



CITY REFORMED CHURCH

Gospel ♣ Community ♣ Mission

cityreformedchurch.org

REFLECTIONS

A man who will not help or support others unless he can do so without affecting his safety or his property will never help his neighbor.

~Martin Luther, *Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague*

Human love is directed to the other person for his own sake, spiritual love loves him for Christ's sake. Therefore human love seeks direct contact with the other person; it loves him not as a free person but as one whom it binds to itself . . . Human love cannot tolerate the dissolution of a fellowship that has become false for the sake of genuine fellowship, and human love cannot love an enemy, that is, one who seriously and stubbornly resists it. . . Spiritual love, however, comes from Jesus Christ, it serves him alone; it knows that it has no immediate access to other persons. Jesus Christ stands between the lover and the others he loves. I do not know in advance what love of others means on the basis of the general idea of love that grows out of my desires . . . What love is, only Christ tells in his Word.

~Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

The church is not to be like a bus, where passengers sit quietly and let someone else do the driving, but like an anthill, where everybody is at work. Not everyone who thus ministers will be a church officer, nor will the service they render always be appreciated. But just as every bit of that fabulous complex, the human body, has a job to do, so it is with each of us who believe.

~J.I. Packer, "Experiencing God's Presents"

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIPMarch 22nd 2020

Fourth Week of Lent

**PRELUDE
GREETING**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.*****CALL TO WORSHIP— Psalm 95**

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

***Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!***

For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

***In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.***

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.


***Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the
people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.***

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Behold Our God

Words and Music: Stephen Altrogge,
Meghan Baird, Jonathan Baird, Ryan Baird



Who has held the o - ceans in His hands? Who has num - bered
Who has giv - en coun - sel to the Lord? Who can ques - tion
Who has felt the nails up - on His hands, Bear - ing all the



ev - ery grain of sand? Kings and na - tions trem - ble at His voice,
an - y of His Words? Who can teach the One who knows all things?
guilt of sin - ful man? God e - ter - nal hum - bled to the grave

Chorus:



All cre - a - tion ris - es to re - joice. Be -
Who can fath - om all His won - drous deeds?
Je - sus, Sav - ior ris - en now to reign!



hold our God, seat-ed on His throne, Come let us a - dore Him. Be -



hold our King, noth-ing can com - pare, Come let us a - dore _____ Him!
Repeat chorus last time

Sacred Reading

~ Isaiah 40:1-31

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

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the Lord's hand

double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the Lord blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand

and marked off the heavens with a span,

enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure

and weighed the mountains in scales

and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord,

or what man shows him his counsel?

¹⁴ Whom did he consult,

and who made him understand?

Who taught him the path of justice,

and taught him knowledge,

and showed him the way of understanding?

¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,

and are accounted as the dust on the scales;

behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

¹⁶ Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,

nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before him,

they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God,

or what likeness compare with him?

¹⁹ An idol! A craftsman casts it,

and a goldsmith overlays it with gold

and casts for it silver chains.

²⁰ He who is too impoverished for an offering

chooses wood that will not rot;

he seeks out a skillful craftsman

to set up an idol that will not move.

²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
 who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
 and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
²³ who brings princes to nothing,
 and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
 scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
 when he blows on them, and they wither,
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
 that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
 who created these?
 He who brings out their host by number,
 calling them all by name;
 by the greatness of his might
 and because he is strong in power,
 not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
 and speak, O Israel,
 “My way is hidden from the Lord,
 and my right is disregarded by my God”?
²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
 The Lord is the everlasting God,
 the Creator of the ends of the earth.
 He does not faint or grow weary;
 his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
 and to him who has no might he increases strength.
³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary,
 and young men shall fall exhausted;
³¹ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
 they shall run and not be weary;
 they shall walk and not faint.

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

CALL TO CONFESSION — Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION — *adapted from Psalm 38*

*O LORD, rebuke us not in your anger,
nor discipline us in your wrath!
For your arrows have sunk into us,
and your hand has come down on us.
There is no soundness in our flesh
because of your indignation;
there is no health in our bones
because of our sin.
For our iniquities have gone over our heads;
like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for us.*

*Do not forsake us, O Lord!
Our God, be not far from us!
Make haste to help us,
O Lord, our salvation!*

Silent Confession

PROMISE OF GRACE — 1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the wrath-absorbing sacrifice for our sins.

Minister: The Lord has put away our sins, once and for all, at the cross.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

Sing to Jesus

Words and Music:
Fernando Ortega

Come and see, look on this my - ste - ry Lord of the u - ni - verse,
Wea - ry, come, and He will give you rest. Come you with sor - row,

nailed to a tree. Christ our God, spil-ling His Ho - ly
lay on His breast. Christ who died, ris - en in Par - a -

blood, Bow-ing in an - guish, His sac-red head.
dise Giv - er of mer - cy, Giv - er of Life.

Chorus:

1. Sing to Je - sus, Lord of our shame, Lord of our sin - ful hearts,
2.,3. Sing to Je - sus His is the throne, Now and for - ev - er more

He is our great Re - dee - mer. Sing to Je - sus, Ho - nor His
He is the King of Hea - ven. Sing to Je - sus, we are His

name. Sing of His faith - ful - ness, pour-ing His life out
own. Now and for - ev - er more sing for the love our

Last time only:

un - to death. Sing to Je - sus, Ho - nor His name.
God has shown. *(Repeat chorus)*

GREETING AND 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. *“Each must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9:7-8).*

Offertory Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Lord in your mercy

People: *Hear our prayer*

GOD SPEAKS TO US— I Peter 4:1-11, *ESV*

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. ³ For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. ⁴ With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; ⁵ but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. ⁶ For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.

⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

GOD'S WORD AMONG HIS PEOPLE

Pastor Chris Ganski

Series: *Christ and Culture: Being the Church in Exile*

Sermon:

On being the church in the time of coronavirus

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

~Based upon Q&A 1 of Heidelberg Catechism

How Firm a Foundation

Words: Keith/Keene; Isaiah 43

Music: Joseph Funk/Dale Grotenhuis

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
2. "Fear not I am with thee; O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by My righteous omnipotent hand."
3. "When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine."
4. "The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never no never no never forsake!"

THE GREAT LITANY

O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of the faithful,
Have mercy upon us.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God,
Have mercy upon us.

Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins.

Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy preserve us, forever.
Spare us, good Lord.

From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want of charity,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and flood; from plague, pestilence, and pandemic, and especially the coronavirus,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from violence, battle, and murder;
and from dying suddenly and unprepared,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and submission to the
Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by thy precious Death
and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and Ascension; and by the Coming of the
Holy Ghost,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death, and
in the day of judgment,

Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that it may please thee to
rule and govern thy holy Church in the right way,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to illumine all pastors, elders and deacons, with true
knowledge and understanding of thy Word; and that both by their preaching and
living, they may set it forth, and show it accordingly,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy harvest, and to draw all
mankind into thy kingdom,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace to hear and receive thy
Word, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such as have erred, and are
deceived,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear thee, and diligently to live
after thy commandments,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants, the President of the United States, the Governor of Wisconsin, the Mayor of Milwaukee, and all others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy, and walk in the ways of truth,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world; to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all peoples,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are desolate and oppressed,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of heart as thy servants, and for the common good,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy presence those who are failing and infirm, especially all who suffer from the coronavirus,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to thy holy Word,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

***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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.***

O Lord, arise, help us;

And deliver us for thy Name's sake.

Let us pray.

We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of thy Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Power of the Cross

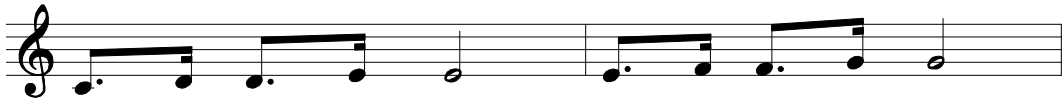
Words and Music:
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend



1. Oh, to see the dawn Of the dark - est day:
2. Oh, to see the pain Writ - ten on Your face,
3. Now the day - light flees; Now the ground be - neath
4. Oh, to see my name Writ - ten in the wounds,



Christ on the road to Cal - va - ry.
Bear - ing the awe - some weight of sin.
Quakes as its Ma - ker bows His head.
For through Your suff - 'ring I am free.



Tried by sin - ful men, Torn and beat - en, then
Ev - 'ry bit - ter thought, Ev - 'ry e - vil deed
Cur - tain torn in two, Dead are raised to life;
Death is crushed to death; Life is mine to live,



Nailed to a cross of wood. 1.,2.,3.This, the
Crown - ing Your blood - stained brow. 4.This, the
"Fi - nished!" the vict - 'ry cry.
Won through Your self - less love.



pow'r of the cross: Christ be - came sin for us; Took the
pow'r of the cross: Son of God slain for us. What a



blame, bore the wrath We stand for - gi - ven at the cross.
love! What a cost! We stand for - gi - ven at the cross.

BLESSING & SENDING

Minister: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you, and give you peace: and the blessing of God the Almighty – of the Father who chose us in love, of the Son who redeemed us by blood, and of the Spirit who gives us new life – be with you and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Brothers and sisters, in life & in death we belong to our faithful Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, let us mock the powers of Death and Hell, to the praise of our God.

If our God is for us,
What can stand against us?

If our God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all,
How will he not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Who shall bring any charge against us, the children chosen by God as his own?
Our God is the One who justifies us: who would dare condemn?

Messiah Jesus is the One who died for us,
More than that—who was raised for us!

Who is seated as priest and king at the right hand of our Father,
Who is interceding for us right now.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written: “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No! In all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us to the end—to the cross.

Brothers and sisters, God’s promise assures us that neither Death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation – not even coronavirus,
Nothing will ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Go in peace.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Participation in the community life of the church is vital to the spiritual health of all believers. At City Reformed Church the best ways to connect one's life with that of the congregation is to join a community group. Our groups will be meeting virtually during this time of social distancing.

Lower East Side Thursday: John & Joyce Boyland lead this group on Thursday nights beginning at 6:30. Please contact John at boyland.john@gmail.com if interested in this group.

Barnabas House Monday: Rusty Dahler leads this group on Monday nights from 6:30-7:45. The group will be going through the book "Life together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community". Please contact Rusty (rustydahler@yahoo.com) if you are interested in joining the group.

Upper Eastside Tuesday: Kelli Dunn leads this group on Tuesday nights at 6 pm (kid connection) and 8:30 pm (adult time). Please email Kelli at ksieplinga@gmail.com for more information.

Southside Tuesday: Kate and Chris Ganski host this group on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm. Please contact Chris at chris.ganski@gmail.com for more information.

Sherman Park Wednesday: Tom Keppeler will virtually lead this group from 8:30-9:15 pm on Wednesday nights. Please contact Tom Keppeler at tom.j.keppeler@gmail.com for more information.

North Division Wednesday: The Broekhuis's host this group from 6-7pm. Please contact Kendra for an invite at kendrabroekhuis@gmail.com.

Westside Sunday: Anthony Wick will virtually host this Sunday evening group at 8 pm. Please contact Anthony Wick at awick330@gmail.com for more information.

Tosa Thursday: Abbie and Paul Hampton host this Thursday night group at 8:15 pm. Contact Abbie with questions at abbiehampton@gmail.com.

Whitefish Bay Sunday: Jon Reimer hosts this group on Sunday nights at 6pm. For more information, please contact Jon Reimer at wildreim@gmail.com.



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