David Leonard 2012)

Praise Him all you sinners
Sing oh sing you weary
Oh praise Him all you children of God

We lift high His glory
Shown throughout our stories
We praise Him as the children of God

*Our great Redeemer glorious Savior
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Light of the morning You shine forever
Your Name is higher than the rising sun
Jesus you're greater than the rising sun*

Praise His Name forever
Speak it loud and clear now
Oh praise Him all you children of God

Psalm 104 | Rejoice in All Your Works

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2014)

Every mouth that cries for food,
Every lung that yearns for breath,
Every eye that searches through the dark for light—
All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied.

*Oh rejoice in all your works,
King of Heaven, King of Earth!
Every creature you have made declares your praise.
We rejoice in all you've made,
God of all-sustaining grace!
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we sing your praise!*

Every tree that thirsts for rain,
Every bird that seeks its nest,
Every heart that waits in hope to be made glad—
All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied

May the pond'rings of my heart,
And the song upon my lips,
With the chorus of creation join in praise:
To the God who made all things,
To the Spirit who sustains,
To the Son who over all creation reigns!

Call to Confession: Jeremiah 29:12-13

Call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Prayer of Confession

Lord, help us to love you. Not just to respect you or just to obey you but to love you. Help us to love your Word, to love your ways, and to love your character, high and holy yet also near and gracious to the broken and contrite in heart. We love you because you first loved us. Help us to see your love for us, which seeks us out, and your eternal goodness. Help us to love your people who represent you, though imperfectly, and to love our neighbors who are made in your image. We fail in love; send your Holy Spirit to give us life and love, obedience and rest in you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 5:8-9

[B]ut God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

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).

Hide Away in the Love of Jesus

(Melody & Lyrics: Steve & Vikki Cook 2008)

Come weary saints though tired and weak
Hide away in the love of Jesus
Your strength will return by His quiet streams
Hide away in the love of Jesus

Come wand'ring soul and find your home
Hide away in the love of Jesus
He offers the rest that you yearn to know
Hide away in the love of Jesus

*Hear Him calling your name
See the depths of His love
In the wounds of His grace
Hide away hide away*

Come guilty ones weighed down with sin
Hide away in the love of Jesus
The freedom you long for is found in Him
Hide away in the love of Jesus

Come hopeless hearts, do not despair
Hide away in the love of Jesus
For ten-thousand joys await you there
Hide away in the love of Jesus

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Revelation 2:1-7

"Renewal in Ephesus"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

“**T**o the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

²“ I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’ ”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Judges 2:16-19 / Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so. Whenever the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways.

Jeremiah 2:2b / "I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown."

Jeremiah 29:10-14 / "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

Revelation 1:17-20 / When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Scriptural Response: Psalm 85:4-7

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

Song of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final song if you are able.

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


Prayer

Announcements

Benediction

If you would like to contact a pastor, please email joseph@cityreformed.org.

Life Together

<p>Attending Services "In-Person"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sundays 9AM & 11AM• Every Other Sunday 5PM <p>Winchester Thurston (WT) 5059 Ellsworth, 15213</p> <p>Church Center App</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• **Please Sign Up for Indoor Services on your Church Center App (go to Events), or online: cpc.churchcenter.com/registrations. For assistance, contact Sol@cityreformed.org.• For services INDOORS at WT, please submit the WT Screening Form (tinyurl.com/WTscreening) - one per Sunday per household - on the Sunday morning you attend (not before Sunday).• Before attending, please self-assess the health and recent activities of you and your household (Review "Safe & Sound": tinyurl.com/SafeCRPCSound).• Mandatory **MASK** policy (all over 2 yrs old)• Please maintain social distancing between households.• **CHECK IN WITH A GREETER IN-PERSON upon arrival.**• 9AM Morning Service will Livestreamed.
<p>Open Evening Communion Service 5:00 PM</p> <p>TONIGHT Sun 4/25</p> <p>WT Parking Lot, 5059 Ellsworth Ave, 15213</p> <p>In-person service held OUTDOORS, with communion served (pre-packaged individual cups).</p> <p>Please review instructions for attending at: cityreformed.org/evening-service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>No Advance Sign-Ups required; Check-Ins only.</i>• <u>Please bring your own chairs/blankets to sit on</u>• Please park on the street or along the campus driveways parallel to Ellsworth, Bayard & Morewood. Handicap spots will be reserved near the Ellsworth entry.• For restroom access to the building, WT requires self-assessment screening. Please submit the WT Screening form before entering the building (one form per Sunday per household).	
<p>Serve at City tinyurl.com/ServantCity</p>	<p>One of the main constraints for our reopening plan (e.g. nursery, Children's Church) is to determine how many volunteers are able to help. Please consider serving by completing the "Serve at City" google form: tinyurl.com/ServantCity.</p>
<p>Directory Update</p>	<p>We are currently working on updating our directory. New to City Reformed and interested in being included? Or would you like to update your info? Contact Chrissie@cityreformed.org.</p>

<p>Appreciation for Andy Alexander Send Reflections & Photos by THIS Friday 4/30</p>	<p>Andy Alexander has served our church since the very earliest days of City Reformed as a leader—over 10 years as an elder, as the clerk of session—along the way, he has poured out countless hours in faithful service to our community. Would you join us in thanking him for such selfless service? Contact Chrissie@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Children's Church REOPENS NEXT Sunday 5/2</p>	<p>We will be reopening in-person Children's Church on May 2nd for children ages 4-7 years old during the sermon. Contact Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>B.Y.O.Picnic for Youth Families Sunday 5/2 @ 1:00PM <i>Point State Park</i> 601 Commonwealth Pl 15222</p>	<p>Bring lawn games and either a blanket or chairs. We will meet on the lawn which is located close to the museum. Street parking is available. if you plan to join us or if you have any questions, contact Joe (joe.b@hey.com).</p>
<p>'Mini' Work Day Saturday 5/8 @ 9AM-1PM</p>	<p>Join us at the church building to wrap up some projects. E-mail Gary to sign up or ask questions: building@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Global Missions Prayer Fridays @ 6:30AM tinyurl.com/CRPCmissionsprayer</p>	<p>Join CRPC Missions Committee weekly for 30 min Zoom prayer. Contact Abbey Mae (methodam1@gmail.com) or Susan (susan@thealexanders.ws). Check out our new missions website: cityreformed.org/missions</p>
<p>Vacation Bible School (VBS) <i>Vietnam Veteran's Pavilion, Schenley Park</i> July 26-30 10:30AM-12:30PM tinyurl.com/CRPCVBS21</p>	<p>REGISTRATIONS OPEN for VBS 2021: <i>Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls us Through</i> Children 4 yrs old to rising 5th graders. Sign up as a VBS Child, Youth Crew Leader, or Adult Volunteer. Register online: tinyurl.com/CRPCVBS21 Contact Charis@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Webinar of the Christian Scientific Society (CSS) Sat 5/29 @ 10AM-2PM christianscientific.org</p>	<p><i>"Is there intelligent life in outer space? What are the stakes?"</i> It is open to the public and free, with a suggested donation. Preregistration is required. Contact Dave (snoke@pitt.edu).</p>
<p>Women's Evening Bible Study Mondays @ 6-7:30PM</p>	<p>Join us Monday evenings over Zoom for "Becoming a Women of Purpose." Contact Cathy Taylor (Lawyerdad5@aol.com).</p>
<p>Tuesday Ladies Study Tuesdays @ 10-11:15AM</p>	<p>Ladies, join us Tuesday mornings over Zoom. Contact Tracy (partridge.ta@gmail.com).</p>
<p>Young Adult Women's Fellowship Every other Saturday</p>	<p>This is an informal gathering of women in the Church. The purpose is for us to do life together, get to know each other, and to foster a sense of community. You can expect, zoom conversations, zoom workouts, hikes, service etc. Contact Zenny@cityreformed.org.</p>

(continued on next page)

Youth Group	Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a series of events throughout the spring and summer! Contact Becki@cityreformed.org or Ben@cityreformed.org for info about upcoming events.
NEED: Church Maintenance Position	We are looking to hire a part-time maintenance person for the building (~8 hr/mo). Contact Gary (building@cityreformed.org).
Men's Discipleship Committee	MEN who are interested in discipleship through a mentoring relationship, contact Adam at mdc@cityreformed.org.
Bethany Food Bank and Master's Kitchen Service Thurs @ 9AM - 1PM or 4 - 6PM; Fri @ 12 - 1PM	Volunteer to help transport and package food with Bethany Community Ministries. Contact Donna at Bethany: 412.251.1227 or any of the Deacons@cityreformed.org.
Caring for Each Other and the Deacon's List	Please update the deacons if you have needs or if you have abilities and resources to share with others. Contact Nik (nik@alum.wustl.edu) or any of the deacons.
Make Connections via Online Media	As the Covid-19 restrictions limit our ability to connect with other people, we need to work harder to develop healthy relationships through alternative means. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn more about community groups (CGs) contact Joseph (joseph@cityreformed.org) • To learn about how to connect with other women in the church (including small groups or CGs) contact Sandy (sandy@cityreformed.org) • To learn about men's discipleship programs contact Adam at mdc@cityreformed.org.

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:

- cityreformed.org/community-groups

Specialty Groups meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, and service. For a listing of current groups, please refer to:

- cityreformed.org/prayer--specialty-groups

College Students please refer to campus ministry contacts below:

- CCO at CMU: Nameun Cho (ncho@ccojubilee.org)
- CCO at PPU: Katelyn Spallinger (kspallinger@ccojubilee.org)
- RUF at Pitt: Derek Bates (dbates@ruf.org), Callie Miller (callie.miller@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

Join us in Congratulating the Class of 2021!

<u>High School</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Graduate School</u>
Annika Frick	Christian Cook	Debra Bacon
Sarah Gould	Emily Costea	Molly Crocker
Mei Hommes	Rachel Divaker	Son Van
Ian Schartner	Stetson Fenster	
	Benjamin Graybill	
	Allison Hritz	
	Stephen Imhoff	
	Matthew Kern	
	Calen Robinson	
	Andrew Schartner	
	Kouadio Toukou	

RUF Internship: **Zenny Jua**

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! And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please fill out the visitor's card below or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Visitor's Card

We would love to get to know you. Please contact us at office@cityreformed.org with the following information.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

Prayer Requests

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