



Christmas Candlelight Service

December 24, 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.

Call to Worship: Isaiah 9:1-3a, 6-7

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

Leader The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.**

Leader You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you...

People **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,**

Leader And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

People **Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom,**

Leader To establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

People **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

(Words: James Montgomery 1816; Music: Henry T. Smart 1867)

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing
Yonder shines the Infant Light
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending
In his temple shall appear
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

Though an infant now we see him
He shall fill his Father's throne
Gather all the nations to him
And together make their home
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

All creation join in praising
God the Father Spirit Son
Evermore your voices raising
To eternal Three in One
Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King

First Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1:1-17

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

¹⁷So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Joy to the World

(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: Lowell Mason's 1800's adaption of George Handel's "Messiah" 1742)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods,
Rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

Second Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Joy Joy

(Words & Music: Mason Neely & Isaac Wardell 2009 Based on 17th Century French Melody "Ente Le Boeuf Et Lane Gris")

Under the baby's head she held
Love, love, sing Emmanuel
Lending at His birth
Peace on all the earth
See His mother Mary weeping
Love, love, love

Over the shepherds, angels tell
Joy, joy called Emmanuel
Born in Bethlehem
Good will unto men
Bend before His cradle singing
Joy, joy, joy

Down from His throne He came to dwell
Light, light, came Emmanuel
Covered in our flesh
Swaddled in our dress
Wise men see His coming chasing
Light, light, light

Onto the ground his blood He spilled
Peace, peace, cried Emmanuel
Sinners dark and vile
God to reconcile
Spilling love and joy and light and
Peace, peace, peace

God With Us

(Words & Music: Leslie Jordan 2012)

You have come to bring peace
To be love, to be nearer to us
You have come to bring life
To be light, to shine brighter in us.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

*Our Deliverer, You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over everything, our redemption
God with us, You are God with us.*

You have come to be hope
To this world for Your honor and name.
You have come to take sin
To bear shame and to conquer the grave.
Oh Emmanuel, "God with us".

Third Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2:1-12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

You Are My Wonder

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke 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

Fourth Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2:13-18

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

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

Fifth Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2:19-23

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

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.

Homily: Christ the King

O Come O Come Emmanuel

(Words: 1400's French Mass; Music: Veni Emmanuel Chant)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times did give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, Thou Son of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Silent Night

(Words & Music: Joseph Mohr 1818)

Silent night holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Silent night holy night
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia, to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Please contact us at office@cityreformed.org. If you would like to contact a pastor, please email nameun@cityreformed.org. And, if you would like more information about our ministries, resources, and ways to engage, please visit our website: cityreformed.org.

About Us

Sunday Morning Worship Service

10:15AM
Winchester Thurston Auditorium
5059 Ellsworth Ave
Pittsburgh PA, 15213

LIVESTREAM: tinyurl.com/CRPCLive

Sunday Evening Worship Service

5:30PM
Greenfield Chapel
3929 Coleman Street
Pittsburgh PA, 15207

Welcome Information



Church Office

3929 Coleman St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-720-7014
office@cityreformed.org
cityreformed.org

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)

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 Abbey Kocsis (gavin.breeden@ruf.org, callie.miller@ruf.org, abbey.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 Snoko

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

Ben Chidester:
benwchidester@gmail.com

Luke Kephart:
lakephar@gmail.com

Craig Kozminski:
craigkozminski@gmail.com

Joe Stehle:
joestehle@gmail.com

Dave Snoko:
snoke@hey.com

Women's Ministry Council

Debbie Bacon: dpasewark@gmail.com

Amanda Moore: mooreae1@gmail.com

Irene Winkler: renew77@gmail.com

Sarah Winkler: sarahditch@gmail.com

Linda Kephart: lindaskep@gmail.com

Deacons

Neil Friedrich: njfried@gmail.com

Bill Gould: wwgould@verizon.net

Cyril Isaac: dukecyillus@gmail.com

Don McMillan: donmcmillan697@gmail.com

Nik Melchior: nik@alum.wustl.edu

Daniel Toney: danielrtoney@gmail.com

Jeff Winkler: jeffreypwinkler@gmail.com

John Bugay III: johnbugayiii@gmail.com