



Sunday Evening Service
March 8, 2020

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 Move*, or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

Eeyore, the old grey Donkey, stood by the side of the stream, and looked at himself in the water.

"Pathetic," he said. "That's what it is. Pathetic."

He turned and walked slowly down the stream for twenty yards, splashed across it, and walked slowly back on the other side. Then he looked at himself in the water again.

"As I thought," he said. "No better from THIS side. But nobody minds. Nobody cares. Pathetic, that's what it is."

There was a crackling noise in the bracken behind him, and out came Pooh.

"Good morning, Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Good morning, Pooh Bear," said Eeyore gloomily. "If it IS a good morning," he said. "Which I doubt," said he.

"Why, what's the matter?"

"Nothing, Pooh Bear, nothing. We can't all, and some of us don't. That's all there is to it."

"Can't all WHAT?" said Pooh, rubbing his nose.

"Gaiety. Song-and-dance. Here we go round the mulberry bush. ...I'm not complaining, but There It Is."

- A.A. Milne

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM

Winchester Thurston School

Entrance: 5059 Ellsworth Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15213 (Oakland)

Church Office (Open Tues - Fri)

3929 Coleman St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

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w: cityreformed.org

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 – March 8, 2020
Presider: Reverend Nameun Cho

Call to Worship: Psalm 16:1-2, 5-6, 9-11

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

Leader Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." ...

People **The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance...**

Leader Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

People **You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Prayer of Invocation

Solid Rock (My Hope Is Built)

(Words: Edward Mote 1834; Music: William Batchelder Bradbury 1863)

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' Name.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

*On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.*

His oath, His covenant, His blood,
Support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

O Come To The Altar

(Words & Music: Christopher Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, & Wade Joye 2015)

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

*O come to the altar
The Father's arms are open wide
Forgiveness was bought with
The precious blood of Jesus Christ*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy
From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

Catechism Readings: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

A. The souls of believers at their death are made perfect in holiness and immediately pass into glory; their bodies, being still united to Christ, rest in their graves until the resurrection.

Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

A. At the resurrection, believers will be raised up in glory, will be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the day of judgment, and will be made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity.

Call to Confession: Isaiah 57:1-2, 13

The righteous man perishes, and no one lays it to heart; devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from calamity; he enters into peace; they rest in their beds who walk in their uprightness... When you cry out, let your collection of idols deliver you! The wind will carry them all off, a breath will take them away. But he who takes refuge in me shall possess the land and shall inherit my holy mountain.

Prayer of Confession

Father, we live in a world of wonder and mystery. There are things beyond our understanding. We can only barely understand the supernatural realities which infuse our lives. We are thankful for what you have clearly revealed. We give praise to you for Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord. He defeated death in his resurrection. He paid our debt and cancelled the record of our sin. He defeated our spiritual enemies in ways we cannot fully understand. In all of this he is victorious. Forgive our failure to trust him fully and to worship him with all of our hearts. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Membership Vows: Felipe Diez

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 25

(Words & Music: Joe Day 2000)

Good and upright
Are you Lord
You teach us sinners
In your ways
Repeat

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways
Repeat

All your ways are
Loving, faithful, Lord
To those who
Seek your face
Repeat

You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways
Repeat

You guide the humble
In what is right
And instruct them
In your ways
You give grace to
The humble hearted
And instruct them
In your ways

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: Philippians 1:12-28a

"To Live Is Christ, to Die Is Gain" - Reverend Joseph Bianco

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ,

so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Romans 5:4-5 / ...and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

1 Corinthians 15:20-24 / But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

Sermon Outline

1. **Sermon Introduction:**
 - a. Bodily death and resurrection – WSC 37, 38
2. Reading
3. Prayer

Proposition: Nothing is hopeless in the life of a Christian.

Our fallen condition: Fear that God has abandoned us in the "prisons" of life.

Because nothing is hopeless in the life of a Christian, Paul shows us three contrasting themes that you might think would create despair, but don't.

1. Imprisonment and proclamation (vv.12-18)
 2. Deliverance in life or in death (vv.19-24)
 3. Standing firm when confronted with fear (vv.Mem25-28a)
 4. **Conclusion:** Jesus' life was for us, and his death, our gain.
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Song of Thanksgiving

Christ Is Risen

(Words & Music: Mia Fieldes & Matt Maher 2009)

Let no one caught in sin
Remain inside the lie of inward shame
But fix our eyes upon the cross
And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us
Freely You've bled for us

*Christ is risen from the dead
Trampling over death by death
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave
Christ is risen from the dead
We are one with Him again
Come awake come awake
Come and rise up from the grave*

Beneath the weight of all our sin
You bowed to none but heaven's will
No scheme of hell no scoffer's crown
No burden great can hold You down
In strength You reign
Forever let Your church proclaim

O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
The glory of God has defeated the night
Singing O death where is your sting
O hell where is your victory
O church come stand in the light
Our God is not dead
He's alive He's alive

Prayer

Announcements

Benediction