



**Sunday Evening Service**  
**April 13, 2025**

*"I did nothing; the Word did everything."*

*- Martin Luther*

# Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Evening Worship – April 13, 2025  
Presider: Elder Luke Kephart

## Call to Worship: Psalm 29:1-9

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

Leader Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

People **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

Leader The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

People **The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

Leader The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

People **He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

People **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

Leader The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare,

People **And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**

## Prayer of Invocation

## 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 Want to Know You

(Words & Music: James Proctor, Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, & Rich Thompson 2016)

I've tried in vain a thousand ways  
My fears to quell my hopes to raise  
But what I need your Word has said  
Is ever only Jesus

You died you live you reign you plead  
There's love in all your words and deeds  
This weary heart finds all it needs  
In ever only Jesus

*I want to know you Jesus my Lord  
King of the Heavens king of my soul  
I trade my treasure and all my rewards  
Jesus to know you then know you more*

Though some should curse me for your name  
I have no fear I have no shame  
You stand with me for all my days  
My ever only Jesus

Like wave after wave on the ocean  
Like all of the sand on the shore  
Your beauty and glory are endless  
O Jesus I must know you more

## Call to Confession: Isaiah 55:6-9

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

## **Prayer of Confession:**

O Lord, we have so often sought after and wasted our wages on things that do not satisfy. We have spent our money on that which is not bread, when you offer the bread of life at no cost. To satisfy our thirst, we have squandered our energy, zeal, and possessions on that which is not water, when you offer at no charge waters which, if we would heartily drink, we would never thirst again. Give us a proper hunger and thirst for you and your Word. Let your Word enter with power into our hearts and accomplish your purpose for it within us, that we would be satisfied with you. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 55:10-12**

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

## **Congregational 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](http://cityreformed.org/give); 3929 Coleman St., 15207)*

## Speak O Lord

*(Words & Music: Stuart Townend and Keith Getty 2005)*

Speak O Lord as we come to you  
To receive the food of your holy Word  
Take your truth plant it deep in us  
Shape and fashion us in your likeness  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith  
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us  
All your purposes for your glory

Teach us Lord full obedience  
Holy reverence true humility  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of your purity  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see  
Your majestic love and authority  
Words of power that can never fail  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief

Speak O Lord and renew our minds  
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
That will echo down through eternity  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises  
And by faith we'll walk as you walk with us  
Speak O Lord till your church is built  
And the earth is filled with your glory

## Scripture & Homily: Acts 19:1, 8-41

"The Flower Fades but the Word of the Lord Stands Forever"

- Elder Ben Chidester

**A**nd it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples...

...<sup>8</sup>And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup>But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup>This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

<sup>11</sup>And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup>so that even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them. <sup>13</sup>Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." <sup>14</sup>Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. <sup>15</sup>But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" <sup>16</sup>And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. <sup>17</sup>And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled. <sup>18</sup>Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices. <sup>19</sup>And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and

burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.

<sup>20</sup>So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.

<sup>21</sup>Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." <sup>22</sup>And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

<sup>23</sup>About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. <sup>24</sup>For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen. <sup>25</sup>These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, "Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. <sup>26</sup>And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people, saying that gods made with hands are not gods. <sup>27</sup>And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be counted as nothing, and that she may even be deposed from her magnificence, she whom all Asia and the world worship."

<sup>28</sup>When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" <sup>29</sup>So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul's companions in travel. <sup>30</sup>But when Paul wished to go in among the crowd, the disciples would not let him. <sup>31</sup>And even some of the Asiarchs, who were friends of his, sent to him and were urging him not to venture into the theater. <sup>32</sup>Now some cried out one thing,

some another, for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. <sup>33</sup>Some of the crowd prompted Alexander, whom the Jews had put forward. And Alexander, motioning with his hand, wanted to make a defense to the crowd. <sup>34</sup>But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours they all cried out with one voice, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!”

<sup>35</sup>And when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Men of Ephesus, who is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is temple keeper of the great Artemis, and of the sacred stone that fell from the sky? <sup>36</sup>Seeing then that these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. <sup>37</sup>For you have brought these men here who are neither sacrilegious nor blasphemers of our goddess. <sup>38</sup>If therefore Demetrius and the craftsmen with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. <sup>39</sup>But if you seek anything further, it shall be settled in the regular assembly. <sup>40</sup>For we really are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” <sup>41</sup>And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Additional Scripture

Psalms 33:6-9 / By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

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Isaiah 40:8 / The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

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Mark 4:26-29 / And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

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# Song of Thanksgiving

## We Are Listening

*(Words & Music: Jeremy Quillo 2006)*

Father I long to be wise  
To see with new eyes  
The truth that was written by your hand  
Father speak truth into me  
For I still believe  
That you always help me understand

We are listening to your word  
We are listening to your word

*Morning and evening we come  
To delight in the Word of our God  
Give us eyes to see  
Give us faith to hear  
That the Lord has come  
That the Lord is here*

Father I long to see Christ  
The Truth and New Life  
Your Word that has made the universe  
Father speak now I believe  
And I am set free  
By the Word that lived and died for me

## Benediction