



Sunday Evening Communion Service
March 16, 2025

"For the word of God is the divinely appointed means by which people come to put their trust in Christ and so identify themselves as his."

- John R.W. Stott

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – March 16, 2025

Presider: Elder Craig Kozminski

Call to Worship: Psalm 96:1-6

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

Leader Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

People **Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Leader Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!

People **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.**

Leader For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

People **Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 96 | Christ is the Lord Redeemer and King

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko, Jalen Bell, Nate Glasper Jr., Eron Lauchié 2024)

Sing to the LORD, sing a new song
To God whom the glory of nations belong
Trust in the LORD and not empty praise
For Great is the LORD and great are his ways

Give to the LORD O drifter and saint
Give to the LORD both glory and strength
Bring him your life and make it his throne
Offer your heart and enter his home

*Say the LORD reigns, he's breaking the curse
Here the LORD brings his kingdom to earth
Now The LORD reigns! With heaven we sing
"Christ is the Lord Redeemer and King"*

The heavens rejoice with earth and the sea
They join in the song of true jubilee
Creation proclaims the day of the Lord
And kingdom shalom will soon be restored

*Say the LORD reigns! All nations and tribes
Here the LORD reigns, the church as his bride
Now The LORD reigns! Let everyone sing
"Christ is the Lord Redeemer and King"*

His good good justice is fixed like the mountains
His faithfulness and mercy are boundless

This Is My Father's World

(Words: Maltbie D. Babcock 1901; Music: English Folk Melody)

This is my Father's world.
And to my list'ning ears,
All nature sings,
And round him rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world!
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees,
Of skies and seas.
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world.
The birds their carols raise
The morning light,
The lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise
This is my Father's world!
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass
I hear Him pass
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget.
That though the wrong
Seems oft so strong
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world.
The battle has been won;
Jesus who died
Shall be satisfied,
And earth and heav'n be one.

Call to Confession: Ezekiel 33:10-11

"And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: 'Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, you alone are able to pardon our sins and by your Son alone our salvation has been purchased and our sins forgiven. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, our sins are removed from us in the past, present and future. We are fully accepted in your sight, loved, and made inheritors of the promise. Yet, Father, we sin. Our actions do not match our confession. Our works are evil and our thoughts corrupt. We do not bear fruit as we ought and we do not love as we have been loved. Father, work faith in our hearts to believe your promises, that we may respond with repentance, bearing fruit in our actions. Cause us to be more loving, more giving, desiring justice, showing mercy, serving our neighbor, and loving our enemy because we have been so deeply loved. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Ezekiel 33:14-16

Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

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)

Come Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted

(Words: Joseph Swain 1785; Music: Kevin Twit 2013)

Come ye souls by sin afflicted
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down
By the broken law convicted
Through the cross behold the crown
Look to Jesus (3x)
Mercy flows through Him alone

Take His easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet
Christ will give you strength to bear it
While His grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory (3x)
Where His ransomed captives meet

Blessèd are the eyes that see Him
Blest the ears that hear His voice
Blessèd are the souls that trust Him
And in Him alone rejoice
His commandments (3x)
Then become their happy choice

Sweet as home to pilgrims weary
Light to newly opened eyes
Like full springs in deserts dreary
Is the rest the cross supplies
All who taste it (3x)
Shall to rest immortal rise

Look to Jesus (3x)
Mercy flows through Him alone

Scripture & Homily: Acts 18:1-17

"When It Is Scary To Follow Jesus"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ²And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." ⁷And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." ¹¹And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹²But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, ¹³saying, "This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law." ¹⁴But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of

wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. ¹⁵But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” ¹⁶And he drove them from the tribunal. ¹⁷And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Mark 5:36 / But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

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.

Corporate Prayer

Songs of Communion

Rock of Ages

(Words: Augustus Toplady 1776; Music: Thomas Hastings 1853)

Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee
Let the water and the blood
From thy wounded side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Save from wrath and make me pure

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save and thou alone

Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to the cross I cling
Naked come to thee for dress
Helpless look to thee for grace
Foul I to the fountain fly
Wash me Savior or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath
When mine eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See thee on thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages cleft for me
Let me hide myself in thee

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

