



Sunday Morning Worship
December 15, 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

Tirian looked round again and could hardly believe his eyes. There was the blue sky overhead, and grassy country spreading as far as he could see in every direction, and his new friends all round him laughing.

"It seems, then," said Tirian, smiling himself, "that the stable seen from within and the stable seen from without are two different places."

"Yes," said the Lord Digory. "Its inside is bigger than its outside."

"Yes," said Queen Lucy. "In our world too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world."

- C. S. Lewis, "The Last Battle" (The Chronicles of Narnia)

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 – December 15, 2019
Presider: Elder Andy Leuenberger

Call to Worship: Micah 5:2-5

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

Leader But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

People **Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.**

Leader And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

People **And he shall be their peace.**

Prayer of Invocation

O Sing A Song of Bethlehem

(Words: Louis F. Benson 1889; Music: English Traditional)

O sing a song of Bethlehem,
Of shepherds watching there,
And of the news that came to them
From angels in the air.
The light that shone on Bethlehem
Fills all the world today.
Of Jesus' birth and peace on earth
The angels sing away.

(continued on next page)

O sing a song of Nazareth,
Of sunny days of joy;
O sing of fragrant flowers' breath,
And of the sinless boy.
For now the flowers of Nazareth
In every heart may grow.
Now spreads the fame of his dear name
On all the winds that blow.

O sing a song of Galilee,
Of lake and woods and hill,
Of him who walked upon the sea
And bade its waves be still.
For though, like waves on Galilee,
Dark seas of trouble roll,
When faith has heard the Master's word,
Falls peace upon the soul.

O sing a song of Calvary,
Its glory and dismay,
Of him who hung upon the tree,
And took our sins away.
For he who died on Calvary
Is risen from the grave,
And Christ, our Lord, by heaven adored,
Is mighty now to save.

Advent Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Psalm 27 | The Everlasting

(Words & Music: Fellowship Church 2010)

The Lord is my light and salvation
Whom shall I fear, of whom shall I be afraid?
The Lord is the strength of my life,
Whom shall I fear, of whom shall I be afraid?

I will wait for you, I will wait for you.
I will wait for you, I will wait for you.

I will remain confident in this
I will see the goodness of the Lord
I will remain confident in this
I will see the goodness of the Lord

We set our hope on You.
We set our hope on Your love.
We set our hope on the Lord,
Who is the everlasting God.
You are the everlasting God

O Day of Peace - Come to Him

(Words: Carl Daw 1982; Music: Josh Garrels 2016)

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
Guide us to justice, truth, and love
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,
Our hearts from envy find release,
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,
Nor shall the fierce devour the small
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,
A little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,
All creatures find their true accord
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,
For all the earth shall know the Lord

Come to Him with all your heart
Come and lay your burdens down

For peace He came to give
And Joy shall be the crown
And Joy shall be the crown

Call to Confession: Ephesians 2:17-19

And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...

Prayer of Confession: Adapted from "Resting on God," *The Valley of Vision*

O God most high and most glorious, you are forever at perfect peace. We need to see your greatness, because we are toiling, troubled and distressed. You have no fear of completing your perfect plans for your power knows no limit and your goodness is not stained. You bring order out of chaos and victory where I am defeated. You are the Lord God and you reign in absolute power. We come to you as sinners with cares and sorrows, leaving every concern entirely with you - every sin calling for Christ's precious blood. Revive deep spirituality in our hearts and keep us from deception. Let us live near our great shepherd, hearing his voice, following his call and knowing his peace. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Ephesians 2:13-14

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace...

Membership Vows: Emily Gifford

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.

My All in Thee

(Words & Music: Eric J. Marshall 2012; Words: Adapted from Charles Wesley)

When gracious Lord when shall it be
That earth will find her all in Thee
The fullness of Thy promise prove
Seal me with Thy eternal love

Thee only Thee I'm fain to find
I cast the world and sin behind
O my Redeemer hear this plea
And let me find my all in Thee

*Show me Your way my love my Lord
Draw me to grace so strong and sure
I run to Your mercy where I am free
Let me find my all in Thee*

Lord I am blind be Thou my sight
Lord I am weak be Thou my might
A helper of the helpless be
And let me find my all in Thee

Please mend my soul my frame my life
A contrite heart Thou won't despise
Take now this pain and misery
And let me find my all in Thee

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 6:1-18

"Spiritual Integrity" - Reverend Matt Koerber

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹Pray then like this:

"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread,
¹²and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

¹⁶And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 99. What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer, but the special rule of direction is the form of prayer that Christ taught his disciples, commonly called the *Lord's prayer*.

Q. 100. What does the preface of the Lord's prayer teach us?

A. The preface of the Lord's prayer, which is, "Our Father who is in heaven," teaches us to draw near to God with a full holy reverence and confidence, and as children who draw near to a father able and ready to help us. Also (in using the plural *our*), it teaches us that we should pray with and for others.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Please stand for the final songs if you are able.

Who Is This So Weak and Helpless

(Words: William W. How 1867; Music: Christopher Miner 1997)

Who is this, so weak and helpless,
Child of lowly Hebrew maid,
Rudely in a stable sheltered,
Coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation,
Who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlast—ing,
And to everlasting God.

Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,
Walking sadly life's hard way,
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place prepar—ing,
Where no tear can dim the eye.

Who is this? Behold him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected,
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, Who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy ven—geance
All His foes beneath His throne.

Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world scoffs and scorns,
Numbered with the malefactors,
Torn with nails, and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God Who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden ci—ty,
Reigning everlastingly.

Joy To The World

(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: Lowell Mason's 1800's adaption of George Handel's "Messiah" 1742)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer

Announcements

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

Benediction