



**Sunday Evening Service**  
**December 14, 2025**

*"Society in every state is a blessing, but Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one."*

*- Thomas Paine, Common Sense, 1776*

# Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Worship – December 14, 2025

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

## Call to Worship: Psalm 98:4-9

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

Leader Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

People Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

Leader With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

People Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

Leader Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

People He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

## Prayer of Invocation

## Isaiah 2 | Come Let Us Walk In The Light

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke 2019)

Come to the mountain of the LORD,  
A home for the nations.  
Come to the hill above all hills,  
Greater than kingdoms.  
People from all the earth will flow  
Into his presence.

*Come let us walk in the light of the LORD.*  
*Come let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

Let us go up to meet with God  
And follow his pathway.  
Let the LORD teach us in the Word  
That goes out from Zion.  
The Law of the LORD will be the light  
That leads us to worship.

Bring your dispute before the LORD,  
And look for his justice.  
Bring to our God your love for war;  
Replace it with mercy.  
Nations will lay their weapons down  
And take up forgiveness.

## Love Divine All Loves Excelling

*(Words: Charles Wesley 1747; Music: Lowell Mason 1839)*

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;  
All Thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation;  
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled chest!  
Let us all in Thee inherit,  
Let us find the promised rest.  
Take away our love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till with heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## **Call to Confession: Ephesians 5:8-14a**

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light.

## **Prayer of Confession: Psalm 86:3-13**

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for to you do I cry all the day. Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O LORD, do I lift up my soul. For you, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me. There is none like you among the gods, O LORD, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O LORD, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. Teach me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. Amen.

## **Silent Confession**

## Assurance of Pardon: Micah 7:8-10

Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD will be a light to me. I will bear the indignation of the LORD because I have sinned against him, until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall look upon his vindication. Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look upon her; now she will be trampled down like the mire of the streets.

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

### King of Kings

*(Words & Music: Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood 2018)*

In the darkness we were waiting  
Without hope without light  
'Till from heaven you came running  
There was mercy in your eyes  
To fulfill the Law and Prophets  
To a virgin came the Word  
From a throne of endless glory  
To a cradle in the dirt

*Praise the Father praise the Son  
Praise the Spirit three in one  
God of glory majesty  
Praise forever to the King of Kings*

To reveal the kingdom coming  
And to reconcile the lost  
To redeem the whole creation  
You did not despise the cross  
Now we see that in your suff'ring  
You saw glory to behold  
Knowing you were our salvation  
Jesus for our sake you died

For the morning that you rose  
All of heaven held its breath  
'Till that stone was moved for good  
For the Lamb had conquered death  
Then the dead rose from their tombs  
And the angels stood in awe  
For the souls of all who'd come  
To the Father are re-stored

Then the Church of Christ was born  
And the Spirit lit the flame  
Now this gospel truth of old  
Shall not kneel shall not faint  
By his blood and in his name  
In his freedom I am free  
For the love of Jesus Christ  
Who has resurrected me

## Scripture & Homily: Isaiah 9:1-7

"Our Beloved Eternal King"

- Elder Ben Chidester

**B**ut there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,



on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

## Additional Scripture

2 Samuel 7:12-16 / "When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

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Matthew 4:13-17 / And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

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John 1:9-13 / The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

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# Song of Thanksgiving

## O Day of Peace - Come to Him

*(Music: Josh Garrels 2016; Words: Carl Daw 1982)*

O day of peace that dimly shines  
Through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
Guide us to justice, truth, and love  
Delivered from our selfish schemes.

May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
Our hearts from envy find release,  
Till by God's grace our warring world  
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
Nor shall the fierce devour the small  
As beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
A little child shall lead them all.

Then enemies shall learn to love,  
All creatures find their true accord  
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
For all the earth shall know the Lord

Come to Him with all your heart  
Come and lay your burdens down

For peace He came to give  
And Joy shall be the crown  
And Joy shall be the crown

## Benediction

# Announcements

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<b>RUF at Pitt</b> Thursdays, 9 PM David Lawrence Hall, 104	RUF Large Group Worship and Bible Study is meeting on Thursdays in David Lawrence Hall Room 104 this semester at Pitt. All college students welcome!
<b>Women's Bible Study</b> Tuesdays 9:45 AM-11:45 AM Greenfield Chapel	Scenes from the Final Week, a Bible Study by Paige Brown. Restarts January 20. Tuesdays from 9:45 am - 11:45 am at Greenfield Chapel. Childcare is provided. Contact Tracy ( <a href="mailto:partridge.ta@gmail.com">partridge.ta@gmail.com</a> ) or Luda ( <a href="mailto:luda.bates@gmail.com">luda.bates@gmail.com</a> )
<b>Medical Missions Opportunity, Ethiopia</b>	City Reformed will be sending a medical mission team to Ethiopia from June 27-July 5. If you would like more information, please contact Alex Watt ( <a href="mailto:alex@alexcwatt.com">alex@alexcwatt.com</a> , 724-858-8031) with any questions.
<b>Youth Ministry Christmas Party</b> December 17 6:30PM-8:30PM Greenfield Chapel	All MS and HS students are invited to join us for Christmas-themed games and white elephant gift exchange! There is a \$10 limit on gifts, but we also encourage saving the \$10 by creatively regifting a present. Be sure to wrap your gift before arriving!
<b>Homecoming Service</b> December 21	During our December 21st Worship Service, we will be recognizing our returning college students.
<b>Christmas Eve Service</b> December 24, 4:30 PM Greenfield Chapel 3929 Coleman Street	Join us for our annual candlelight service! Additional parking available at Greenfield Elementary School. If you are able to help volunteer for the service, please contact Nameun Cho, <a href="mailto:nameun@cityreformed.org">nameun@cityreformed.org</a> .