



# CITY REFORMED CHURCH

Gospel ♣ Community ♣ Mission

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## REFLECTIONS

We cannot disavow the use of power because it is hazardous, but neither must we obscure the moral peril of power. This is the reason why no political program can be simply equated with the highest sanctities of life, and why our political decisions must be more circumspect than Christian decisions in America have been either on the right or the left. Nothing is clearer than that ideologically consistent political positions have been refuted by history, while healthy nations have preserved freedom and extended justice by various pragmatic policies which borrowed from various strategies. This does not mean that we must not and cannot make clear-cut decisions on matters of principle . . . A Christian faith that recognizes these factors will be prevented from aggravating the ideological conflict in a modern society. It may even prevent political acrimony in a Presidential year.

~Reinhold Niebuhr, “Our Faith and Concrete Political Decisions” in *Christianity and Society*,  
1952

Remember who you are, and to whom you belong. Remember that you belong to Jesus first and last; remember that the church, not America, is the body of Christ and the political hope of the future; remember that no matter how much it may have served the city of God, America is in itself part of the city of man; remember that the Eucharist is our sacrificial feast. It is good for Christians to be salted through our polity— in the White House and bureaucracies, in the military, in international institutions. But Christians in those positions are called to *be* salt. American churches have too long disciplined Christians in Americanism, and that makes Christian involvement in the American polity far smoother than it ought to be. Churches must repent of our Americanism and begin to cultivate martyrs—believers who are martyrs in the original sense of “witness” *and* in the latter sense of men and women ready to follow the Lamb all the way to an imperial cross.

~Peter Leithart, *Between Babel and Beast*

The Israelites were a free people, free to live before a merciful, saving God. But a free life of faith lived from the mysteries of God, is a large, demanding life--it is far easier to live small, reduced to the visible and tangible requirements of petty gods and tyrant kings. Their leaders, from Moses to Samuel, kept trying to get them to live large; they preferred to live small.

~Eugene Peterson

[cover art]  
*January Hour-Epiphany*  
Artist: Makoto Fujimura

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
January 24<sup>th</sup> 2021  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

**PRELUDE**  
**GREETING**

Minister:       The Lord be with you.

People:         ***And also with you.***

**CALL TO WORSHIP—Psalm 72:1-5**

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the royal son!

***May he judge your people with righteousness,  
and your poor with justice!***

Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

***May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!***

May they fear you while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!  
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!

***In his days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!***

**PRAYER OF ADORATION**

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*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Words: Theodulf of Orleans, 820

Music: Melchior Teschner, 1615

1. All glory, laud, and honor  
To You, Redeemer King,  
To whom the lips of children  
Made sweet hosannas ring.  
You are the King of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
Now in the Lord's name coming,  
The King and Blessed One.
2. The company of angels  
is praising you on high;  
And we, with all creation  
in chorus make reply.  
The people of the Hebrews  
With palms before you went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems  
Before you we present.
3. To You before your passion  
They sang their hymns of praise;  
To You, now high exalted,  
Our melody we raise.  
As You received their praises,  
Accept the prayers we bring,  
for You delight in goodness,  
O good and gracious King!

## Sacred Reading

~ Romans 13

*Hearing Scripture read aloud is an act of worship. It has been the practice of the church for thousands of years to have portions of the Bible read during worship services. The assumption behind this practice is that we are people who need to be shaped by all of God's word*

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Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup> Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup> For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup> for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup> For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. <sup>12</sup> The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. <sup>13</sup> Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader:           The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
People:           ***but the Word of our God stands forever.***

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## *Rejoice, the Lord is King*

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: John Darwall

Arr: Philip Percival/Amanda Glover

1. Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore,  
Mortals, give thanks, and sing,  
And triumph evermore:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice,  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

2. Jesus the Savior reigns,  
The God of truth and love,  
When He had purged our stains  
He took His seat above:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice,  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

3. His kingdom cannot fail,  
He rules o'er earth and heav'n,  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv'n:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice,  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

4. Rejoice in glorious hope,  
Jesus the Judge shall come;  
And take His servants up  
To their eternal home:  
We soon shall hear th'arch-an-gel's voice,  
The trump of God shall sound, rejoice.

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## **CALL TO CONFESSION** — *from Exodus 2:1-2*

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before me

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Gracious God,*

*our sins are too heavy to carry,*

*too real to hide, and too deep to undo.*

*Forgive what our lips tremble to name,*

*what our hearts can no longer bear,*

*and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.*

*Set us free from a past that we cannot change;*

*open to us a future in which we can be changed;*

*and give us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;*

*through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.*

### **Silent Confession**

#### **Words of Encouragement**—Titus 3:4-5, *ESV*

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.”

This is the good news

People:           ***Thanks be to God!***

## *To Thee I Come*

Words: Samuel Medey, 1738-1799

Music: Clint Wells, 2006



1. To Thee I come a sin-ner poor And wait for mer - cy at Thy door  
2. To Thee I come a sin-ner vile Up - on me Lord vouch-safe to smile



In - deed I've no - where else to flee O  
Mer - cy through blood I make my plea O



God be mer - ci - ful to me To Thee I come a sin-ner  
God be mer - ci - ful to me To Thee I come a sin-ner



weak And scarce know how to pray or speak From fear and  
great And well Thou know - est all my state Yet full for -



weak - ness set me free O God be mer - ci - ful to me!  
give - ness is with Thee



3. To Thee I come, a sin-ner lost Nor have I aught where-in to trust.

But where Thou art Lord I would be, O God be mer-ci-ful to

me! To glor-y bring me Lord at last and there when

all my sins are passed, With all the saints I'll then a - gree, O

God was mer-ci-ful to me! O God was mer-ci-ful to me!

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## PASSING THE PEACE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

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The offering is a way for Christians to participate in the mission and ministry of the church. Christians offer a sacrificial portion of their resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God’s grace. Offerings are a part of our worship service as an opportunity for the regular, proportionate and generous giving of the resources God has given us. If you are a guest today please feel under no compulsion to give.

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### GOD SPEAKS TO US—1 Samuel 8, *ESV*

When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. <sup>2</sup> The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. <sup>3</sup> Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

<sup>4</sup> Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah <sup>5</sup> and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.” <sup>6</sup> But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. <sup>8</sup> According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. <sup>9</sup> Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

<sup>10</sup> So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. <sup>11</sup> He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup> And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. <sup>13</sup> He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup> He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. <sup>15</sup> He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. <sup>16</sup> He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup> He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. <sup>18</sup> And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

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<sup>19</sup> But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, “No! But there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.” <sup>21</sup> And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. <sup>22</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey their voice and make them a king.” Samuel then said to the men of Israel, “Go every man to his city.”

Reader:           The Word of the Lord.

**People:**           ***Thanks be to God!***

## **GOD’S WORD AMONG HIS PEOPLE**

Pastor Chris Ganski

Sermon:

*The Lord is King*

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# COMMUNION

## Guidelines for Reception of Communion

Communion, also called *The Lord's Supper* or *the Eucharist*, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all committed followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this sacrament: those who are baptized members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this time is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and with His people, the church.

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## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

### CONFESSION OF FAITH (unison)

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.*

*He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.*

*He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.*

*He descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.*

*He ascended into heaven, and is seated*

*at the right hand of God the Father almighty.*

*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,*

*the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,*

*the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

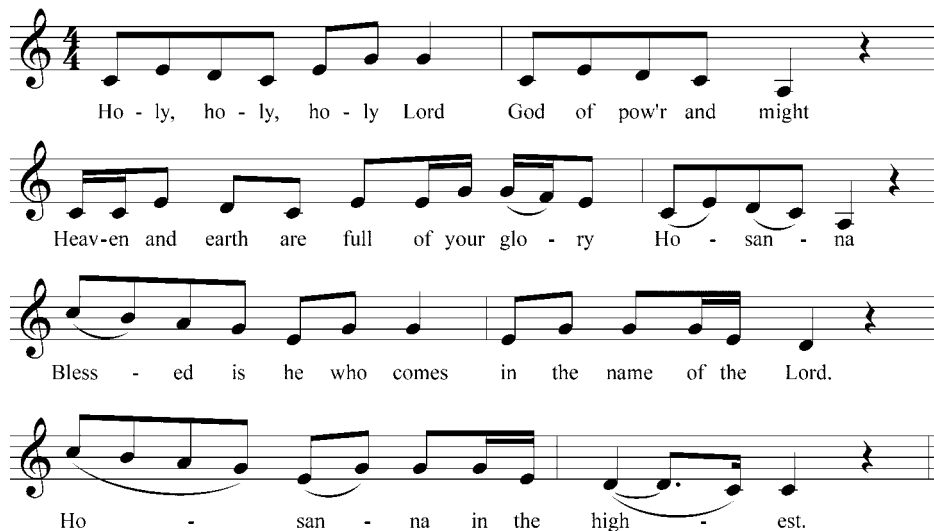
Minister: Lift up your hearts!

**People:** *We lift them up to the Lord!*

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

Blessed are you, strong and faithful God. All your works, the heights and the depths, echo the silent music of your praise. You gave us breath and speech, that all the living might find voice to sing your praise, and to celebrate the creation you called good. So now with all the powers of heaven and earth we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:



Heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of your Son, that partaking of them we may partake of him and live forevermore.

### **GOD'S PROMISE TO US IN THIS SACRAMENT**

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Minister: For as often as we eat this bread and drink the cup,

**All:** ***We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.***

Minister: Now putting our trust in Jesus we pray as he taught us to pray:

**All:** ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen***

## Our Great God

Words and Music: Ortega/Powell

Arr.: John Martin



E - ter - nal God, un - chang - ing, my - ste - rious and un - known; Your  
Lord we are weak and fail - ing, and help - less in the storm. Sur -  
Let ev - 'ry crea - ture in the sea, and ev - 'ry fly - ing bird, Let



bound - less love, un - fail - ing, in grace and mer - cy shown. Bright  
round us with Your an - gels, and hold us in Your arms. Our  
ev - 'ry moun - tain, ev - 'ry field and val - ley of the Earth, Let



ser - a - phim in cease - less flight a - round Your glor - ious throne; They  
cold and ruth - less en - em - y, his plea - sure is our harm. Rise  
all the moons and all the stars in all the U - ni - verse Sing



raise their voi - ces day and night in praise to You a - lone.  
up, O Lord, and he will flee be - fore our sov - 'reign God.  
prais - es to the li - ving God who rules them by His word.

### *Refrain:*



Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry be to our great God!



Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry be to our great God!

*Last time, repeat refrain*

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## BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Minister: Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

People: *Amen.*

## DISMISSAL

Minister: Now in gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, let us strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks, and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth.

People: *Thanks be to God! Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus!*

### MUSICIANS

Sarah Reimer, piano  
Sarah Sims, voice  
Brian Sullivan, guitar



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