

Sunday Morning Communion Worship Advent Week 2 December 7, 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

"Now ain't it good to know that you've got a friend..."

- Carole King

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

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)

Morning Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Communion Worship - December 7, 2025

Presider: Elder Ben Chidester

Call to Worship: Jeremiah 31:10-14 Please stand for the Call to Worship if you are able.

"Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in Leader the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from People hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they Leader shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil.

And over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall People be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young Leader men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy; People

Leader I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my People people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD."

Prayer of Invocation

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.

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

(Words & Music: John Hughes, Peter Williams, and William Williams)

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah Pilgrim through this barren land I am weak but Thou art mighty Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand Bread of heaven Bread of heaven Feed me now and ever more Feed me now and ever more

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow
Let the fiery cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through
Strong Deliverer strong Deliverer
Be Thou still my strength and shield
Be Thou still my strength and shield

When I tread the verge of Jordan
Bid my anxious fears subside
Death of death and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side
Songs of praises songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee
I will ever give to Thee

Call to Confession: Jeremiah 31:31-32

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD."

Prayer of Confession: Jeremiah 14:20-21, 22b

We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. ... We set our hope on you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Jeremiah 31:33, 34b

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

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).

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

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 9:11-15 "Christ our Mediator"

- Reverend Matt Koerber

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

¹³For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Philippians 2:5-11 / Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Additional Creedal Statements

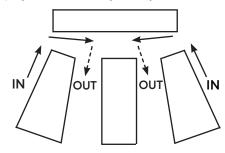
WCF 7:1 / The distance between God and the creature is so great, that although reasoning creatures owe obedience to him as their creator, yet they could never have any fruition of him as their blessedness and reward, except by some voluntary condescension on God's part, which he has been pleased to express by way of covenant.

WSC #42 / Q. Why was our mediator called Christ (meaning "the Anointed One")? A. Our mediator was called Christ because he was anointed with the Holy Spirit beyond measure, and thus he was set apart and fully equipped with all authority and ability to carry out the offices of prophet, priest, and king of his church, both in his state of humiliation and in his state of exaltation.

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.

City Reformed Church distributes communion to groups of people who come forward to eat and drink the Lord's Supper together. Please join us in song as we celebrate Christ dwelling with his church in the sacrament of communion. Lines are formed at the front of the room and the entire line will eat and drink at the same time. Not everyone should stand and line up at the same time and it is often better to remain seated until the line progresses. Please notify an usher if you are unable to come forward and need to receive communion in your seat.

Songs of Communion

Christ Is Lower Still

(Words & Music: Matt Maher, Kate Bluett, Doe Jones 2023)

Breathe in reach out
Touch the hem of your garment now
Help me heal me
My mind my body and soul

Let the King descend Living Word Made Flesh Lift this heavy heart To your throne O God

In your wounds I find Room for all of mine When from grace I fell Christ was lower still

Humbly lowly Jesus waits in the valley My savior suffers with me With him I'll rise again

> Let the King descend Living Word Made Flesh Lift this heavy heart To your throne O God

In your wounds I find Room for all of mine When from grace I fell Christ was lower 'Till the earth is filled Christ is lower still

We lift it all up to you Lord We lift it all up to you Lord

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

(Words: Liturgy of St. James, 4th Century; Music: 17th Century French; Arrangement: Daniel Snoke 2011)

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood, Lord of Lords, in human vesture, In the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of Light descendeth From the realms of endless day, That the powers of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Now Behold The Lamb

(Words & Music: Kirk Franklin 1995)

Now behold the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Born into sin that I may live again
The Precious Lamb of God

Holy is the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Why you love me so
Lord I shall never know
The Precious Lamb of God

Thank you for the Lamb
The Precious Lamb of God
Because of your grace
I can finish this race
The Precious Lamb of God

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. (repeat)

Benediction

At tonight's Worship Service, Reverend Nameun Cho will be preaching from Isaiah 7:10-25 "The Bright Incarnation Amidst a Dark Distrust."

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

Praying for the Persecuted Church in China Monday, December 8 9 PM	Praying for the Persecuted Church in China: December 8 marks the anniversary of the arrests at Early Rain Covenant Church in 2018. In recent months, house churches in China have seen a new wave of harassment, detainment and targeted persecution. Please join the Missions Committee online on Monday, December 8 at 9pm for our Global Missions Prayer time as we pray together for 30 minutes on behalf of our persecuted brothers and sisters in China. https://tinyurl.com/cityreformedglobalprayer
RUF at Pitt 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!
Women's Bible Study Tuesdays 9:45 AM-11:45 AM Greenfield Chapel	Studying Revelation using Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation by Nancy Guthrie. Contact Tracy (<i>partridge.ta@gmail.com</i>) or Luda (<i>luda.bates@gmail.com</i>). Childcare provided.
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 let us know with this form! You can also contact Alex Watt (alex@alexcwatt.com, 724-858-8031) with any questions.
Young Adult Women's Christmas Party Friday, December 12 7 PM Rebecca Pollard's House (Shadyside)	Young adult women are invited to a Christmas gathering with food, song, and a white elephant gift exchange (\$10 limit for gifts). Please consider bringing an appetizer or dessert to share if you're able. RSVP to Lindsay (lindsay.karr@gmail.com) and Michele (michele. kloes@gmail.com).
Congregational Meeting December 14 WT Auditorium	Immediately after the morning service. Please join for an important update regarding the 300 Saline St. building. All are welcome, members encouraged to attend to vote.
Youth Ministry Christmas Party 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!

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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	See details on previous page. Held on Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/cityreformedglobalprayer
Bean Sprouts 3rd Wednesday 12:00 PM	The next Bean Sprouts meeting will be Wednesday, December 17th at noon in the Greenfield Chapel. Contact Joe Stehle: <i>joestehle@gmail.com</i> .
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 7th
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: <i>lindsay.karr@gmail.com</i> .
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 <code>joseph@cityreformed.org</code> 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, <i>michele.kloes@gmail.com</i> , for more info.
Ultimate Frisbee Thursdays	Ultimate frisbee group meets Thursday evenings. All skill levels are welcome! Contact Dan Toney (<i>danielrtoney</i> @ <i>gmail.com</i>) 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 Friday:

Squirrel Hill - Ben Chidester

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

Shadyside - Chris Bollinger West Hills - Jon Dodd

East Suburban - Joe Stehle

Leadership

Flders

Rev. Matthew Koerber: pastormatt@cityreformed.org

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Joe Stehle:

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Dave Snoke: snoke@hey.com

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