



Sunday Evening Service
December 22, 2024

"When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you."

- John 16:21-22

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Worship – December 22, 2024

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:7-13

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

Leader Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

People **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Leader Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

People **Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

Leader Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

People **Let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Leader Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

People **He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 96 | Christ Is the Lord Redeemer and King

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko 2024)

Sing to the LORD,
Sing a new song
To God whom the glory of nations belong
Trust in the LORD and not empty praise
For Great is the LORD
And great are his ways

Give to the LORD O drifter and saint
Give to the LORD both glory and strength
Bring him your life
And make it his throne
Offer your heart
And enter his home

*Say the LORD reigns,
He's breaking the curse
Here the LORD brings
His kingdom to earth
Now The LORD reigns!
With heaven we sing
Christ is the Lord
Redeemer and King*

The heavens rejoice
With earth and the sea
They join in the song of true jubilee
Creation proclaims
The day of the Lord
And kingdom shalom
Will soon be restored

*Say the LORD reigns!
All nations and tribes
Here the LORD reigns,
The church as his bride
Now The LORD reigns!
Let everyone sing
Christ is the Lord
Redeemer and King*

(continued on next page)

We shout to the Lord
On with one accord
All nations will sing
Redeemer and King

His good good justice
Is fixed like the mountains
His faithfulness
And mercy are boundless

God With Us

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan 2012)

You have come to bring peace
To be love, to be nearer to us
You have come to bring life
To be light, to shine brighter in us.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

*Our Deliverer, you are Savior
In your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our redemption
God with us, you are God with us.*

You have come to be hope
To this world for your honor and name.
You have come to take sin
To bear shame and to conquer the grave.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

You are here and
You are holy
We are standing
In your glory (Lord)

Call to Confession: Genesis 3:8-10

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Prayer of Confession: Psalm 143:1-2, 7-11

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you... Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 35:10

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Words: Phillips Brooks 1868; Melody: English Traditional "Forest Green")

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The Everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
The wond'rous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Scripture & Homily: Isaiah 12 "Good News of Great Joy"

- Elder Ben Chidester

You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ²"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. ⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Isaiah 9:2-3 / 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.

Luke 2:8-14 / And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

John 15:11 / These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be full.

1 Peter 1:8-9 / Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though
you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is
inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith,
the salvation of your souls.

Song of Thanksgiving

Angels We Have Heard On High

(Words & Music: Unknown 18th Century French Carol)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

Glo--ria in excelsis Deo

Glo--ria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

See within a manger laid
Jesus Lord of heav'n and earth
Mary Joseph lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth

Benediction