



Sunday Morning Worship
October 27, 2019

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. Please stop by the Welcome Table in the foyer - we would love to meet you! If you would like more information, please fill out one of the info cards on the table, refer to our print newsletter, *City This Month*, or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

The biblical God is no less passionate for justice than the most committed revolutionaries. God is certainly not recommended to those rightly concerned for social justice if God is spelled only l-o-v-e. For the love of the biblical God is *holy* love. It is fire, and it is the warning of the final judgment of fire.

- Frederick Dale Bruner, "Commentary on Matthew"

Please speak to an usher or greeter if you have any questions about the nursery and children's programs.

- *There is a nursery for children infant – 3 during the service.*
- *Cry Room space is available during the service off the foyer and Board Room.*
- *Children's bulletins are available at the side table for those staying in service.*
- *During the sermon, children 4 – 7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church.*

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – October 27, 2019

Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Isaiah 40:3-11

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

Leader A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

People **Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**

Leader And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

People **A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.**

Leader The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.

People **The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.**

Leader Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

People **Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.**

Leader He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms;

People **He will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.**

Prayer of Invocation

Lion and the Lamb

(Words & Music: Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, & Leeland Mooring 2015)

He's coming on the clouds
Kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break
As broken hearts declare His praise
For who can stop the Lord almighty

*Our God is the Lion
The Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power
And fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before Him*

*Our God is the Lamb
The Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world
His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
And every knee will bow before Him*

So open up the gates
Make way before the King of kings
Our God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free
For who can stop the Lord almighty

Who can stop the Lord almighty
Who can stop the Lord almighty
(Repeat)

Psalm 103 | Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

(Words: Henry Francis Lyte 1834; Music: Christopher Miner 1998)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor
To our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same forever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish
Blows the wind and it is gone
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise the high eternal One

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He Knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Widely as His mercy goes.

Angels help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise Him, praise Him,
Praise with us the God of grace.

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16

Poor Sinner Dejected with Fear

(Words: William Gadsby; Music: Katy Bowser & Matthew Perryman Jones 2001)

Poor sinner, dejected with fear,
Unbosom thy mind to the Lamb;
No wrath on His brow He does wear,
Nor will He poor mourners condemn;
His arm of omnipotent grace
Is able and willing to save;
A sweet and a permanent peace
He'll freely and faithfully give.

Come just as thou art, with thy woe,
Fall down at the feet of the Lamb;
He will not, He cannot say, "Go",
But surely will take out thy stain
A fountain is opened for sin,
And thousands its virtues have proved
He'll take thee, and plunge thee therein,
And wash thee from filth in His blood.

The soul that on Jesus relies,
He'll never, no never deceive;
He freely and faithfully gives
More blessings than we can conceive;
Yea, down to old age He will keep,
Nor will He forsake us at last;
He knows and is known by His sheep;
They're His, and He will hold them fast.

Call to Confession: Isaiah 45:22

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 4:24-5:1

... Jesus our Lord... was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism: Gabriel John Isaac, son of Cyril & Melanie Isaac

Question to the Congregation:

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

As offering bags are passed, we ask that members and regular attendees consider contributing as an act of worship. Those who are not a regular part of our church are not expected to participate.

Stronger

(Words & Music: Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan 2007)

There is Love that came for us
Humbled to a sinner's cross
You broke my shame and sinfulness
You rose again victorious

Faithfulness none can deny
Through the storm and through the fire
There is truth that sets me free
Jesus Christ who lives in me

*You are stronger
You are stronger
Sin is broken
You have saved me
It is written
Christ is risen
Jesus You are Lord of all*

No beginning and no end
You're my hope and my defense
You came to seek and save the lost
You paid it all upon the cross

Hosanna

(Words & Music: Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan 2007)

Hosanna, in the highest
Let our King be lifted up
Hosanna

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. The leaders will bring the children to Children's Church and then back to the worship service after the sermon.

Sermon: Matthew 3:1-12

The Gospel of Matthew Part 1: The Promised King

"John Prepares the Way" - Reverend Matthew Koerber

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

1 Thessalonians 1:9 / For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God...

Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q 87. What is repentance that leads to life?

A. Repentance that leads to life is a saving grace by which a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin and awareness of the mercy of God in Christ, turns from it to God with grief and hatred of his sin, purposing and working constantly for a new obedience

Songs of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

Take My Life and Let It Be

(Words: Frances R. Havergal 1874; Music: Henri A. Cesar Malan 1823)

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise. (2x)

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee. (2x)

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from thee. (2x)

Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. (2x)

Take my will and make it thine;
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
It shall be thy royal throne. (2x)

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee. (2x)

Psalm 72 | Hail to The Lord's Anointed

(Words: James Montgomery 1821; Music: Sandra McCracken 2012)

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever,
That Name to us is Love.

Prayer

Announcements

At the beginning of announcements parents are dismissed to pick up their children from nursery.

Benediction

Tonight's Evening Service: Reverend John McCombs will be preaching "Created Good & Entrusted to You" on Genesis 1:1-2:1.