



**Sunday Evening Service
February 9, 2025**

*"Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery."*

- from "Death, Be Not Proud," by John Donne

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – February 9, 2025
Presider: Reverend Joseph Bianco

Call to Worship: Isaiah 42:10-13

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

Leader Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the end of the earth,

People **You who go down to the sea, and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.**

Leader Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits;

People **Let the habitants of Sela sing for joy, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory to the LORD, and declare his praise in the coastlands.**

Leader The LORD goes out like a mighty man, like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;

People **He cries out, he shouts aloud, he shows himself mighty against his foes.**

Prayer of Invocation

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

(Words & Music: Martin Luther 1529)

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate--
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabbaoth, his name,
From age to age the same--
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure--
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours,
Through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still;
His kingdom is forever.

He Will Hold Me Fast

(Words & Music: Ada Ruth Habershon and Matthew Merker 2013)

When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold He must hold me fast

*He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast*

(continued on next page)

Those He saves are His delight Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight when He comes at last

Call to Confession: Isaiah 30:15-17

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." But you were unwilling, and you said, "No! We will flee upon horses"; therefore you shall flee away; and, "We will ride upon swift steeds"; therefore your pursuers shall be swift. A thousand shall flee at the threat of one; at the threat of five you shall flee, till you are left like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain, like a signal on a hill.

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord, our sins are walled up all around us! They threaten to fall down upon us and crush us. The devil points to them to accuse us and to try to shake our faith. You have offered us salvation in you, if only we would rest in it, but we, out of fear and weakness, seek other refuge, for we do not trust that you can save us from such a desperate plight. Forgive us that we doubt your ability and desire to save us. Teach us that in returning and in rest in Christ our Lord is salvation; that in quietness and in trust is our strength. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 30:18-22

Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him. For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. And though the LORD give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

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 124 | He's On Our Side

(Words & Music: Jason Pears and Wendell Kimbrough 2017)

Our help has come in the Name of the Lord
The One who formed all the earth and the sky
Behold He comes to destroy the chains of death
And raise us up to life

*O bless his name for he has given us
Everything we need to fly
Our broken wings they have not hindered us
We have the Lord He's on our side*

Scripture & Homily: Psalm 3 "How to Sleep When the Armies of Israel Assail You"

- Elder Ben Chidester

O LORD, how many are my foes!
Many are rising against me;
²many are saying of my soul,
"There is no salvation for him in God."
³But you, O LORD, are a shield about me,
my glory, and the lifter of my head.
⁴I cried aloud to the LORD,
and he answered me from his holy hill.
⁵I lay down and slept;
I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.
⁶I will not be afraid of many thousands of people
who have set themselves against me all around.
⁷Arise, O LORD!
Save me, O my God!
For you strike all my enemies on the cheek;
you break the teeth of the wicked.
⁸Salvation belongs to the LORD;
your blessing be on your people!

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Outline

When you are surrounded by fears and dangers, how do you find rest?

1. Unburden your mind to the Lord
2. Turn your mind to your divine Defender
3. Rest your mind in His salvation

Additional Scripture

2 Samuel 12:9-12 / Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'"

2 Samuel 15:13-17, 30 / And a messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." And the king's servants said to the king, "Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides." So the king went out, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house. And the king went out, and all the people after him. And they halted at the last house... But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went.

2 Samuel 16:5-10 / When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the Lord has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood." Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head." But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David,' who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'"

Song of Thanksgiving

So Rest My Rest

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko 2023; Inspiration & Title by Solomon Frank 1659-1725)

You left within a rocky cave
My guilt that brought you to the grave
O Lord you are the doubters' friend
The Rock on which my confidence depends

O Prince of Life! One thing I know
That when I too in death lie low
The chains of sin that hold me down
Will be transfigured to a holy crown

*So rest my Rest your love has won
With your death my work is done
Your life my life and your rest my rest
On you my soul relies
With you my hope will rise*

My Jesus King O day by day
Help me to watch to learn and pray
Because you died and rest I rest
My life in you will be forever blest
Honor and power and strength

Benediction