



Sunday Morning Worship
Advent Week 4
December 22, 2024

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you would like more information, please contact us at office@cityreformed.org or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

"For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel."

– John 5:20

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM
Winchester Thurston Auditorium
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-720-7014
office@cityreformed.org
cityreformed.org

Welcome
Information:



Sunday Evening Worship Service

5:30PM
Greenfield Chapel
3929 Coleman Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)
OR cityreformed.org/give
Mail: Church Office address above "Attn:
Bookkeeper" (please make checks
payable to City Reformed Presbyterian
Church)

Morning Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 22, 2024

Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:2-6

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

Leader The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

People **For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.**

Leader For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

People **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Prayer of Invocation

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Words & Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard & Charles Wesley 1744)

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;--
From our fears and sins release us:
Let us find our rest in thee;--
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art
Dear desire of eve'ry nation,
Joy of eve'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Day-spring from on high, appear;--
Come thou promised Son of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear;--
O'er the hills the angels singing
News glad tidings of a birth
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end;--
By his life he brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend;--
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King;--
Born to reign in us forever;
Now thy gracious Kingdom bring;--
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Advent Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

My All in Thee

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

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

Joy to the World

(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: Lowell Mason's 1800's Adaptation 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.

Call to Confession: Hebrews 3:7-12

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, where your fathers put me to the test and saw my works for forty years. Therefore I was provoked with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart; they have not known my ways.' As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest.'" Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

Prayer of Confession: "Resting on God", Valley of Vision, Arthur Bennett

Oh God, I come to You as a sinner with cares and sorrows, to leave every concern entirely to You - every sin which calls for Christ's precious blood. Revive deep spirituality in my heart. Let me live near to the great Shepherd: hear His voice, know its tones, and follow its calls. Keep me from deception by causing me to abide in truth. Keep me from harm by helping me to walk in the power of the Spirit. Give me intense faith in the eternal truth. Take the things that I know in my head and burn them into my heart. Let me never be ashamed of the truth of the gospel, that I may bear its reproach and live in a way that vindicates it. Let me see Jesus as its essence and find in it the power of the Spirit. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 4:14-16

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. 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.

Member Testimony: Will Girard

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Cards and donations can be placed in offering bags. Giving can also be directed online (cityreformed.org/give) or sent via mail (3929 Coleman St., 15207).

Peace

(Words & Music: Sherri Youngward 2008)

Peace, be still.
Lay all your worries down.
Be still, O My soul
Our God is in control.

And if God is for us,
Then whom shall I fear?
For our God is with us
So lay down, be still.
He is God.

Hallelujah!
Our God has overcome.
Hallelujah!
Our Lord, Jesus Christ has won.
He is God.

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-7 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Please pick them up after the sermon.

Sermon: Colossians 1:13-20; Fourth Sunday of Advent 2024: "Pleased to Dwell"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Isaiah 7:14 / Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Luke 2:11 / For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

John 1:1 / In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Creedal Response: Westminster Confession of Faith 8.2

ii. **The Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon Him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.**

Songs of Thanksgiving

This I Believe - Apostles' Creed

(Words & Music: Ben Fielding & Matt Crocker 2014)

Our Father everlasting
The All-creating One, God Almighty
Through your Holy Spirit
Conceiving Christ the Son
Jesus our Savior

*I believe in God our Father
I believe in Christ the Son
I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is Three in One
I believe in the resurrection
That we will rise again
For I believe in the name of Jesus*

Our judge and our defender
Suffered and crucified
Forgiveness is in you
Descended into darkness
You rose in glorious life
Forever seated high

*I believe in life eternal
I believe in the virgin birth
I believe in the saints' communion
And in your holy Church
I believe in the resurrection
When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the name of Jesus*

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

(Words: Charles Wesley 1739; Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840)

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King*

Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
Now display thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore;
Let us Thee, though lost, regain,
Thee, the life, of mortal Man:
O! to all thyself impart,
Give to each believing heart.

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings
Ris'n with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>Nursing Area for Mothers</p>	<p>A private space is now available to nurse babies or pump milk, on the 2nd floor by Room #112. The changing table has now been placed in the corner stairwell by Rm. G9.</p>
<p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tuesday, December 24 4:30 PM Greenfield Chapel</p>	<p>Join us for our annual candlelight service on Christmas Eve. To volunteer for set-up, teardown, ushering, or greeting, please contact nameun@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Nursery Training January 10 or January 11 Greenfield Chapel</p>	<p>If you serve in the Nursery (or are interested in learning how you can join us in this ministry), please plan to attend our mandatory training on EITHER Friday, January 10th from 7:30-9 PM OR Saturday, January 11th 9-10:30 AM. Reach out to becki@cityreformed.org with any questions!</p>
<p>Ethiopia Missions Team January 26 - February 1</p>	<p>We are sending a short-term medical team to Ethiopia in a month! (Jan 26-Feb 1) Our team is 12 people total, seven of whom are from City. Please pray for our trip and consider giving to City with "Ethiopia" designated to support it. Please also consider donating new, small, packable toys for the 100+ children the team will work with; e.g. new stuffies (less than 5") are much beloved! Contact Alex Watt (alex@alexcwatt.com) with any questions.</p>
<p>Snow Camp Friday, January 31 - Sunday, February 2 Ligonier Camp & Conference Center</p>	<p>Inviting all of our MS and HS students to join us for a fun weekend reflecting on what it looks like to be rooted in Christ, not captive to the world (Col 2:6-8). Contact molly@cityreformed.org for further details!</p>
<p>Save the Date for VBS! July 21-25, 2025 300 Saline Street</p>	<p>Mark your calendars for VBS this summer - hosted at our NEW building! And join us in praying for the preparations that are already underway. We can't wait to see you there!</p>
<p>Welcome Activities Committee (WAC) Please consider joining us!</p>	<p>WAC is dedicated to fostering a warm and inclusive environment for all members of our congregation. Our mission is to create engaging and meaningful activities that provide a sense of belonging and allow everyone to thrive and contribute to Christ's kingdom. For more information, contact WAC@cityreformed.org.</p>
<p>Rose</p>	<p>The rose on the front table is in memory of Griffin Kozminski.</p>

Regular Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>College Shuttle: Sundays</p>	<p>9:30AM- PPU: 201 Wood St; Contact: Daphne: drriddl@pointpark.edu 9:45AM- PITT: 4024 O'Hara St; Contact: Rebekka: rjh152@pitt.edu or David: DGT12@pitt.edu (No shuttle today, 12/29, or 1/5. Resumes 1/12)</p>
<p>Agora Forum: Every other Monday 7:00 PM 300 Saline Street</p>	<p>We discuss theology and popular culture topics from a Christian perspective. We will be discussing Christianity and Culture this Monday. Contact Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)</p>
<p>Global Missions Prayer: Monday @ 9:00 PM</p>	<p>No Global Missions Prayer meeting this week or next due to the holidays.</p>
<p>Bean Sprouts Ministry: 3rd Wednesday 12:00 PM</p>	<p>The January Bean Sprouts meeting will be Wednesday, January 15 at noon in the Greenfield Chapel. We will start the year reviewing concepts from the book, "A Praying Life," by Paul E. Miller. Contact Joe Stehle: joestehle@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Wednesday Prayer Meetings: 8:30-9:30 AM</p>	<p>All are welcome to join our Wednesday prayer community. We begin with Scripture, move to a general opening prayer of adoration/thanksgiving, then share specific prayer requests and pray through them. Held on Zoom at: https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer.</p>
<p>Youth Group: Biweekly Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM Greenfield Chapel</p>	<p>Youth Group will resume in the new year on January 15th. We invite all middle and high school students to join us as we study God's Word together!</p>
<p>Young Adult Women's Discipleship Group: Bi-Weekly Wednesdays 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Meets on the North Side and Squirrel Hill. Fall study: Jesus' 7 "I Am" statements in the book of John. Contact Lindsay Karr for more info: lindsay.karr@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Mommies' Discipleship Group: 2nd & 4th Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00 PM</p>	<p>Join us for a time of fellowship and encouragement as we pray for one another and study the book of Luke. Contact Sandy for more info: scssnoke@comcast.net.</p>

College Students please refer to campus ministry contacts below:

- CMU: Chris Bollinger (cwbollinger@gmail.com)
- CCO at PPU: Matt Koerber (pastormatt@cityreformed.org)
- RUF at Pitt: Gavin Breeden & Callie Miller (gavin.breeden@ruf.org, callie.miller@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

Specialty Groups meet in particular areas of interest for Bible study, fellowship, learning, and service.

- **Agora Forum** (amain8511@gmail.com)
- **Men's New Hope** (Joseph@cityreformed.org)
- **Mommies' Group** (Sandy@cityreformed.org)
- **Wednesday Morning Prayer** (Nameun@cityreformed.org)
- **Men's Discipleship Committee** (mdc@cityreformed.org)
- **Young Women's Discipleship Group** (lindsay.karr@gmail.com)
- **Ultimate Frisbee** (danielrtoney@gmail.com)
- **Board Game Gatherings** (gatcheson@gmail.com)

Leadership

Elders

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