



Sunday Morning Worship
Advent Week 4
December 21, 2025

Welcome to City Reformed Presbyterian Church

We are glad to have you join us for worship today. If you would like more information, please contact us at office@cityreformed.org or visit our website: cityreformed.org.

Reflections

"Therefore, in order that faith may find a firm basis for salvation in Christ, and thus rest in him, this principle must be laid down: the office enjoined upon Christ by the Father consists of three parts. For he was given to be prophet, king, and priest."

– John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM

Winchester Thurston Auditorium

5059 Ellsworth Ave

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

Church Office

3929 Coleman St.

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

412-720-7014

office@cityreformed.org

cityreformed.org

Welcome
Information:



Sunday Evening Worship Service

5:30PM

Greenfield Chapel

3929 Coleman Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Donations

Online: Church Center App (Give)

OR cityreformed.org/give

Mail: Church Office address above "Attn:

Bookkeeper" (please make checks payable to City Reformed Presbyterian Church)

Morning Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Worship – December 21, 2025

Presider: Elder David Bacon

Call to Worship: Philippians 2:5-11

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

Leader Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

People **Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,**

Leader But emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,

People **Being born in the likeness of men.**

Leader And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

People **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,**

Leader So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

People **And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer of Invocation

O Come All Ye Faithful

(Words & Music: John F. Wade 1841)

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him,
Born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest:

Yea, Lord we greet thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:

Advent Reading: Luke 1:46-55

Magnificat

(Words & Music: Flo Paris Oakes 1999)

My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God
My soul magnifies the Lord
My spirit rejoices in God

*For he who is mighty
Has done great things for me
Holy holy holy holy
Holy holy is his name*

You Are My Wonder

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoko 2023)

Here I lay down my treasure
A gift in the kingdom all for the King
Heaven wrapped in my burden
Cries out salvation makes me to sing

The gates that hold midnight are breaking apart
The light of the kingdom shines through the dark
Lord of the nations King overall
You are my wonder you are my star

Here I bring him my troubles
The weight that I carry, the sin that I keep
My sorrow rests on his shoulders
The sinless babe suffered, my Prince of Peace

The gates of my hell are breaking apart
The King of the righteous enters my heart
O Lord of my glory help in my fall
You are my wonder you are my all

Here I join in devotion
Shepherds that worship and angels above
His blessed mother has opened
The world to embrace and hold him with love

Great Father who clothed your Son in our flesh
Now send us your Spirit and fill up our breath
O Babe in the manger and King at your birth
We sing your praises from all of the earth

The gates that hold midnight are breaking apart
The light of the kingdom shines through the dark
The gates of my hell are breaking apart
The King of the righteous enters my heart

O Lord of my glory help in my fall
You are my wonder you are my all
Lord of the nations King overall
You are my wonder you are my star

Call to Confession: Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Prayer of Confession:

Father, we are thankful that you have revealed yourself to us. You have not left us in the dark about your character and your intentions. You have given us your firm and unchanging word through the Holy Scriptures.

And yet we are slow to listen. Our Bibles often gather dust on the shelf. Our times of quiet prayer are frequently pushed aside by the demands of our day. We find it easier to think about our hobbies and our work than to think about your wondrous works of salvation.

Forgive us and renew our desire for you. Give us a Spiritual hunger for reading your word and deepen our appetite for truth. Cause your word to burn in our hearts, to shape our minds and to transform our lives. Feed us with spiritual manna and quench our spiritual thirst with your word. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Missions Moment: Sonya Campbell

Corporate Prayer

Song of Renewal

We consider tithes & offering as an act of worship within the corporate family of Christ. Cards and donations can be placed in offering bags. Giving can also be directed online (cityreformed.org/give) or sent via mail (3929 Coleman St., 15207).

Peace

(Words & Music: Sherri Youngward 2008)

Peace, be still.
Lay all your worries down.
Be still, O My soul
Our God is in control.

And if God is for us,
Then whom shall I fear?
For our God is with us
So lay down, be still.
He is God.

Hallelujah!
Our God has overcome.
Hallelujah!
Our Lord, Jesus Christ has won.
He is God.

Pastoral Prayer

At this time, children ages 4-6 are invited to continue their worship at Children's Church. Parents, please have your children meet the teachers at the back of the sanctuary and pick them up after the sermon from Children's Church in room 115.

Sermon: Hebrews 7:23-25 & Hebrews 10:11-14

"Christ our Mediator Part 3: The Continued Ministry of Jesus"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

Hebrews 7:23-25

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 10:11-14

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Creedal Response: Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q 23. What offices does Christ carry out as our redeemer?

A. Christ, as our redeemer, carries out the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his state of humiliation and his state of exaltation.

Additional Scripture

Psalm 110:1-2 / The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

Hebrews 1:13-14 / And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Matthew 22:41b-44 / Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?"

Revelation 19:15 / From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Additional Creedal Statements:

Q 24. How does Christ carry out the office of a prophet?

A. Christ carries out the office of a prophet in revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Q 25. How does Christ carry out the office of a priest?

A. Christ carries out the office of a priest in offering up himself as a sacrifice one time, to satisfy divine justice and to reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Q 26. How does Christ carry out the office of a king?

A. Christ carries out the office of a king in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Songs of Thanksgiving

What Child Is This

(Words: William C. Dix 1860's; Music: 16th Century English Ballad)

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own him;
The King of Kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Hark The Herald Angels Sing

(Words: Charles Wesley 1739; Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840)

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem

*Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King*

Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
Now display thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore;
Let us Thee, though lost, regain,
Thee, the life, of mortal Man:
O! to all thyself impart,
Give to each believing heart.

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings
Ris'n with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth

Benediction

At tonight's Worship Service, Reverend Joseph Bianco will be preaching from Isaiah 40:1-11 "Comfort."

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).

Regular Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

College Shuttle Sundays	9:30AM - PPU: 201 Wood St; Contact Amy: amy@cityreformed.org 9:40AM - Duquesne University: 1015 Forbes Ave; Contact Nameun: nameun@cityreformed.org 9:55AM - PITT: 4024 O'Hara St; Contact Gavin: gavin.breeden@ruf.org **No shuttle service: 11/30, 12/21-1/4 due to holidays
Agora Forum Biweekly Mondays, 7PM, 300 Saline Street	We discuss theology and popular culture topics from a Christian perspective. Contact Alex Main (amain8511@gmail.com)
Global Missions Prayer Mondays @ 9:00 PM	We will not be meeting this week. Held on Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/cityreformedglobalprayer
Bean Sprouts 3rd Wednesday 12:00 PM	The next Bean Sprouts meeting will be Wednesday, January 21st at noon in the Greenfield Chapel. Contact Joe Stehle: joestehle@gmail.com.
Wednesday Prayer Meetings 8:30-9:30 AM	Please join us for Scripture reading, adoration, thanksgiving, and sharing prayer requests. Held on Zoom at: https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer .
Youth Group Biweekly Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM Greenfield Chapel	This is an opportunity for our MS & HS students to connect with God through His Word & with one another through games, Bible teaching, discussion, & prayer. Youth Group will resume on January 14th
Young Adult Women's Discipleship Group Biweekly Wednesdays, 7:00 PM	Meets on the North Side. Current study: Psalms 31-60. Contact Lindsay Karr for more info: lindsay.karr@gmail.com .
Men's New Hope Bi-Weekly Wednesdays	A ministry for men struggling with various kinds of sexual sin where we practice accountability, scripture reading, and book work. If you are interested in joining, you'll need to first meet with the group leader. Please contact joseph@cityreformed.org for more information.
Thursday Women's Bible Study 1:00-3:00 PM	Women's Bible study on Growing Older and Wiser Thursdays from 1:00-3:00PM at Cathy Taylor's House. Contact Cathy Taylor for more info at lawyerdad5@aol.com
Young Adults Fellowship	Young Adults Fellowship is a monthly time of fellowship, food, and connection for young adults at City. Contact Michele Kloes, michele.kloes@gmail.com , for more info.
Ultimate Frisbee Thursdays	Ultimate frisbee group meets Thursday evenings. All skill levels are welcome! Contact Dan Toney (danielrtoney@gmail.com) for more information.

College Students please refer to campus ministry contacts below:

- CMU: Chris Bollinger (cwbollinger@gmail.com)
- CCO at PPU: Matt Koerber (pastormatt@cityreformed.org)
- RUF at Pitt: Gavin Breeden, Callie Miller, and Abbay Kocsis (gavin.breeden@ruf.org, callie.miller@ruf.org, abbay.kocsis@ruf.org)
- cityreformed.org/collegestudents

Community Groups meet for Bible study, fellowship, and service. Contact Elder Ben Chidester (ben@cityreformed.org) or visit our website at www.cityreformed.org/community-groups/

Sunday:

Fox Chapel A - Watson Barker
Fox Chapel B - Damon Claus
North Hills - David Bacon

Monday:

Forest Hills - Adam Schwab
Morningside - James Lettow

Tuesday:

Shaler - Dan Toney
Bellevue/North Side - Joe Benscoter
Squirrel Hill - Ben Chidester

Wednesday:

Friendship - Michael Hilton
Greenfield - Max Winters
Regent Square - Dave Snoke

Thursday:

Shadyside - Chris Bollinger
West Hills - Jon Dodd

Friday:

East Suburban - Joe Stehle

Leadership

Elders

Rev. Matthew Koerber:

pastormatt@cityreformed.org

Rev. Joseph Bianco:

joseph@cityreformed.org

Rev. John McCombs:

john@cityreformed.org

Rev. Nameun Cho:

nameun@cityreformed.org

David Bacon:

bacon1986@gmail.com

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Joe Stehle:

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