



Sunday Evening Communion Service
December 21, 2025

"God is the highest good of the reasonable creature. The enjoyment of him is our proper; and is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Better than fathers and mothers, husbands, wives, or children, or the company of any, or all earthly friends. These are but shadows; but the enjoyment of God is the substance. These are but scattered beams; but God is the sun. These are but streams; but God is the fountain. These are but drops, but God is the ocean."

*- Jonathan Edwards,
The Works of Jonathan Edwards, Vol. 17: Sermons and Discourses, 1730-1733*

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – December 21, 2025

Presider: Elder Craig Kozminski

Call to Worship: Isaiah 52:7-10

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

Leader How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

People **The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.**

Leader Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

People **The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 72 | Hail to The Lord's Anointed

(Words: James Montgomery 1821; Music: Sandra McCracken 2012)

*Hail to the Lord's anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun,
His reign on earth begun!*

He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

He comes with comfort speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong.
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever,
That name to us is Love.

Go Tell It On The Mountain

(African-American Spiritual)

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.*

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born
And brought us God's salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Call to Confession: Jeremiah 2:9-13

"Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend. For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious Heavenly Father, you are the God of all comfort. Only you can fill the longings and desires of our heart. You alone can comfort us, but we confess the ways we leave you to find comfort elsewhere. We confess the ways we distract ourselves with technology and idle entertainment. We confess the substances we use to numb our pain and escape our situations. We confess idols of security in things such as money or success. We confess our procrastination and avoidance of responsibility. All our false comforts we confess. Forgive us and help us to run to you, our Father, with open arms. Forgive us and comfort us again. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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)

All Who Are Thirsty

(Words & Music: Glenn Robertson and Brenton Brown 1998)

All who are thirsty
All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away,
In the wave of his mercy
As deep cries out to deep, we sing

*Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come
Come Lord Jesus, come*

*Holy Spirit, come
Holy Spirit, come
Holy Spirit, come
Holy Spirit, come*

Scripture & Homily: Isaiah 40:1-11

"Comfort"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

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

⁹Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

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-communing 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.

Songs of Communion

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(Words & Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard & Charles Wesley 1744)

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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.

Amen

Benediction

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

Women's Bible Study 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 (partridge.ta@gmail.com) or Luda (luda.bates@gmail.com)
Medical Missions Opportunity, Ethiopia	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 (alex@alexcwatt.com , 724-858-8031).
Homecoming Service TODAY	During our Worship Service today, we will be recognizing our returning college students.
Christmas Eve Service 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, nameun@cityreformed.org .
Thursday PM Women's Bible Study January 15th - early April 6:45 PM - 8:45 PM Greenfield Chapel	We are starting a new study on Revelation using the book and video series by Nancy Guthrie, Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation. Contact Tracy (partridge.ta@gmail.com) or Chrissie (chrissie@cityreformed.org).