



Sunday Evening Service
June 25, 2023

"It is the duty of a good pastor to allure his sheep peacefully and kindly, that they may allow themselves to be governed...Severity, it is true, is sometimes necessary, but we must always set out with gentleness and persevere in it, so long as the hearer shows himself tractable. Severity must be the last resource...We must, insofar as it is within our power, draw men rather than drive them. When mildness has no effect in dealing with those that are stern and refractory, rigor must of necessity be resorted to. Otherwise it will not be moderation, nor equableness of temper, but criminal cowardice."

—John Calvin, Commentary on 2 Corinthians

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – June 25, 2023
Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:28-31

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

Leader Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

People **He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.**

Leader He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

People **Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**

Prayer of Invocation

Trinity Hymnal #53

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

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Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty will do,
If with his love he befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, who with marvelous wisdom hath made thee,
Decked thee with health, and with loving hand guided and stayed thee.
How oft in grief hath not he brought thee relief,
Spreading his wings to o'ershade thee!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly fore'er we adore him.

Trinity Hymnal #421 **Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness**

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
he, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."

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Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.

Call to Confession: Job 38:4-7

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Prayer of Confession:

Father, forgive us for how often our thoughts go astray. Forgive us for petty anger, jealousy at the gifts and blessings of others, lustful fantasies, covetous desires, wanting to be honored by others and fear of man's opinion more than yours, resentment of your commands, rejoicing at the troubles of others, and the host of other ways in which our thoughts are sinful and not honoring to you. Transform us by the renewing of our minds, to see all things by the light of your Word, and to love and want well for others in our inward being, not only with outward show. We thank you that the blood of Christ washes us from all sin, not only outwardly, but inwardly, fully and completely. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Job 19:25-27

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

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).

Trinity Hymnal #308 Jesus Paid It All

I hear the Savior say,
"Your strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray,
find in me your all in all."

*Jesus paid it all,
all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain,
he washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find
your power, and yours alone,
can change the leper's spots,
and melt the heart of stone.

For nothing good have I
whereby your grace to claim —
I'll wash my garments white
in the blood of Calv'ry's lamb.

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And when, before the throne,
I stand in him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
my lips shall still repeat.

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 10:1-6

"Spiritual Warfare in the Realm of Ideas"

-Elder Dave Snoke

I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am humble when face to face with you, but bold toward you when I am away!— ²I beg of you that when I am present I may not have to show boldness with such confidence as I count on showing against some who suspect us of walking according to the flesh. ³For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, ⁶being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Matthew 11:28-30 / "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Matthew 18:15-18 / "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And

if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Luke 12:16-21 / And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Romans 12:2 / 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.

Ephesians 4:11-15 / And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

1 Timothy 4:1 / Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.

Sermon Outline

- 1. We are in a war!**
- 2. Is it our war? Our relation to the leaders of the church**
- 3. How do we fight? The world of ideas**
- 4. Balance—"speaking the truth in love"**
- 5. What is the "punishment"? The Church's authority**

Songs of Thanksgiving

Trinity Hymnal #44 How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

*Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

And when I think that God his son not sparing
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God, how great Thou art

Benediction