



CITY REFORMED CHURCH

Gospel ♣ Community ♣ Mission

cityreformedchurch.org

REFLECTIONS

Socrates said, 'The unexamined life is not worth living.' My revision is 'But the examined life makes you wish you were dead.'

~Saul Bellow

In order to be prepared to hope in what in what does not deceive, we must first lose hope in everything that does deceive.

~George Bernanos

Whoever has dreamt great dreams in his youth and seen the vision flee, or has loved and lost, or has beaten barehanded at the fortress of injustice and come back bleeding and broken, has passed through Koheleth's door.

~Robert Gordis

From the day we arrive on the planet,
and blinking step, into the sun,
There's more to be seen than can ever be seen,
more to do than can ever be done . . .
There's far too much to take in here,
more to find than can ever be found;
But rolling high through the sapphire sky
Keeps great and small on the endless round,
In the circle of life

~"The Circle of Life", *Lion King*

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

SUNDAY WORSHIPFebruary 7th 20215th Sunday of Epiphany**PRELUDE****GREETING**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.*****CALL TO WORSHIP**—*based upon Psalm 90*

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

***You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"
For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.***

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

***Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice
and be glad all our days.***

PRAYER OF ADORATION

The Lord is King

Words: Josiah Conder, 1824

Music: Nathan Partain, 2003



The Lord is King! Lift up your voice, O earth, and
The Lord is King! Who then shall dare Re - sist his
The Lord is King! Bow down you must, The Judge of



all ye heav'ns, re - joice! From world to
will, dis - trust his care? Or mur - mur
all the earth is just; Ho - ly and



world the joy shall ring, "The Lord om -
at his wise de - crees, Or doubt his
true are all his ways; Let ev' - ry



ni - po - tent is King!" Sing His praise, sing His
roy - al pro - mi - ses?
crea - ture sing his praise.



praise Lord of lords, An-cient of Days Sing His



praise, sing His praise All your days, all your days.

Sacred Reading

~ Romans 8:18-25, ESV

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.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Reader: The grass withers and the flowers fall.

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

For the Beauty of the Earth

Words: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and
 3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter,
 4. For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to the race so

of the skies, for the love which from our birth
 of the night, hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
 par - ent, child, friends on earth, and friends a - bove,
 free - ly giv'n, for that great, great love of thine,

o - ver and moon a - round us lies,
 sun and moon and stars of light,
 for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
 peace on earth and joy in heav'n,

Lord, of all, to Thee we raise this, our hymn of grate - ful praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION — *James 4:13-16, ESV*

¹³ Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — ¹⁴ yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶ As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

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,
and our hearts can no longer bear.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more
and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.*

Silent Confession

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

Assurance of Pardon—*1 John 1:8-9*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

God of My Life, To Thee I Call

Words: William Cowper, 1731-1800

Music: Pocta, Wells, Murphy, 2006

God of my life, to Thee I call;
 Friend of the friend-less and the faint,
 That were a grief I could not bear,

Af - flict - ed, at Thy feet I fall;
 Where should I lodge my deep com - plaint?
 Did Thou not hear and an - swer prayer;

When the great wa - ter floods pre - vail
 Where but with Thee, whose o - pen door
 But a prayer hear - ing, an - sw'ring God

Leave not my tremb - ling heart to fail!
 In - vites the help - less and the poor?
 Sup - ports me un - der ev - 'ry load.

Poor though I am, des - pised, for - got, Yet God, my

God, for - gets me not; And he is safe, and

must suc - ceed, For whom the Lord is sure to plead.

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—Ecclesiastes 1:1-11, *ESV*

The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

- ² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
- ³ What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?
- ⁴ A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.
- ⁵ The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.
- ⁶ The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
around and around goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.
- ⁷ All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they flow again.
- ⁸ All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
nor the ear filled with hearing.
- ⁹ What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done,
and there is nothing new under the sun.

¹⁰ Is there a thing of which it is said,
 “See, this is new”?
It has been already
 in the ages before us.
¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things,
 nor will there be any remembrance
of later things yet to be
 among those who come after.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

GOD’S WORD AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Pastor Chris Ganski

Series: *Ecclesiastes: Wisdom for a World that Doesn’t Make Sense*

Sermon:

Reality Bites

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.*

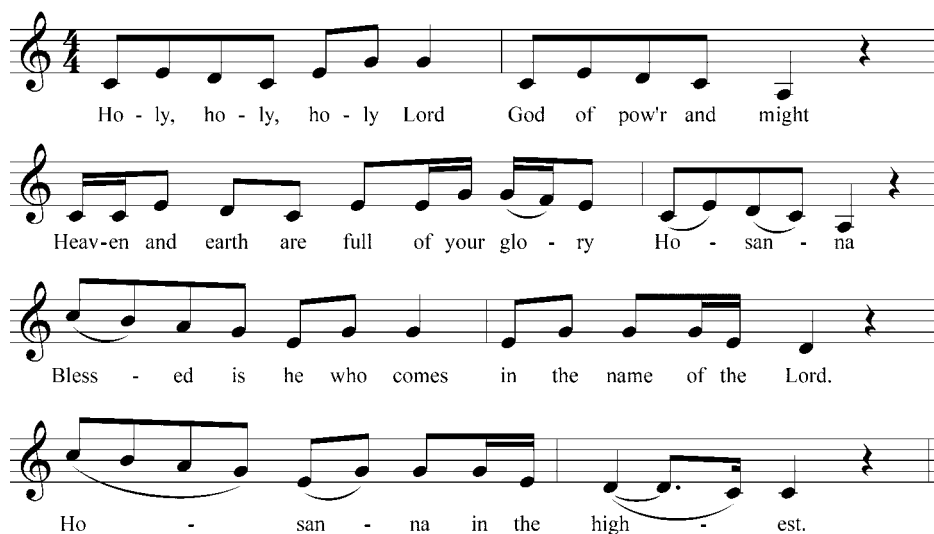
Minister: Lift up your hearts!

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,

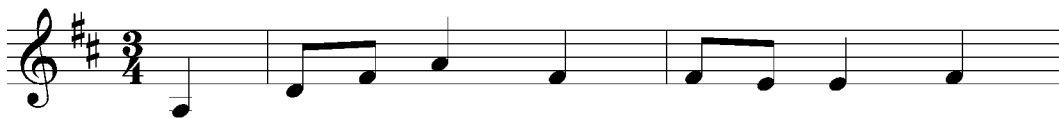
All: ***We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.***

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***

The Solid Rock

Words: Edward Mote, 1834
Music: William Bradbury, 1863



1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2. When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I
3. His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood Sup -
4. When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh,



Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; I dare not trust the
rest on His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and
port me in the whelm - ing flood; When all a - round my
may I then in Him be found; Dressed in His right - eous -



sweet - est frame, But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale, My anch - or holds with - in the veil
soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Fault - less to stand be - fore the throne



On Christ the so - lid Rock I stand; All oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

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

Alison Dupee, piano
Kelsey Brouwer, voice
Sean Brower, guitar
Jon Reimer, bass



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