



Sunday Evening Communion Service
October 20, 2024

"That is true indeed; but he which doth not receive those whom God offereth, and shutteth the gate which God openeth, he hindereth the work of God so much as in him lieth; as we say at this day, that those men make war against God."

- John Calvin

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – October 20, 2024

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Isaiah 32:12-18

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

Leader Beat your breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine, for the soil of my people growing up in thorns and briers, yes, for all the joyous houses in the exultant city.

People **For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks;**

Leader Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.

People **Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.**

Leader And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

People **My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.**

Prayer of Invocation

Holy Holy Holy

#100

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

The Church's One Foundation #347

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the Word:
From heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
Men see her sore oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder,
By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping,
Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
Shall be the morn of song.

The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain, and cherish,
Is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her,
And false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor
She ever shall prevail.

'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.

Call to Confession: Isaiah 53:4-6

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Prayer of Confession: *From the Lausanne Covenant, Section 1*

Father, we confess our willful disobedience and stubborn sin. Like sheep we have gone astray.

We look to Jesus our Lord and savior. He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. Like a lamb, he was led to the slaughter. He was pierced for our transgressions, and upon him was laid the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, he poured out his soul to death, and he was cut off from the land of the living. He bore the sins of many.

Help us to experience the peace that he has brought to us, and bring healing through his wounds. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 32:1-5

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

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)

Amazing Grace

#460

Amazing grace!— how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
A life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Scripture & Homily: Acts 10:45-11:18

"The Party Falls Silent"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

^{11:1}Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ²So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, ³“You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” ⁴But Peter began and explained it to them in order: ⁵“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. ⁶Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ ⁸But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ ⁹But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ ¹⁰This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. ¹²And the Spirit told me to go

with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; ¹⁴he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" ¹⁸When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Mark 11:27-28 / And they came again to Jerusalem. And as he was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to him, and they said to him, "By what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?"

Romans 6:15 / What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

Romans 10:12-13 / For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Galatians 5:1 / For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Communion

City Reformed Church invites all baptized Christians who are willing to forsake their sins and trust Christ alone for salvation, and who are members of congregations which proclaim the gospel, to receive Holy Communion with us. Parents with non-communicating children are encouraged to bring their children forward during communion. The elders will lay a hand on their head and briefly pray for them as they serve you.

Communion is served with wine and with grape juice. The wine is placed in the two outer circles of the communion tray, and the grape juice is placed in the inner circle. Because Jesus used wine during the first communion service, we believe using real wine is beneficial. However, participants are welcome to choose. There is also gluten-free bread available on each plate.

Please join us in song as we celebrate Christ dwelling with his church in the sacrament of communion.

Songs of Communion

There Is A Fountain #253

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Immanuel's veins;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains:
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away:
Washed all my sins away,
Washed all my sins away;
And there have I, as vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.

E'er since by faith I saw the stream
Your flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die:
And shall be till I die,
And shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be till I die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song
I'll sing your pow'r to save,
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave:
Lies silent in the grave,
Lies silent in the grave;
When this poor lisping, stamm'ring tongue
Lies silent in the grave.

Dear dying Lamb, your precious blood
Shall never lose its pow'r,
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more:
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved to sin no more.

Doxology

#731

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
(repeat)
Amen

Benediction

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

New Nursing Area for Mothers	For moms needing a private space to nurse babies or pump milk, there is a small office space available for use. It is located on the second floor next to Room #112. The diaper changing table has now been placed in the corner stairwell next to Rm. G9.
Fall Hayride & Maze Saturday, October 26 3-5:30 PM	Join us for our annual Hayride event at Gearhard Farms (Murrysville)! There will be a bonfire and reserved field space for us, with tractor hayrides. Light refreshments will be provided! \$5 per person and \$20 for families. Please register & pay easily at https://tinyurl.com/2024CRPCHayride .
Shepherd's Heart Clothing Drive November 10 After Church	There has been a greater need since a rise in homelessness post-pandemic for men's and women's winter clothing including: winter coats, hoodies, sweaters, hats and scarves, gloves, new thermal socks and underwear. Donations will be collected on Sunday, November 10. Please have all donations cleaned, folded, and placed in a heavy duty black garbage bag or a lidless box. For questions please contact Mark Prascak @ (412) 576-4961.
Thanksgiving Dinner Saturday, November 16 RMU Sports Island Center 7600 Grand Ave, 15225 5:30 PM	Join us for our annual, church-wide, potluck-style dinner! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share or sign up to be one of the needed 11 folks to roast a turkey! Many hands are needed to help set-up, greet, serve food, and tear down in order to make this event a success. Sign-ups https://tinyurl.com/2024THXSignup . Contact chrisie@cityreformed.org for more info.
Deacons Fund	Each year we take a special collection for our deacons' fund at the Thanksgiving dinner. Please prayerfully consider making a generous contribution at this time.
Women's Ministry Need	We still have an opening for the full-time Women's Ministry Director position. The job description has been slightly revised since its initial posting and can be found on our website. If you or someone you know would like to be considered for the position, please email nameun@cityreformed.org .

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All scripture verses are the English Standard Version (ESV), unless otherwise noted.