

**City Reformed Church**

**Gospel ✤ Community ✤ Mission**

 **cityreformedchurch.org**

**Reflections**

The believing soul can boast of and glory in whatever Christ has as though it were its own, and whatever the soul has Christ claims as his own. Let us compare these and we shall see the inestimable benefits. Christ is full of grace, life, and salvation. The soul is full of sins, death, and damnation. Now let faith come between them and sins, death, and damnation will be Christ’s, while grace, life, and salvation will be the soul’s; for if Christ is a bridegroom, he must take upon himself the things which are his bride’s and bestow upon her the things that are his. If he gives her his body and very self, how shall he not give her all that is his? And if he takes the body of the bride, how shall he not take all that is hers?

~Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*

This is the wonderful exchange which, out of Christ’s measureless benevolence, he has made with us, that, by his descent to earth, he has prepared an ascent to heaven for us; that, by taking on our mortality, he has conferred his immortality upon us; that, accepting our weakness, he has strengthened us by his power; that, receiving our poverty unto himself, he has transferred his wealth to us; that, taking the weight of our iniquity upon himself (which oppressed us), he has clothed us with his righteousness.

~John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

Evil is real and powerful. It is not only ‘out there’, in other people, but it is present and active within each of us. What is more, ‘evil’ is more than the sum total of all evil impulses and actions. When human beings worship that which is not God, they give authority to forces of destruction and malevolence; and those forces gain a power, collectively, that has, down through the centuries of Christian experience, caused wise people to personify it, to give it the name of Satan, the Accuser . . . But Jesus’ victory over evil is also real and powerful . . . to pray deliver us from evil is to inhale the victory of the cross, and thereby to hold the line for another moment, another hour, another day, against the forces of destruction within ourselves and the world.

~N.T Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

[cover art]

*January Hour-Epiphany*

Artist: Makoto Fujimura

**Sunday Worship**

**January 17th 2021**

**2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

**Prelude**

**Greeting**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

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

**Call to Worship –** *based upon Psalm 139*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

***You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.***

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

***I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.***

My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

***How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of themIf I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.***

**Prayer of Adoration**

***All Creatures of our God and King***

Words: St. Francis of Assisi, 1225

Music: William Draper/Arr.: David Crowder

All creatures of our God and King

Lift up your voice and with us sing

Oh, praise Him!

Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam

Thou silver moon with softer gleam

Oh, praise Him!

Oh, praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong

Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along

Oh, praise Him!

Alleluia!

Thou rising moon in praise rejoice

Ye lights of evening find a voice

Oh, praise Him!

Oh, praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless

And worship Him in humbleness

Oh, praise Him!

Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father praise the Son

And praise the Spirit three in one

Oh, praise Him!

Oh, praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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**Call to Confession** — *from Exodus 20:7*

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

***Heavenly Father, we confess we dishonor***

***you by our words, thoughts and deeds.***

***Depending on our own strength we stumble;***

***proclaiming our own goodness we sin;***

***glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch;***

***indulging in self-pity we blind ourselves to the needs of those around us.***

***We pray now, forgive us our many sins,***

***cleanse the darkness from our lives, turn our faces toward you.***

 ***Amen.***

**Silent Confession**

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

**Words of Encouragement—**1 John 1:5,7

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

 ***Jesus Paid it All***

Words: Elvina Hall, 1865Music: Thomas Grape

I hear the Savior say,
“Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray.
Find in Me thine 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
Thy power and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

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

For nothing good have I
Where-by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv’ry's Lamb.

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

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

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

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

*Baptism is a sign of our initiation into the society of the church and is a seal of the reality that we have been engrafted into Christ and are reckoned as God’s beloved children. This sacrament does its work for us not only when the water is upon us and we receive it, but through the whole course of our life. Baptism points us to our ultimate identity in Christ and should shape our habits, our piety, and our daily life. The Christian life is a daily dying to sin and rising with Christ. As we celebrate the baptism of new members into the community all baptized believers ought to remember and reaffirm the truth of their own baptism.*

**Candidate for Baptism:**

**Marre Collins Broekhuis** (daughter of Collin and Kendra Broekhuis)

**God’s Invitation and Promises**

Minister: Colin and Kendra having heard God’s gracious promise to us in Christ, do you desire that Marre be baptized?

Parents: ***We do.***

**Affirmation of Faith and Vows**

Minister: Do you renounce sin and the power of evil in your life and in the world?

Parents: ***We renounce them.***

Minister: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Parents: ***Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.***

Minster: Collin and Kendra do you promise to instruct Marre in the truth of God’s Word, in the way of salvation through Jesus Christ; to pray for her, to teach her to pray; and to train her in Christ’s way by your example, through worship, and in the nurture of the church?

Parents: ***We will, and we ask God for help.***

**Profession of Faith and Congregational Vow**

Minister: Congregation of City Reformed Church do you promise to love,

encourage, and support Marre and her parents by teaching the gospel of God’s love, by being an example of Christian faith and character, and by giving the strong support of God’s family in fellowship, prayer, and service?

People: ***We do***.

Minister: Let us affirm our faith together in the words of the Apostles’ Creed: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Minister:Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born***

***of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was***

***crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.***

***On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

Minister:Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: ***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 for Baptism**

**Baptism**

**Blessing and Declaration**

Minister: In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, Marre is now received into the visible membership of the Holy Catholic Church, engaged to confess Christ, and to be God’s faithful servants until life’s end.

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

***The Church’s One Foundation***

Words: Samuel Stone, 1866

Music: Brian Moss, 1996

1. The church's one foundation

Is Jesus Christ her Lord,

She is His new creation

By water and the Word.

From heaven He came and sought her

To be His holy bride;

With His own blood He bought her,

And for her life He died.

2. Elect from every nation,

Yet one over all the earth;

Her charter of salvation,

One Lord, one faith, one birth;

One holy Name she blesses,

Partakes one holy food,

And to one hope she presses,

With every grace endued.

3. Mid toil and tribulation,

And tumult of her war,

She waits the consummation

Of peace forevermore;

'Til, with the vision glorious,

Her longing eyes are blessed,

And the great church victorious

Shall be the church at rest.

4. Yet she on earth hath union

With God the Three in One,

And mystic sweet communion

With those whose rest is won.

O happy ones and holy!

Lord, give us grace that we

Like them, the meek and lowly,

On high may dwell with Thee.

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**Passing the Peace**

**Announcements**

 **Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts**

We humbly ask that you continue your participation in the mission and ministry of the church through regular giving to the church’s general fund. The best way to give would be to mail checks to the church (1661 N. Farwell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53202). Alternatively, you can give to CRC online via PayPal by clicking [here](https://bit.ly/2wq7Ltv)

 **God Speaks to Us—**Matthew 3:1-17, *ESV*

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” **3**For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
    make his paths straight.’”

**4**Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5**Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, **6**and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

**7**But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8**Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. **9**And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. **10**Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**11**“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12**His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**13**Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. **14**John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” **15**But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. **16**And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17**and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

**God’s Word Among His People**

 Pastor Chris Ganski

Sermon:

*The Baptism of Jesus*

**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)

**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:

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Pow’r and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

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.***

***In Christ Alone***

Words and Music: Getty/Townend

1. In Christ alone, my hope is found,

He is my light my strength my song.

This Cornerstone this solid Ground,

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love what depths of peace;

When fears are stilled when strivings cease;

My Comforter my All in All,

Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh,

Fullness of God in helpless babe;

This gift of love and righteousness,

Scorned by the ones He came to save.

Till on that cross, as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied;

For every sin on Him was laid,

Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay—

Light of the world by darkness slain,

Then bursting forth in glorious Day,

Up from the grave He rose again.

And as He stands in victory,

Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.

For I am His, and He is mine,

Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death—

This is the power of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath,

Jesus commands my destiny.

No power of hell no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand.

Till He returns or calls me home,

Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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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**

Kelly Hofman, piano

Kelsey Brouwer, voice

Sean Brouwer, guitar

Jon Reimer, cello

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