



**Sunday Evening Communion Service
November 17, 2024**

*"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."*

- Edward Mote 1834

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – November 17, 2024

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Proverbs 3:1-8

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

Leader My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

People **Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.**

Leader Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

People **Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.**

Prayer of Invocation

Isaiah 55 | So Shall His Word

(Words & Music: Liz Vice & Sandra McCracken)

So shall his Word that goes out, that goes out
Shall not return, not return empty

*It shall make a name for the LORD
It shall make a name for the LORD
Let the Light make a name for the LORD
In the dark*

Come all who thirst, laborers, lay it down
Come seek the Lord while he may be found

We shall go out, out with joy led in peace
Join in the song all creation sing

*We shall make a name for the LORD
We shall make a name for the LORD
Let the Light make a name for the LORD
In the dark*

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

Call to Confession: Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 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. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, we confess together that we are unprepared. When you come in glory all that is crooked will be made straight, all that is high will be brought down, and the uneven ground will be made level. Father, we confess that we have lived crooked lives full of corrupted desires, twisted actions, and uneven ways. We confess that we have not prepared ourselves for your arrival, and we are found wanting. We confess that even our desires have been corrupted, and we don't long for you as we ought. Forgive us kind Father, and make straight all that is twisted in our hearts. Forgive us and restore us, we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Hosea 14:4-8

I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit.

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)

All My Ways

(Words & Music: Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Dustin Smith, and Michael Farren 2016)

In days of peace and days of rest
In times of loss and loneliness
Though rich or poor, your word is true
That all my ways are known to you

No trial has come beyond your hand
No step I walk beyond your plan
The path is dark outside my view
Still all my ways are known to you

*And O, what peace that I have found
Wherever I may be
For all my ways are known to you
Hallelujah, they are known to you*

I do not fear the final night
For death will be the door to life
You take my hand and lead me through
For all my ways are known to you

Open up my eyes so I may see
That you have made these ways for me
Open up my eyes so I may see
That you, my God, will walk with me

Scripture & Homily: Acts 12:25-13:12

"Devil's Magic and Government Officials"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

^{13:1}Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. ⁶When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? ¹¹And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹²Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Acts 8:9 / But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great.

Acts 8:17 / Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

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-communing 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

Come Ye Sinners

(Words: Joseph Hart 1759; Music: S Harmony Folk 1835; Arr.: Daniel Snoke 2018)

Come ye sinners, poor and needy
Weak and wounded, sick and sore
Jesus ready stands to save you
Full of pity love and pow'r
He is able, He is able
He is willing doubt no more

Come ye thirsty, come and welcome
God's free bounty, glorify
True belief and true repentance
Ever'y grace that brings you nigh
Without money, without money
Come to Jesus Christ and buy _____

Let not conscience make you linger
Nor of fitness fondly dream
All the fitness He requireth
Is to feel your need of Him
This He gives you, this He gives you
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Come ye weary, heavy laden
Bruised and broken by the Fall
If you tarry 'till you're better
You will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Agonizing in the garden
Lo! your Master prostrate lies
On the bloody tree behold Him
Hear Him cry before he dies
"It is finished, it is finished"
Sinner, will not this suffice?

Lo! incarnate God ascended
Pleads the merit of His blood
Venture on Him, venture wholly
Let no other trust intrude
None but Jesus, none but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good.

Saints and angels joined in concert
Sing the praises of the Lamb
While the blissful seats of heaven
Sweetly echo with His name
"Hallelujah, hallelujah!"
Sinners here may do the same.

Doxology

(Words: Thomas Ken 1674; Music: Louis Bourgeois 1510)

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. Amen

Benediction