



Sunday Evening Communion Service
February 16, 2025

"So too, brothers and sisters, let us be willing to revise our judgments. Some convictions about clear doctrine and biblical ethics are non-negotiable. But when it comes to judgment calls based on the application of biblical principle, we should at least be willing to revise our opinions. And that won't be as difficult to do if we maintain brotherly love—love that is patient and kind, love that is not easily provoked, love that bears all things, believes all things, and hopes all things (1 Cor. 13:4–7)."

- by Robert Gonzales Jr. in The Gospel Coalition

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – February 16, 2025

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Psalm 37:5-11

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

Leader Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

People **He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.**

Leader Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!

People **Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**

Leader For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

People **In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there. But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 90 | O God Our Help in Ages Past

(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: William Croft & Tommy Walker 1998)

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

O God You are
You are our help You are our helper
To all generations You will be
Forever and ever
Our Shield and our Eternal Hope
O Lord You are the Ancient of Days
And worthy of our praise

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

The Beauty Of The Heart Of Christ

(Words & Music: Mitch Wong, Timothy Timmons, and Travis Ryan 2023)

May my life carry the heart of Christ
Lord, in all I say and all that I do
Selfless love, lowly in sacrifice
Laying down my pride, nothing to prove

*Now that I have seen, now that I have tasted
Of your mercy and your love divine
May my life be full, full of one thing only
Just the beauty of the heart of Christ
Just the beauty of the heart of Christ*

For the least of these, even my enemies
Who am I to dare, dare to with hold
What I've received forgiveness and grace so free
Let your fire in me never grow cold

Oh, what a privilege
Oh, what an honor it is
No greater joy than this
To carry your heart, carry your heart

Call to Confession: James 4:1-4

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, we confess that we have alienated ourselves from you, and we have alienated ourselves from each other. We find it easier to cut ourselves off from people than to hear disagreements, to be concerned about their needs, and to consider that they are equal in importance to ourselves. We put distance between ourselves and you because we raise ourselves up in our own eyes.

Father, draw us closer to you, for we cannot care for others until you have filled our hearts with your abundance. Jesus, teach us your Gospel once again, that we may not fear to come near to you. Spirit, fill us this day with your love and the knowledge of your grace toward us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: James 4:5-10

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. _____

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)

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

Scripture & Homily: Acts 15:36-41 **"When Christians Disagree"**

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." ³⁷Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Acts 12:12 / When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 13:13 / Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Colossians 4:10 / Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),

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

Holy Spirit

(Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend 2006)

Holy Spirit living Breath of God
Breathe new life into my willing soul
Let the presence of the risen Lord
Come renew my heart and make me whole
Cause your word to come alive in me
Give me faith for what I cannot see
Give me passion for your purity
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit come abide within
May your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least
Gentleness that sows the path of peace
Turn my strivings into works of grace
Breath of God show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit from creation's birth
Giving life to all that God has made
Show your power once again on earth
Cause your church to hunger for your ways
Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see

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.
(repeat)
Amen

Benediction