



**Sunday Evening Service
December 8, 2024**

"God's Word will never pass away, but looking back to the Old Testament and since the time of Christ, with tears we must say that because of lack of fortitude and faithfulness on the part of God's people, God's Word has many times been allowed to be bent, to conform to the surrounding, passing, changing culture of that moment rather than to stand as the inerrant Word of God judging the form of the world's spirit and the surrounding culture of that moment."

- Francis Schaeffer

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – December 8, 2024
Presider: Elder Luke Kephart

Call to Worship: Psalm 45:1, 4-7

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

Leader My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

People **In your majesty ride out victoriously for the cause of truth and meekness and righteousness; let your right hand teach you awesome deeds!**

Leader Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; the peoples fall under you.

People **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;**

Leader You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

People **Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 72 | Hail to The Lord's Anointed

(Words: James Montgomery 1821; Music: Sandra McCracken 2012)

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove.
His Name shall stand forever,
That Name to us is Love.

Mary's Song (Our King Of Peace)

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2014)

My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God
My Savior has seen his servant in need
And behold the great things he has done

*Oh behold my Savior has come
And my soul will tell of his praise
For he who is strong has come to the weak
And at last he will reign as our King of Peace*

He scatters the proud and rich
He lifts up the humble and weak
The kings of the earth he casts from their thrones
And the hungry he welcomes to feast

From now to the end of time
The nations will know me as blest
For God has made new his promise of love
And mercy through Abraham's seed

Call to Confession: Psalm 2:1-6

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Prayer of Confession:

Father, we confess to you that we have often set our sights too low. We have focused on money, entertaining ourselves, and avoiding pain. Like animals reacting to stimuli, we have often reacted to our passions and anger and pleasures without thought. Like mice, we have scurried in fear before the powers of this world.

Lord, lift up our eyes. We were made in your image, for something far greater. Your kingdom is an eternal and glorious kingdom, populated by people from every language, and tribe and nation. You have planned all history to culminate in your glorious city, the New Jerusalem, and we play a role in that story. All creation cries out to praise you, the Holy One. Change us, O Lord, to remember that our citizenship is in heaven and we are not mere animals or slaves of this world, for you have redeemed us through the blood of your Son. We praise you, for you alone are worthy for us to fix our eyes on. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

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)

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*

Scripture & Homily: Isaiah 9:1-7

"Jesus as the King: How Much Hope Should We Have for this World?"

- Elder Dave Snoke

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Matthew 24:6-14 / "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Luke 13:18-21 / He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 / For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Song of Thanksgiving

O Worship The King

(Music: Johann Haydn 1700's; Words: Robert Grant 1833)

O worship the King all-glorious above,
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;
Our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;
Has 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!
While angels delight to hymn you above,
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

Benediction