



"When a man takes an oath, Meg, he is holding his own self in his own hands. Like water. And, if he opens his fingers then -- he needn't hope to find himself again."

- Thomas More, from "A Man for All Seasons"

Sunday Evening Service
April 26, 2026

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday Evening Worship – April 26, 2026
Presider: Elder David Bacon

Call to Worship: Psalm 29:1-9

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

Leader Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

People **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

Leader The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

People **The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

Leader The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

People **He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

Leader The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

People **The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**

Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 104 | Rejoice in All Your Works

(Words & Music: Wendell Kimbrough 2014)

Every mouth that cries for food,
Every lung that yearns for breath,
Every eye that searches through the dark for light—
All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied.

*Oh rejoice in all your works,
King of Heaven, King of Earth!
Every creature you have made declares your praise.
We rejoice in all you've made,
God of all-sustaining grace!
With the mountain, sky, and sea, we sing your praise!*

Every tree that thirsts for rain,
Every bird that seeks its nest,
Every heart that waits in hope to be made glad—
All creation looks to you
For its breath and for its food.
From the goodness of your hand we're satisfied

May the pond'rings of my heart,
And the song upon my lips,
With the chorus of creation join in praise:
To the God who made all things,
To the Spirit who sustains,
To the Son who over all creation reigns!

Psalm 96 | Christ is the Lord Redeemer and King

(Music & Words: Daniel Snoke, Jalen Bell, Nate Glasper Jr., Eron Lauchié 2024)

Sing to the LORD, sing a new song
To God whom the glory of nations belong
Trust in the LORD and not empty praise
For Great is the LORD and great are his ways

Give to the LORD O drifter and saint
Give to the LORD both glory and strength
Bring him your life and make it his throne
Offer your heart and enter his home

*Say the LORD reigns, he's breaking the curse
Here the LORD brings his kingdom to earth
Now The LORD reigns! With heaven we sing
"Christ is the Lord Redeemer and King"*

The heavens rejoice with earth and the sea
They join in the song of true jubilee
Creation proclaims the day of the Lord
And kingdom shalom will soon be restored

*Say the LORD reigns! All nations and tribes
Here the LORD reigns, the church as his bride
Now The LORD reigns! Let everyone sing
"Christ is the Lord Redeemer and King"*

His good good justice is fixed like the mountains
His faithfulness and mercy are boundless

Call to Confession: Matthew 12:35-37

The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord, we so often use our words carelessly. We do not follow through with what we say. We utter careless words without considering how they may affect others. We utter insincere prayers, detached from our heart and mind.

We thank you that you never speak carelessly. You always say exactly what you intend. We thank you that through your faithful words, we have the surety of forgiveness. We thank you that, through Christ, the true Word, you have faithfully accomplished our redemption. Please forgive us of our careless words and help us to reflect your character and faithfulness with our words. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 55:6-7, 10-11

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

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)

Isaiah 55 | So Shall His Word

(Words & Music: Liz Vice & Sandra McCracken)

So shall his Word that goes out, that goes out,
Shall not return, not return empty.

It shall make a name for the Lord.

It shall make a name for the Lord.

Let the Light make a name for the Lord in the dark.

Come all who thirst, laborers, lay it down.
Come seek the Lord while he may be found.

We shall go out, out with joy led in peace.
Join in the song all creation sings.

We shall make a name for the Lord.

We shall make a name for the Lord.

Let the Light make a name for the Lord in the dark.

Scripture & Homily: Joshua 9

"A God of His Word"

- Elder Ben Chidester

As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, ²they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel.

³But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, ⁴they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, ⁵with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes. And all their provisions were dry and crumbly. ⁶And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel, "We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us." ⁷But the men of Israel said to the Hivites, "Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?" ⁸They said to Joshua, "We are your servants." And Joshua said to them, "Who are you? And where do you come from?" ⁹They said to him, "From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God. For we have heard a report of him, and all that he did in Egypt, ¹⁰and all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroath. ¹¹So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us, 'Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them, "We are your servants. Come now, make a covenant with us."' ¹²Here is our bread. It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey

on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly. ¹³These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst. And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey.”

¹⁴So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD. ¹⁵And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

¹⁶At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them. ¹⁷And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim. ¹⁸But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel. Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders. ¹⁹But all the leaders said to all the congregation, “We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them. ²⁰This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them.” ²¹And the leaders said to them, “Let them live.” So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

²²Joshua summoned them, and he said to them, “Why did you deceive us, saying, ‘We are very far from you,’ when you dwell among us? ²³Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God.” ²⁴They answered Joshua, “Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you—so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing. ²⁵And now, behold, we are

in your hand. Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it.” ²⁶So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them. ²⁷But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Additional Scripture

2 Samuel 21:1-2 / Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year. And David sought the face of the LORD. And the LORD said, "There is bloodguilt on Saul and on his house, because he put the Gibeonites to death." So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them. Now the Gibeonites were not of the people of Israel but of the remnant of the Amorites. Although the people of Israel had sworn to spare them, Saul had sought to strike them down in his zeal for the people of Israel and Judah.

Psalm 15:1-4 / O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the LORD; who swears to his own hurt and does not change;

Matthew 5:34-37 / "But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil."

Song of Thanksgiving

Promises

(Aaron Moses, Carrington Gaines, Dante Bowe, Keila Alvarado, and Lemuel Marin 2020)

God of Abraham
You're the God of covenant
Of faithful promises
Time and time again
You have proven
You do just what you say

Though the storms may come
And the winds may blow
I'll remain steadfast
And let my heart learn
When you speak a word
It will come to pass

*Great is your faithfulness to me
Great is your faithfulness to me
From the rising sun
To the setting same
I will praise your name
Great is your faithfulness to me*

God from age to age
Though the earth may pass away
Your Word remains the same
Your history can prove
There's nothing you can't do
You're faithful and true

I put my faith in Jesus
My anchor to the ground
My hope and firm foundation
He'll never let me down

Benediction

Announcements

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>Backyard Bash: MS&HS Friday, May 15th 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM The Moore's House</p>	<p>We invite all MS & HS students to join us as we celebrate the end of the academic year with fellowship, tournament-style yard games (e.g., Spikeball, Cornhole, Kan Jam, and Volleyball), and summertime snacks! Reach out to Molly if your child needs a ride.</p>
<p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 300 Saline Street Saturday, May 16th 9:00 - 10:30 AM</p>	<p>Men and young men of City Reformed, please join us for a nourishing breakfast, time of fellowship, and spiritual reflection. Our speaker will lead us through the final topic, Remember and Reflect, from our Caring for One Another teaching series! Even if you have not been able to attend any of these talks, come hungry and join us for this very special event! Registration is now open at the following link: https://tinyurl.com/CRPCSpring26PB</p>
<p>Membership Class May 22nd - 23rd 300 Saline Street</p>	<p>If you are interested in learning more about City Reformed and/or joining the church, you're invited to attend our next Membership Class! Contact Pastor Joseph Bianco (joseph@cityreformed.org) for info.</p>
<p>Medical Missions Opportunity, Ethiopia</p>	<p>CRPC will be sending a medical mission team to Ethiopia 6/27-7/5. For more info, contact Alex Watt (alex@alexcwatt.com).</p> <p>Notary needed to help with notarizing provider documentation to get Ethiopian Medical Licenses. Contact Tracy Partridge (partridge.ta@gmail.com).</p>
<p>Rainforest Falls VBS July 20-24th 10 AM - 12:30 PM</p>	<p>VBS registration open for adult & youth volunteers & children attendees age 4 to rising 5th graders! Special need for Decorating Team to plan & supervise decorations, no need to attend VBS to help. Contact Debbie Bacon for info or visit cityreformed.org/vbs</p>
<p>Women's Ministry Job Opening</p>	<p>After a period of discernment, we have revised and updated the job description for women's ministry, now with a title of Coordinator for Women's Ministry. The job description can be found on our website. Contact Matt with questions and interest (pastormatt@cityreformed.org)</p>

Regular Events

www.cityreformed.org/events

<p>College Shuttle Sundays</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Agora Forum Biweekly Mondays, 7PM, Allen Hall G-10</p>	<p>On 4/27, we will be discussing the apologetics seminar held by the CSS last weekend. Allen Hall G-10 (on Pitt's campus.) Contact Alex Main: amain8511@gmail.com</p>
<p>Global Missions Prayer Mondays @ 9:00 PM</p>	<p>This week we are praying for MTW Bulgaria. Held on Zoom: https://tinyurl.com/cityreformedglobalprayer</p>
<p>Bean Sprouts 3rd Wednesday 12:00 PM</p>	<p>The next Bean Sprouts meeting will be Wednesday, May 20th at noon in the Greenfield Chapel. Contact Joe Stehle: joestehle@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Wednesday Prayer Meetings 8:30-9:30 AM</p>	<p>Please join us for Scripture reading, adoration, thanksgiving, and sharing prayer requests. Held on Zoom at: https://tinyurl.com/crpcwednesdayprayer.</p>
<p>Youth Group Biweekly Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM Greenfield Chapel</p>	<p>An opportunity for MS and HS students to connect with God through His Word & connect with one another through games, Bible teaching, discussion, & prayer. Current study: themes of discipline & reproof in Proverbs.</p>
<p>Young Adult Women's Discipleship Group Wednesdays, 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Meets biweekly on the North Side. Contact Lindsay Karr for more info: lindsay.karr@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Men's New Hope Bi-Weekly Wednesdays</p>	<p>A ministry for men struggling with various kinds of sexual sin. 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.</p>
<p>Thursday Women's Bible Study 1:00-3:00 PM</p>	<p>Turn Your Eyes: A Bible Study on the Psalms. Thursdays from 1:00-3:00PM at Cathy Taylor's House. Contact Cathy Taylor (lawyerdad5@aol.com).</p>
<p>Mommies' Discipleship 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7 PM - 9 PM</p>	<p>Meets at the home of Sandy Snoke (scsnoke@comcast.net). Enjoy tea & fellowship with other moms, studying the Sermon on the Mount & praying for one another.</p>
<p>Young Adults Fellowship</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Ultimate Frisbee Thursdays</p>	<p>Ultimate frisbee group meets Thursday evenings. All skill levels are welcome! Contact Dan Toney (danielrtoney@gmail.com)</p>