



Sunday Morning Worship
February 23, 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

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

– *Jesus of Nazareth (The Gospel of John, Chapter 10)*

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 23, 2025

Presider: Elder Ben Chidester

Call to Worship: 1 John 1:1-4

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

Leader That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—

People **The life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—**

Leader That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us;

People **And indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

Leader And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

People **This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.**

Prayer of Invocation

Saved My Soul

(Words & Music: Dustin R. Smith, James Ferguson, & Rich Thompson 2016)

*You my God have saved my soul
I am Yours forevermore
I won't be moved of this I'm sure
You are my God and You saved my soul*

I was lost when You came for me
Held in chains by the enemy
But You broke them in victory
Now I'm free I am free

You're my joy and You are my hope
I am saved by Your grace alone
I will sing of Your love for me
I am free I am free

Now I stand with the King of Kings
He has paid for my every sin
And from now through eternity
I am free I am free

What once was dead is now alive
You gave to me the breath of life
You brought me up out from the grave
I'm bursting out with songs of praise

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1, 8-13, 39

Promises

(Words & Music: Aaron Moses, Carrington Gaines, Dante Bowe, Keila Alvarado, and Lemuel Marin 2020)

God of Abraham, you're the God of covenant
Of faithful promises
Time and time again you have proven
You do just what you say

Though the storms may come, and the winds may blow
I'll remain steadfast
And let my heart learn when you speak a word
It will come to pass

*Great is your faithfulness to me
Great is your faithfulness to me
From the rising sun to the setting same,
I will praise your name
Great is your faithfulness to me*

God from age to age, though the earth may pass away
Your word remains the same
Your history can prove there's nothing you can't do
You're faithful and true

I put my faith in Jesus, my anchor to the ground
My hope and firm foundation, he'll never let me down
I put my faith in Jesus, my anchor to the ground
My hope and firm foundation, he'll never let me down
He'll never let me down

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(Words: Thomas Obediah Chisholm; Music: William Marion Runyan 1923)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Call to Confession: 1 John 1:6-10

If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, you are holy and pure. We confess that our thoughts are twisted, our actions are corrupt and even our best deeds are tainted by selfishness. We know this and so like Adam and Eve we hide from you. You created us to have relationships with other people, but we hide from them too. Forgive us and renew our hearts.

We ask that your Spirit would renew us and change us. Help us to trust you and to trust each other. We pray that you would knit our hearts together with other believers. Help us to help each other. Glorify yourself as you help your people to walk in the light as you are in the light. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Membership & Infant Baptism:

Jake, Deb, Luke & Noah Dobransky
Joel, son of Ken & Rebekah Roewer

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).

Before the Throne of God Above

(Words: Charitie Lees Bancroft; Music: Vikki Cook 1997)

Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me

My name is graven on his hands
My name is written on his heart
I know that while in heav'n he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin

Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me
To look on him and pardon me

Behold him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace

One with himself I cannot die
My soul is purchased with his blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Savior and my God
With Christ my Savior and my God

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: John 15:1-11

"Jesus Offers Spiritual Fruitfulness"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

“**I** am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Creedal Response: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q 88. What are the outward and ordinary means by which Christ imparts to us the benefits of redemption?

A. The outward and ordinary means by which Christ imparts to us the benefits of redemption are his ordinances, especially the Word, the sacraments, and prayer; all of these are made effectual to his chosen ones for salvation.

Additional Scripture

Galatians 5:22-24 / But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Songs of Thanksgiving

Abide with Me

(Words: Henry Francis Lyte 1847; Music: Justin Smith 2007)

Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me oft as I left Thee
On to the close Lord abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power
Who, like Thyself my guide and stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death Where grave thy victory
I triumph still abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
In life in death Lord abide with me

All I Have Is Christ

(Words & Music: Jordan Kauflin 2008)

*Hallelujah all I have is Christ
Hallelujah Jesus is my life*

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that you would own
A rebel to your will
And if you had not loved me first
I would refuse you still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Now Lord I would be yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow your commands
Could never come from me
O Father use my ransomed life
In any way you choose
And let my song forever be
My only boast is You

Benediction

At tonight's Worship Service, Reverend Nameun Cho will be preaching from Acts 16:6-10, 16-40, "The Rollercoaster that is God's Call."

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

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| <p>Men's Retreat February 28 - March 1 Ligonier Camp and Conference Center</p> | <p>Mark your calendars, gentlemen! Our annual men's retreat is returning to Ligonier Camp and Conference Center from February 28th to March 1st. Join us for a time of fellowship, growth, and renewal in a beautiful setting. Register here: https://crpc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2702959. Registration ends TODAY!</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. Visit https://tinyurl.com/MemberMarch2025 to register! For questions, contact joseph@cityreformed.org.</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>Guess Who's Coming for Dinner? Saturday, March 15, 6:30 PM</p> | <p>This is a really fun opportunity to get to know folks in the church that are not otherwise connected to your life. Home hosts and traveling guests (with sides) needed! Signup using: https://tinyurl.com/GWCTD2025</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! Join in as Irene Sun leads 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>Welcome Activities Committee (WAC) Please consider joining us!</p> | <p>WAC is dedicated to fostering a warm and inclusive environment for all members of our congregation. Our mission is to create engaging and meaningful activities that provide a sense of belonging and allow everyone to thrive and contribute to Christ's kingdom. For more information, contact WAC@cityreformed.org.</p> |

Regular Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

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| <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 the Jones' in Zimbabwe this week on February 24th. Held on Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/CRPCglobalprayer2024</p> |
| <p>Bean Sprouts Ministry: 3rd Wednesday 12:00 PM</p> | <p>The March Bean Sprouts meeting will be Wednesday, March 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. Current 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 Prayer. 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 about Taco Night, March 21 @ 6:30PM.</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

Rev. Matthew Koerber:
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Rev. Joseph Bianco:
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Rev. John McCombs:
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Rev. Nameun Cho:
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