



Sunday Morning Worship
February 16, 2025

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

"It feels completely ridiculous
That I'm a willing participant
Gazing at the purples and pinks
In the shadow of a bank-sponsored skyline

"Unite against the establishment!"
(While drones transmit the images
To a server farm in the valley
For a culture that'll eat its own insides)

Oh, they wouldn't be your friend if you weren't worth something.
They wouldn't be your friend if you weren't worth something
They wouldn't be your friend if it wasn't worth it
If you didn't have something they could take..."

– Festival Song by Jeff Rosenstock

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 – February 16, 2025

Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

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

Leader For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all,

People **Therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.**

Leader From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.

People **Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.**

Leader Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

People **All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;**

Leader That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

People **Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.**

Leader We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

People **For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

Prayer of Invocation

All Creatures of Our God and King

(Words: St. Francis of Assisi 1225; Music: Lasst Uns Erfreun 16-1900s)

All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
Make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou fire so masterful and bright,
That givest us both warmth and light,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye souls of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God, and on Him cast your care,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise praise the Father praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture Reading: Psalm 65:1-4

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

Trisagion

(Words & Music: Fernando Ortega 2004)

*Ho-ly God
Holy and migh-ty
Ho-ly Immortal One
Have mercy have mercy on us*

Call to Confession: 1 Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, we are thankful that you have called us to yourself, to walk in your light and to know you as our heavenly Father. We thank you also that you have called us to walk together with one another as fellow pilgrims in this world. We thank you that we have the friendship and fellowship of other believers.

But as we reflect on the words of Jesus, calling us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves - we know that we fall short. We have sinned against our neighbors with the words we say and the words we have failed to say. We have transgressed our neighbor in thought and in deed. We have failed to bear the burdens of others and desperately need your grace. Renew us and change us. Grant us the blessing of love and unity. May we begin to see the depth of your love as we live in love together. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Missions Moment: Ethiopia Trip Recap / Andy Warren

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).

Send Me

(Words & Music: Brandon Lake, Jenn Johnson, and Kari Jobe 2020)

If it's bandaging the broken or washing filthy feet
Here I am Lord send me
If it's loving one another even when we don't agree
Here I am Lord send me

If I'm poor or if I'm wealthy I'll serve you just the same
Here I am Lord send me
On the mountain or the valley I will choose to praise
Here I am Lord send me

*If I'm known by how I love
Let my life reflect how much I love you,
I love you
And before you even ask
Oh my answer will be yes because I love you
I love you*

If the truth cuts like an arrow I will say it anyway
Here I am Lord send me
If it's means that they'll reject me Lord I will still obey
Here I am Lord send me

When I'm standing in your glory I'll be glad I chose to say
Here I am Lord send me
Well done good and faithful I live to hear you say
Here I am Lord send me

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: Mark 4:1-20, 26-41

"Gospel Ministry to the College Greenhouse"

- Reverend Derek Bates

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” ⁹And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

¹⁰And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, ¹²so that

“they may indeed see but not perceive,
and may indeed hear but not understand,
lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

¹³And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵And these are the ones along the path, where

the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, ¹⁹but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²⁰But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.” ...

... ²⁶And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd,

they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Additional Scripture

Luke 13:6-9 / And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

John 17:23 / I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

2 Corinthians 2:14-15 / But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing,

Credal Response: 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 8

[We] have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts... So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Your Labor Is Not in Vain

(Words & Music: Isaac Wardell, Paul Zach, & Wendell Kimbrough 2017)

Your labor is not in vain
Though the ground underneath you
Is cursed and stained
Your planting and reaping are never the same
But your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
Though the rocks they cry out
And the sea it may groan
The place of your toil may not seem like a home
But your labor is not unknown

*For I am with you I am with you
I am with you I am with you
For I have called you
Called you by name
Your labor is not in vain*

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth
For all that is old will at last be made new
The vineyards you plant will bear fruit

The houses you labor to build
Will fina'ly with laughter and joy be filled
The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed
And all that is broken be healed

All Glory Be To Christ

(Words & Music: Dustin Kensrue 2012)

Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house, in vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain, tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn, all glory be to Christ

*All glory be to Christ our king, all glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ*

His will be done, his kingdom come, on earth as is above
Who is himself our daily bread, praise him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy the thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet, all glory be to Christ

When on the day the great I Am, the faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us and be our steadfast light
And we shall e'er his people be, all glory be to Christ

*All glory be to Christ our king, all glory be to Christ
His rule and reign we'll ever sing, all glory be to Christ*

Benediction

At tonight's Worship Service, Reverend Joseph Bianco will be preaching from Acts 15:36-41, "When Christians Disagree."

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>Congregational Meeting: TODAY, immediately after service</p>	<p>Join us as we report in on various ministries of CRPC and celebrate what the Lord is doing in the midst of our community.</p>
<p>Ethiopia Trip Report TODAY, 5:30 PM @ Evening Service Greenfield Chapel</p>	<p>Our short-term team to Ethiopia recently returned (February 2). They will share about the trip tonight, February 16, at the evening service. We hope you can come. Thank you for your support!</p>
<p>Men's Retreat February 28 - March 1 Ligonier Camp and Conference Center</p>	<p>Our annual men's retreat is returning to Ligonier Camp and Conference Center from February 28th to March 1st. Save the date for a time of fellowship, growth, and renewal in a beautiful setting. Register here: https://crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2702959</p>
<p>Children's Church Training Greenfield Chapel March 7 or March 8</p>	<p>If you serve in Children's Church (or are interested in learning how you can join us in this ministry), please plan to attend our mandatory training on either Friday March 7th, 7:30-9 PM OR Saturday March 8th, 9-10:30 AM. Reach out to becki@cityreformed.org with any questions!</p>
<p>Save the Date: "Guess Who's Coming for Dinner?" Saturday, March 15, 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Mark your calendars for one of CRPC's favorite events: "Guess Who's Coming for Dinner?" Saturday, March 15th, 6pm. Home hosts and traveling guests (with sides) needed!</p>
<p>Women's Retreat March 28, 5:30 PM - March 29, 7:00 PM Ligonier Camp and Conference Center</p>	<p>Women of the church: Join us for study, fellowship, discussion, prayer, food, and games at our annual Women's Retreat! Irene Sun will lead us through Psalm 23. Friday, March 28, 5:30 PM - Saturday, March 29, 7:00 PM at Ligonier Camp & Conference Center. Find out more and register at http://tinyurl.com/womensretreat2025.</p>
<p>Membership Class Friday, March 7 (7-9:30 PM) and Saturday, March 8 (9 AM-1 PM)</p>	<p>Looking to learn more about our church and/or pursue formal membership? Consider attending our dual-session class in the Greenfield Chapel. Registration is live! For questions, contact joseph@cityreformed.org.</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</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 meet every other Monday at the new building at 7 pm (300 Saline St). The next meeting is February 24. We will be continuing our series on apologetics. Contact Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)</p>
<p>Global Missions Prayer: Monday @ 9:00 PM</p>	<p>We will be praying for PRISM this week on February 17th. Held on Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/CRPCglobalprayer2024</p>
<p>Bean Sprouts Ministry: 3rd Wednesday 12:00 PM</p>	<p>The February Bean Sprouts meeting will be Wednesday, February 19 at noon in the Greenfield Chapel. 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 continue on February 26th. We invite all middle and high school students to join us as we study God's Word and reflect on Christ's miracles!</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>Thursday Women's Bible Study 1:00-3:00 PM</p>	<p>Women's Bible study on Becoming A Woman of Strength. Thursdays from 1:00-3:00PM at Cathy Taylor's House. Contact Cathy Taylor for more information at lawyerdad5@aol.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>
<p>Young Adults Fellowship</p>	<p>Young Adults Fellowship is a monthly time of fellowship, food, and connection for young adults at City. Contact Claire Josey, clairemjosey@gmail.com, for information on our next gathering.</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

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