



Sunday Evening Service
July 23, 2023

"Out of the cross comes the resurrection. Out of weakness comes real strength."

--Tim Keller

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – July 23, 2023
Presider: Elder Andy Leuenberger

Call to Worship: Isaiah 43:1-4a

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

Leader But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

People **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.**

Leader For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

People **Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you...**

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

I Need Thee Every Hour

(Words & Music: Annie Hawks & Robert Lowry 1872)

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.

*I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is in vain.

I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessèd Son.

I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.

Call to Confession: Philippians 4:10-13

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious God and heavenly Father, we confess that we are often fickle creatures, finding contentedness only when our circumstances are favorable. In difficulty, in trial, and in want, we quickly grow angry, short-tempered, and discontent. Our faith wains and waxes with our emotions and circumstances; Father this ought not to be so. Lead us and establish us on the solid rock of Christ, so that regardless of plenty or want, we may find our satisfaction in you. Teach us, that your power is made perfect in weakness. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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).

God The Uncreated One (King Forevermore)

(Words & Music: Aaron Keyes and Pete James 2016)

God the uncreated One
The Author of salvation
Wrote the laws of space and time
And fashioned worlds to His design
The One whom angel hosts revere
Hung the stars like chandeliers
Numbered every grain of sand
Knows the heart of every man
He is King forever
He is King forever
He is King forevermore

God our fortress and our strength
The Rock on which we can depend
Matchless in His majesty
His power and authority
Unshaken by the schemes of man
Never changing Great I am
Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall
He is faithful through it all
Crown Him King forever
Crown Him King forever
Crown Him King forevermore

Mighty God in mortal flesh
Forsaken by a traitor's kiss
The curse of sin and centuries
Did pierce the lowly Prince of Peace
Lifted high the sinless man
Crucified the spotless Lamb
Buried by the sons of man
Rescued by the Father's hand
To reign as King forever
Reign as King forever
Reign as King forevermore

(continued on next page)

King eternal God of grace
We crown You with the highest praise
Heaven shouts and saints adore
You're holy holy holy Lord
What joy in everlasting life
All is love and faith is sight
Justice rolls and praises rise
At the name of Jesus Christ
King of kings forever
King of kings forever
King of kings forevermore

Scripture & Homily

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

"Paul's Visions and his Thorn"

-Reverend Joseph Bianco

I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses— ⁶though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth; but I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may

rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Jeremiah 9:23 / Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches."

Luke 9:25 / "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

Philippians 3:10/ That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

1 Peter 4:13/ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

2 Peter 1:3/ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.

Song of Thanksgiving

It Is Well With My Soul

(Words: Horatio G. Spafford 1873; Music: Philip P. Bliss 1876)

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blessed assurance control:
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul!

My sin--O the bliss of this glorious thought!--
My sin not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day, when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul!

Benediction