



Sunday Evening Service
February 23, 2025

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – February 23, 2025
Presider: Elder David Bacon

Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2, 11-14

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

Leader I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

People **I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

Leader Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds!

People **For he who avenges blood is mindful of them; he does not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

Leader Be gracious to me, O LORD! See my affliction from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the gates of death,

People **That I may recount all your praises, that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in your salvation.**

Prayer of Invocation

Goodness Of God

(Words & Music: Ed Cash and Jenn Johnson 2018)

I love you Lord
Oh your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in your hands

From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

*All my life you have been faithful
All my life you have been so, so good
With ev'ry breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God*

I love your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other

I've known you as a Father
I've known you as a Friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give you everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

I Need Thee Every Hour

(Words & Music: Annie Hawks & Robert Lowry 1872)

*I need Thee, O I need Thee;
Every hour I need Thee;
O bless me now, my Savior,
I come to Thee.*

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby;
Temptations lose their power when Thou art nigh.

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;
Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

I need Thee every hour, most Holy One;
O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessèd Son.

I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will;
And Thy rich promises in me fulfill.

Call to Confession: Psalm 9:7-8

But the LORD sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice, and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.

Prayer of Confession:

Heavenly Father, when we consider you, the sovereign king and creator, it is hard to fathom that you would be mindful of us, or that you would care for us. As frail creatures that rebel against you, we try to set ourselves up as lords of the universe. We strive to be free from you and your Word; unshackled from your law. But in breaking free from you we find ourselves imprisoned by our sin. Gracious father forgive us for that pride. Forgive us for thinking that we don't need your word. Forgive us for acting like we know better than the one who made us. Humble us we ask. Help us to find our strength not in ourselves but in you the sovereign God and king, and in Christ our Lord who is the mighty one; the Son of Man who saves us and sets us free. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 9:9-10

The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek 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)

Wilderness

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko, Keith Watts, & Naaman Wood 2020)

Ev'ry failure that we carry
Is a load you long to take
And redeem it for your glory
With the lightness of your grace
Though the wilderness is lonely
Though our hope may seem to wear
Still the wilderness is holy
For we find you meet us there

Ev'ry trial and temptation
Is a cross you call to bear
That we know more of your patience
And to feel your loving care
Though the wilderness is lonely
Though our faith may seem to bend
In the wilderness you closely
Guard our hearts unto the end

Ev'ry stain and imperfection
You are making wholly new
For our marks shall be reflections
Of the scars you carry too
Though the wilderness is lonely
Though we wander and we roam
Through the wilderness your only
Path of love will lead us home

Blessed is his name
Jesus Christ we sing
Worthy to be praised
Hallelujah!

Though the wilderness is lonely
Though we wander and we roam
Through the wilderness your only
Path of love will lead us home

Scripture & Homily: Acts 16:6-10, 16-40

"The Rollercoaster that is God's Call"

- Reverend Nameun Cho

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

... ¹⁶As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. ¹⁷She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." ¹⁸And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. ²⁰And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. ²¹They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." ²²The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they

threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. ²⁷When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. ³⁰Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³²And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. ³³And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. ³⁴Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

³⁵But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." ³⁶And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." ³⁷But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." ³⁸The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. ³⁹So they came and

apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Song of Thanksgiving

Jesus I My Cross Have Taken

(Words: Henry Lyte 1825; Music: Bill Moore 2001)

Jesus I my cross have taken
All to leave and follow Thee
Destitute despised forsaken
Thou from hence my all shall be
Perish every fond ambition
All I've sought or hoped or known
Yet how rich is my condition
God and heaven are still my own

Let the world despise and leave me
They have left my Savior too
Human hearts and looks deceive me
Thou art not like them untrue
O while Thou dost smile upon me
God of wisdom love, and might
Foes may hate and friends disown me
Show Thy face and all is bright

Man may trouble and distress me
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast
Life with trials hard may press me
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest
Oh 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me
Oh 'twere not in joy to charm me
Were that joy unmixed with Thee

Go then earthly fame and treasure
Come disaster scorn and pain
In Thy service pain is pleasure
With Thy favor loss is gain
I have called Thee Abba Father
I have stayed my heart on Thee
Storms may howl and clouds may gather
All must work for good to me

Soul then know thy full salvation
Rise o'er sin and fear and care
Joy to find in every station
Something still to do or bear
Think what Spirit dwells within thee
Think what Father's smiles are thine
Think that Jesus died to win thee
Child of heaven canst thou repine

Haste thee on from grace to glory
Armed by faith and winged by prayer
Heaven's eternal days before thee
God's own hand shall guide us there
Soon shall close thy earthly mission
Soon shall pass thy pilgrim days
Hope shall change to glad fruition
Faith to sight and prayer to praise

Benediction