



**Sunday Evening Service
December 22, 2019**

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. Please feel free to stick around after the service and ask questions about who we are and what we do! If you would like more information, please refer to our print newsletter, *City This Month*, or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

When people say, "I know God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself," they mean that they have failed an idol, whose approval is more important than God's.

- Timothy Keller

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM
Twentieth Century Club
4201 Bigelow Blvd.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Oakland)

Church Office (Open Tues - Fri)

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
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Sunday Evening Worship Service

6:00PM
3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207 (Greenfield)

Donations

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

Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Worship – December 22, 2019

Presider: Elder Andy Alexander

Call to Worship: Hebrews 4:12-16

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

Leader For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

People **And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

Leader Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

People **Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Prayer of Invocation

O Come O Come Emmanuel

(Words: French Mass 1400's; Music: Veni Emmanuel, Chant)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

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Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou Son of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

(Words & Music: African-American Spiritual)

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. _____

Catechism Readings: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 25. How does Christ carry out the office of a priest?

A. Christ carries out the office of a priest in offering up himself as a sacrifice one time, to satisfy divine justice and to reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Call to Confession: 1 Peter 2:9-11

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God and heavenly Father, by Christ's priestly work, we are presented blameless and spotless before the throne. We struggle with guilt, yet know that in Christ our guilt is removed. We struggle with shame, yet know in Christ that we are given dignity and sonship. We struggle with failure and imperfection, yet know that our savior's perfection covers us. Help us in our confession, that we may both fully confess our sin and fully receive the absolution that only a perfect priest can offer. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 8:1-2

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

Membership Vows: David Witmer

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We do not take a formal offering in our evening service. If you feel led to contribute as an act of worship, an offering box is available in the back corner of the sanctuary.

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Hebrews 7:11-28

"Do I Need a Priest?" - Reverend Joseph Bianco

Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? ¹²For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. ¹³For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

¹⁵This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷For it is witnessed of him,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

²⁰And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, ²¹but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

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“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
‘You are a priest forever.’”

²²This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Songs of Thanksgiving

Before the Throne of God Above

(Words: Charitie Lees Bancroft; Music: Vikki Cook 1997)

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart:
I know that while in Heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself, I cannot die,
My soul is purchased with His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.

Joyful Joyful We Adore You

(Words: Henry van Dyke 1907; Melody: Ludwig van Beethoven 1824; Adaptation: Daniel Snoko 2018)

Joyful joyful we adore You
God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You
Op'ning to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness
Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness
Fill us with the light of day

All Your works with joy surround You
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays
Stars and angels sing around You
Center of unbroken praise
Field and forest vale and mountain
Flow'ry meadow flashing sea
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally

You are giving and forgiving
Ever blessing ever blest
Well-spring of the joy of living
Ocean-depth of happy rest
Loving Father, Christ our Brother
May Your Spirit in us shine
Teach us how to love each other
Lift us to Your joy divine

Mortals join the mighty chorus
With the morning stars begin
God's own love is reigning o'er us
Humble love binds all in Him
Christ we echo ever singing
Victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music we are bringing
In the triumph song of life

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction
