



**Sunday Evening Communion Service**  
**May 17, 2026**

# Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – May 17, 2026

Presider: Elder Craig Kozminski

## Call to Worship: Psalm 27:1-6

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

Leader The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

People **When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

Leader Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

People **One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

People **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

## Prayer of Invocation

## O Worship The King #2

O worship the King all-glorious above,  
O gratefully sing his pow'r and his love;  
Our shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,  
Almighty, your pow'r has founded of old;  
Has 'stablished it fast by a changeless decree,  
And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills; it descends to the plain;  
And sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
Your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!

O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!  
While angels delight to hymn you above,  
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
With true adoration shall lisp to your praise.

## **Holy Holy Holy #100**

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## **Call to Confession: 1 Corinthians 10:3-6**

And all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious Heavenly Father, we confess our shortcomings in spiritual battles. Though we walk in the flesh, we have often fought with fleshly weapons—relying on our own strength, wisdom, and strategies instead of the divine power You have given us in Christ.

We have allowed strongholds to remain in our minds: sinful patterns, false beliefs, prideful arguments, and lofty opinions that stand against the knowledge of You. We have failed to take every thought captive to obey Christ. Instead, we have made room for lies, fears, and self-reliance.

Forgive us, Lord, for these sins of the mind and heart. Cleanse us from every stronghold and every argument that exalts itself against You. By Your Spirit, give us the power to destroy what must be destroyed and to submit every thought to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

We repent and ask for Your mercy, trusting in the finished work of our Savior, who alone can set us free. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

## **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon:** Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## **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](http://cityreformed.org/give); 3929 Coleman St., 15207)*

## Not What My Hands Have Done #461

Not what my hands have done  
Can save my guilty soul;  
Not what my toiling flesh has borne  
Can make my spirit whole.  
Not what I feel or do  
Can give me peace with God;  
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears  
Can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ,  
Can ease this weight of sin;  
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God,  
Can give me peace within.  
Thy love to me, O God,  
Not mine, O Lord to thee,  
Can rid me of this dark unrest,  
And set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God,  
To me can pardon speak;  
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God,  
Can this sore bondage break.  
No other work, save thine,  
No other blood will do;  
No strength, save that which is divine,  
Can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God;  
I rest on love divine;  
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart,  
I call this Savior mine.  
This cross dispels each doubt;  
I bury in his tomb  
Each thought of unbelief and fear,  
Each ling'ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace;  
I trust his truth and might;  
He calls me his, I call him mine,  
My God, my joy, my light.  
'Tis he who saveth me,  
And freely pardon gives;  
I love because he loveth me,  
I live because he lives.

## Scripture & Homily: Joshua 11:1–23

"Is God a God of War?"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

**W**hen Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, <sup>2</sup>and to the kings who were in the northern hill country, and in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, and in the lowland, and in Naphoth-dor on the west, <sup>3</sup>to the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Hermon in the land of Mizpah. <sup>4</sup>And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots. <sup>5</sup>And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.

<sup>6</sup>And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel. You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire." <sup>7</sup>So Joshua and all his warriors came suddenly against them by the waters of Merom and fell upon them. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel, who struck them and chased them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the Valley of Mizpeh. And they struck them until he left none remaining. <sup>9</sup>And Joshua did to them just as the LORD said to him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.

<sup>10</sup>And Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms. <sup>11</sup>And they struck with the sword all who were in it, devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed. And he burned Hazor with

fire. <sup>12</sup>And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. <sup>13</sup>But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned. <sup>14</sup>And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed. <sup>15</sup>Just as the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>16</sup>So Joshua took all that land, the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland <sup>17</sup>from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. And he captured all their kings and struck them and put them to death. <sup>18</sup>Joshua made war a long time with all those kings. <sup>19</sup>There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle. <sup>20</sup>For it was the LORD's doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the LORD commanded Moses.

<sup>21</sup>And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities. <sup>22</sup>There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel. Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain. <sup>23</sup>So Joshua took the whole land, according

to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.

**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-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

## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence #193

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 heav'nly 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 pow'rs 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!"

## Doxology #731

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

# Announcements

[www.cityreformed.org/events](http://www.cityreformed.org/events)

<p><b>Membership Class</b> 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 (<a href="mailto:joseph@cityreformed.org">joseph@cityreformed.org</a>) for info.</p>
<p><b>Women's Bible Study Leaders Training</b> May 30th 9AM - 12PM 300 Saline Street</p>	<p>Have you ever considered leading a Women's Bible Study? Join us for Women's Bible Study Leaders Training! This training is required for any woman who wants to lead a Bible Study at City, but open to anyone. See Debbie Bacon for details, and register at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/WomensBibleStudyLeaderTraining">https://tinyurl.com/WomensBibleStudyLeaderTraining</a></p>
<p><b>High School Graduate Recognition</b> Sunday, May 31st WT</p>	<p>Celebrate and pray for our HS graduates as a church family during Morning Worship, recognizing the accomplishments of our covenant children! Our HS graduates and their families are invited to a lunch in the WT cafeteria immediately after Morning Worship.</p>
<p><b>Ethiopia Missions BP Clinic</b> Sunday, May 31st WT</p>	<p>Join us after service Sunday 5/31 to get your blood pressure taken by future youth triage support, Abiel Bates and Zachary Chan, under Dr. Stephen Chan's clinical oversight. Come support our youth missionaries as they practice for the clinics and learn more about how they'll be serving in Ethiopia this summer.</p>
<p><b>Medical Missions Opportunity, Ethiopia</b></p>	<p>CRPC will be sending a medical mission team to Ethiopia 6/27-7/5. For more info, contact Alex Watt (<a href="mailto:alex@alexwatt.com">alex@alexwatt.com</a>).</p> <p>Notary needed to help with notarizing provider documentation to get Ethiopian Medical Licenses. Contact Tracy Partridge (<a href="mailto:partridge.ta@gmail.com">partridge.ta@gmail.com</a>).</p>
<p><b>Parents' Night Out (HS)</b> Saturday, June 13th 5PM - 8PM 300 Saline St</p>	<p>The Youth Ministry is hosting a Parents' Night Out to raise support for our short-term mission trip in June. More info to come (including a registration), but save the date for now!</p>
<p><b>Rainforest Falls VBS</b> July 20-24th 10AM - 12:30PM</p>	<p>VBS registration open for adult &amp; youth volunteers &amp; children attendees age 4 to rising 5th graders! Special need for Decorating Team to plan &amp; supervise decorations, no need to attend VBS to help. Contact Debbie Bacon for info or visit <a href="http://cityreformed.org/vbs">cityreformed.org/vbs</a></p>
<p><b>Women's Ministry Job Opening</b></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. Job description on our website. Contact Matt with questions and interest (<a href="mailto:pastormatt@cityreformed.org">pastormatt@cityreformed.org</a>)</p>