



CITY REFORMED CHURCH

Gospel ♣ Community ♣ Mission

cityreformedchurch.org

REFLECTIONS

The glory of God is man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God. If the revelation of God through creation already brings life to all living beings on the earth, how much more will the manifestation of the Father by the Word bring life to those who see God.

~Irenaeus of Lyon, *Against Heresies*

Beholding of the *glory of Christ* is one of the greatest privileges and advancements that believers are capable of in this world, or that which is to come.

~John Owen, *The Glory of Christ*

The human person is fully alive in the sight of God, knowing and being known in love, and is therefore able to rest in the fullness of God's life such that he or she is able to embrace life itself. This life is known now through the cross, and does not merely look beyond it to glory (or, we might say, the form of glory is the cross). The light of the new creation is the light of the lamb, a lamb that never ceases to be the one who gave his life for many.

~Kyle Strobel, "A Spiritual Sight of Love"

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

SUNDAY WORSHIPJanuary 31st 20214th Sunday of Epiphany**PRELUDE****GREETING**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.***CALL TO WORSHIP—Psalm 111**

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

*Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.
Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures
forever.*

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

*He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the
inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are faithful and just; all
his precepts are trustworthy; they are established forever and ever, to be
performed with faithfulness and uprightness.*

He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!*

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Immortal Invisible

Words: Walter C. Smith, 1867
Tune: ST. DENIO

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible, hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains, high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but naught changeth Thee.
4. Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; oh, help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

Sacred Reading

~ Exodus 33:7-23

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

⁷ Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp.⁸ Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent.⁹ When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. ¹⁰ And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. ¹¹ Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his assistant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

¹² Moses said to the Lord, "See, you say to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' ¹³ Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." ¹⁴ And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ And he said to him, "If your presence will not go with me, do not bring us up from here. ¹⁶ For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Is it not in your going with us, so that we are distinct, I and your people, from every other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "This very thing that you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ Moses said, "Please show me your glory." ¹⁹ And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The Lord.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." ²¹ And the Lord said, "Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen."

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall.

People: ***but the Word of our God stands forever***

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Music: Luke Morton, 2012
Words: Charles Wesley, 1740

1. Christ, Whose glo - ry fills the skies,
2. Dark and cheer - less is the morn
3. Vi - sit then this soul of mine;

Christ, the true, the on - ly light,
Un - acc - omp - an - ied by Thee;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

Sun of Right - eous - ness, a - rise!
Joy - less is the day's re - turn,
Fill me, Rad - ian - cy Di - vine;

Tri - umph o'er the shades of night;
Till Thy mer - cy's beams I see;
Scat - ter all my un - be - lief;

Refrain:
Day - spring from on high, be near;
Till Thy in - ward light im - part,
More and more Thy self dis - play,

Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
Shi - ning to the per - fect day. (*Repeat Refrain*)

CALL TO CONFESSION — *Romans 8:26-27*

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION—*adapted from Psalm 25*

*Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!*

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

*For your name's sake, O LORD,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.*

Silent Confession

You are invited to personalize your confession as you pray silently.

Words of Encouragement—*adapted from Colossians 1:12-14*

God has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints of light.

*God 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 our sins.*

May the peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

Depth of Mercy

Words: Charles Wesley, 1740
Music: Koonce/Wells/Murphy, 2003



1. Depth of mer - cy can there be Mer - cy still re - served for me
2. I have spilt His pre - cious blood Tram - pled on the Son of God
3. Je - sus speaks and pleads His blood He di - sarms the wrath of God
4. Pi - ty from Thine eye let fall By a look my soul re - call



Can my God His wrath for - bear Me the chief of sin - ners spare
Filled with pains un - speak - a - ble I who yet am not in hell
Now my Fa - ther's mer - cies move Jus - tice lin - gers in - to love
Now the stone to flesh con - vert Cast a look and break my heart



I have long with - stood His grace Long pro - voked Him to His face
I my mas - ter have de - nied I a - fresh have cru - ci - fied
There for me the Sa - vior stand Shows His wounds and spreads His hands
Now in - cline me to re - pent Let me now my sins la - ment



Would not hear - en to His calls Grieved Him by a thou - sand falls.
And pro - faned His hal - lowed name Put Him to an o - pen shame.
God is love I know I feel Je - sus weeps and loves me still.
Now my foul re - volt de - plore Weep be - lieve and sin no more.

PASSING THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOD SPEAKS TO US—Matthew 16:24-28-17:13, *ESV*

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. ³ And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ And Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” ⁸ And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

⁹ And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.” ¹⁰ And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” ¹¹ He answered, “Elijah does come, and he will restore all things. ¹² But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.” ¹³ Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

GOD'S WORD AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Pastor Chris Ganski

Sermon:

The Transfiguration

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.

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.*

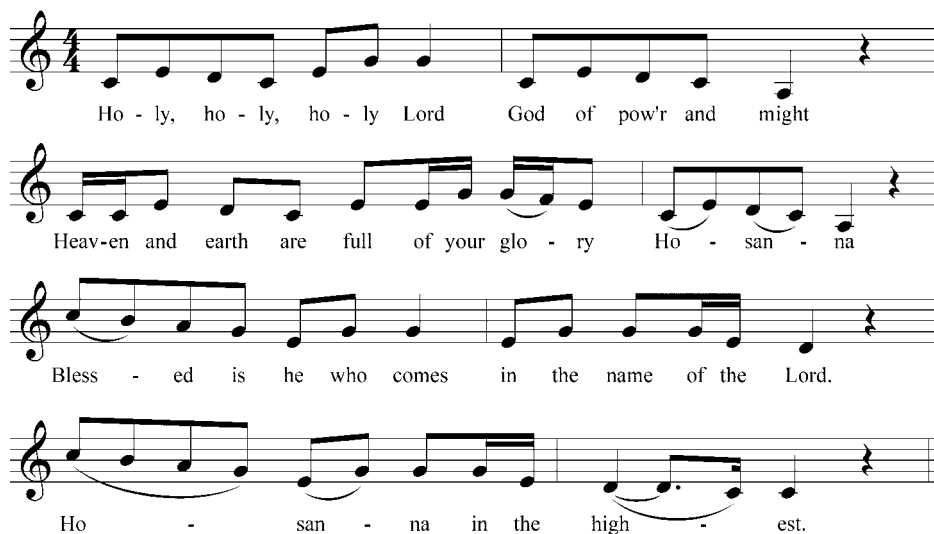
Minister: Lift up your hearts!

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***

Eternal Weight of Glory

Words and Music:
Wendell Kimbrough



1. Now the days and hours and mo - ments Of our suff - 'ring seem so —
2. Oh e - ter - nal weight of glo - ry! Oh in - her - i - tance di -



long; And the toil - some wait and wond - 'ring Threat - en si - lence to our
vine! We will see our Lord re - deem - ing Ev - 'ry past and fu - ture



song. Now our pain is real and press - ing Where our faith is thin and
time. All our pains will be trans - fi - gured, Like the scars of Christ our



weak, But our hope is set on Je - sus; And we cling to him, our strength. (to Verse 2)
Lord. We will see the weight of glo - ry, And our bro - ken years re -



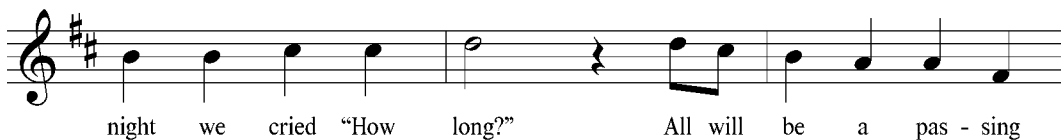
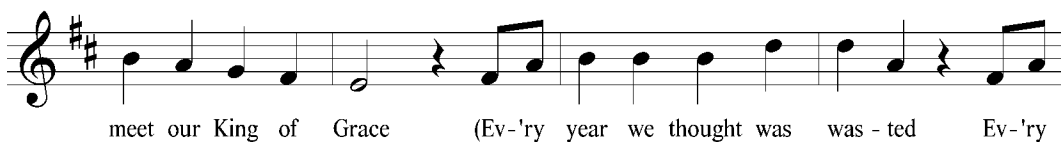
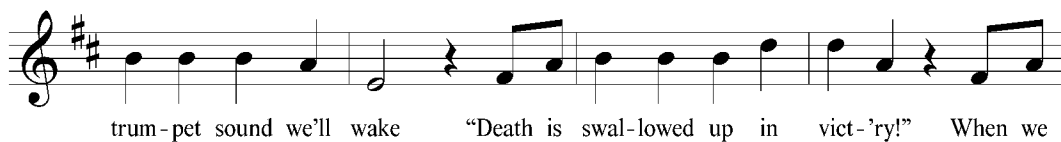
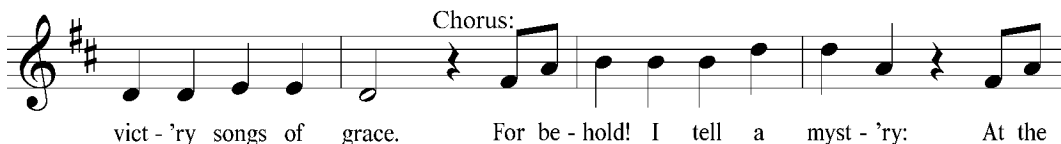
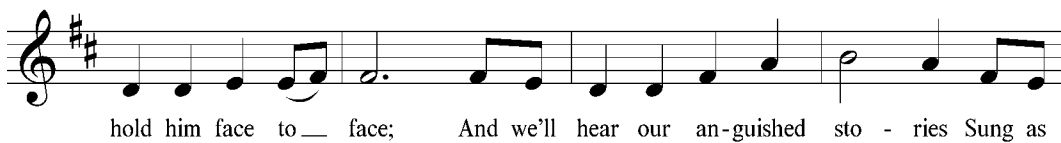
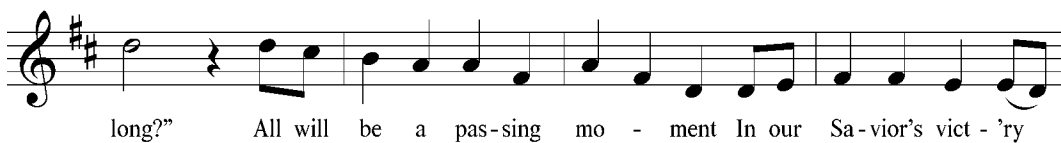
2. Chorus:
stored. For be - hold! I tell a myst - 'ry: At the trum - pet sound we'll
(to Chorus)



wake "Death is swal - lowed up in vict - 'ry!" When we meet our King of



Grace Ev - 'ry year we thought was was - ted Ev - 'ry night we cried "How



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
Andy Schroedermeier, voice
Rusty Dahler, guitar
Brian Sullivan, bass



Stay connected with CRC online

cityreformedchurch.org



facebook



@cityreformed