



"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us... Our Lord Jesus Christ was made a curse for us that he might deliver us from the curse of the law... If God has cursed Christ for any man, he will not curse that man again... The law cannot curse a believer... it blesses him, yea, and he shall be blessed."

- Spurgeon's sermon, "The Curse Removed"

Sunday Evening Communion Service
April 19, 2026

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – April 19, 2026

Presider: Elder Joe Stehle

Call to Worship: Deuteronomy 28:1-6

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

Leader "And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.

People **And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.**

Leader Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.

People **Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.**

Leader Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

People **Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out."**

Prayer of Invocation

Thine Be The Glory

(Words: Edmond Budry, 1884; Music: George F. Handel, 1747)

Thine be the glory risen conquering Son
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay

*Thine be the glory risen conquering Son
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won*

Lo Jesus meets us risen from the tomb
Lovingly he greets us scatters fear and gloom
Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing
For her Lord now liveth death hath lost its sting

No more we doubt thee glorious Prince of Life
Life is nought without thee aid us in our strife
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above

Your Glory Reigns (Psalm 57)

(Words & Music: L. Bennett, J. Miller, M. Reed, J. Remaniak, D. Snoko 2024)

Glorious refuge from storms of sorrow
You are our hiding place
Divine protection from winds of trouble
Shielded in your embrace

*We will sing to you O Lord
Every nation tribe and tongue
Oh awake- our souls- to praise your name
Above the earth your glory reigns*

A shore of safety from waves of suff'ring
You lift us from the deep
A voice of truth when evil's pursuing
Eternal rest we reap
Eternal rest we reap

Sent down from heaven your glory to us
Rescued us from our sin
Exalted Savior merciful ruler
In heaven and on earth

Call to Confession: Deuteronomy 28:15-19

"But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out."

Prayer of Confession: Deuteronomy 29:16-19

"You know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. And you have seen their detestable things, their idols of wood and stone, of silver and gold, which were among them. Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit, one who, when he hears the words of this sworn covenant, blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall be safe, though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.' This will lead to the sweeping away of moist and dry alike."

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Galatians 3:10-14

For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

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)

Stronger

(Words & Music: Ben Fielding & Reuben Morgan 2007)

There is Love that came for us
Humbled to a sinner's cross
You broke my shame and sinfulness
You rose again victorious

Faithfulness none can deny
Through the storm and through the fire
There is truth that sets me free
Jesus Christ who lives in me

*You are stronger, you are stronger
Sin is broken, you have saved me
It is written, "Christ is risen"
Jesus you are Lord of all*

No beginning and no end
You're my hope and my defense
You came to seek and save the lost
You paid it all upon the cross

Scripture & Homily: Joshua 8:30-35

"Will God Forgive Me?"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, ³¹just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, "an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool." And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings. ³²And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. ³³And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. ³⁴And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law. ³⁵There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

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-communicating 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

Christ The Lord Is Risen Today

(Words: Charles Wesley 1739; Music: John Walsh 1708)

Christ the Lord is risen today - Alleluia
Sons of men and angels say - Alleluia
Raise your joys and triumphs high - Alleluia
Sing ye heav'ns and earth reply - Alleluia

Love's redeeming work is done - Alleluia
Fought the fight the battle won - Alleluia
Lo the Sun's eclipse is o'er - Alleluia
Lo He sets in blood no more - Alleluia

Vain the stone the watch the seal - Alleluia
Christ has burst the gates of hell - Alleluia
Death in vain forbids Him rise - Alleluia
Christ has opened paradise - Alleluia

Lives again our glorious King - Alleluia
Where, O death, is now thy sting - Alleluia
Once He died our souls to save - Alleluia
Where thy victory O grave - Alleluia

Hail the Lord of earth and Heaven - Alleluia
Praise to Thee by both be given - Alleluia
Thee we greet triumphant now - Alleluia
Hail the resurrection thou - Alleluia

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