



"Christ will take a piece of dead, dry wood, and make it grow into a green tree; He will take a dog from under the table, and put him among the children... Grace, grace, free grace, the merits of Christ for nothing..."

- Samuel Rutherford Communion Sermons

Sunday Evening Communion Worship
August 16, 2026

Evening Worship Service

City Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday Evening Communion Worship – August 16, 2026

Presider: Reverend Matt Koerber

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:5-10

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

Leader For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

People **Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace.**

Leader In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me.

People **There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.**

Leader All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

People **For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.**

Prayer of Invocation

How Great Thou Art #44

Oh Lord my God when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze

And when I think that God his son not sparing
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shouts of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim my God, how great Thou art

O The Deep Deep Love of Jesus #535

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
how he loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore;
how he watches o'er his loved ones,
died to call them all his own;
how for them he intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee.

Call to Confession: James 4:6-9

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Prayer of Confession:

Gracious heavenly Father, we confess today our true state. So often we play around in mud pies pretending that we are greater or more righteous than we are. Were you to fully reveal to us the true depths of our sins, we would be undone. Forgive us Father for our self delusions, our fantasies, the wanderings of our minds, and the escapism of our hearts. Forgive our stubborn pride, our independent spirits, and our selfishness. With the woman under the table we admit we are dogs, but the crumbs of your table are worth more than ten worlds. Humble us and draw us near to you. Feed us from your table and forgive all of our sins. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Romans 10:11-13

"For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

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)

Jesus Paid It All #308

I hear the Savior say,
"Your strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in me your all in all."

*Jesus paid it all,
All to him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.*

Lord, now indeed I find
Your power, and yours alone,
Can change the leper's spots,
And melt the heart of stone.

For nothing good have I
Whereby your grace to claim —
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's lamb.

And when, before the throne,
I stand in him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

Scripture & Homily: Matthew 15:21-28

"Am I a Dog?"

- Reverend Joseph Bianco

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Just As I Am, Without One Plea #501

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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