



Sunday Evening Communion Service
January 18, 2026

"Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

- Moses (*Deuteronomy 31:6*)

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – January 18, 2026

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Psalm 68:4-10

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

Leader Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;

People **His name is the LORD; exult before him!**

Leader Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

People **God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

Leader O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

People **The earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel.**

Leader Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad; you restored your inheritance as it languished;

People **Your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 27 | The Everlasting

(Words & Music: Fellowship Church 2010)

The Lord is my light and salvation
Whom shall I fear of whom shall I be afraid
The Lord is the strength of my life
Whom shall I fear of whom shall I be afraid

I will wait for you; I will wait for you
I will wait for you; I will wait for you

I will remain confident in this
I will see the goodness of the Lord
I will remain confident in this
I will see the goodness of the Lord

We set our hope on you
We set our hope on your love
We set our hope on the Lord
Who is the everlasting God
You are the everlasting God

Psalm 90 | O God Our Help In Ages Past

(Words: Isaac Watts 1719; Music: William Croft 1708)

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received its frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,
And our eternal home!

Call to Confession: Numbers 13:31-14:4

Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Prayer of Confession: Paraphrase of Psalm 106

Lord, we, like our fathers in the faith before us, have sinned. We have doubted your goodness and your ability to deliver us. When you led your people out of Egypt to the promised land, they doubted your promises and despised the good land that you promised them. They doubted that they could overcome the threats that lay before them. We, like them, see many dangers and threats that lie before us in our walk of faith, and we shrink back and complain. We despise the good plans you have for us. In our selves, we lack the faith to persevere.

Nevertheless, when our fathers rebelled against you, you looked upon their distress, when you heard their cry. For their sake you remembered your covenant, and you relented according to the abundance of your steadfast love.

Save us, O Lord our God. Deliver us from our sin, just as you delivered your people then. Lead us onward to that eternal promised land, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 78:52-55

Then he led out his people like sheep and guided them in the wilderness like a flock. He led them in safety, so that they were not afraid, but the sea overwhelmed their enemies. And he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. He drove out nations before them; he apportioned them for a possession and settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

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)

Wilderness

(Words & Music: Daniel Snoke, Keith Watts, & Naaman Wood 2020)

Ev'ry failure that we carry
Is a load you long to take
And redeem it for your glory
With the lightness of your grace
Though the wilderness is lonely
Though our hope may seem to wear
Still the wilderness is holy
For we find you meet us there

Ev'ry trial and temptation
Is a cross you call to bear
That we know more of your patience
And to feel your loving care
Though the wilderness is lonely
Though our faith may seem to bend
In the wilderness you closely
Guard our hearts unto the end

Ev'ry stain and imperfection
You are making wholly new
For our marks shall be reflections
Of the scars you carry too
Though the wilderness is lonely
Though we wander and we roam
Through the wilderness your only
Path of love will lead us home

Blessed is his name
Jesus Christ we sing
Worthy to be praised
Hallelujah!

Though the wilderness is lonely
Though we wander and we roam
Through the wilderness your only
Path of love will lead us home

Scripture & Homily: Joshua 1:1-9

"Will You Be Strong and Very Courageous?"

- Elder Ben Chidester

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

Genesis 15:18-21 / On that day the **LORD** made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

Deuteronomy 9:1-5 / "Hear, O Israel: you are to cross over the Jordan today, to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you have heard it said, 'Who can stand before the sons of Anak?' Know therefore today that he who goes over before you as a consuming fire is the **LORD** your God. He will destroy them and subdue them before you. So you shall drive them out and make them perish quickly, as the **LORD** has promised you. "Do not say in your heart, after the **LORD** your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of my righteousness that the **LORD** has brought me in to possess this land,' whereas it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the **LORD** is driving them out before you. Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the **LORD** your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the **LORD** swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Psalm 1:1-2 / Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

Hebrews 4:8-10 / For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

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

How Firm a Foundation

(Words: R. Keene & George Keith 1787; Music: American Folk)

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

In every condition, in sickness, in health;
In poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
At home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
As thy days may demand, shall My strength ever be.

"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed!
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
The rivers of grief shall not thee overflow,
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

(continued on next page)

"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply,
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,
I will never, no, never, no, never forsake."

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

Spring 2026



1/14	Youth Group Resumes
2/1	Spring Reading Program Begins
2/6—7	Membership Class
2/6—8	Snow Camp
2/27—28	Men's Retreat
3/1	Communicants Class Begins
3/7	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?
3/27—28	Women's Retreat
4/3	Good Friday
4/5	Easter (Sunrise & Breakfast)
4/26	Sunday School Brunch
5/16	Men's Prayer Breakfast
5/24	Pentecost
7/20—24	VBS