

ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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*A household for our triune God,
where each member shines forth His holy, life-giving presence.*

**THE LORD'S DAY OF FEBRUARY 3,
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2019
9.15 AM**

“But the LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”
(Habakkuk 2:20)

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

Welcome

Preparatory Devotional & Prayer

Asterisks (*) denote portions for congregation to stand.
Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV).
Congregational readings are in **bold**.

GOD SUMMONS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

The Greeting of God

The Call to Worship: *Psalms 95:1-2*

- ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S SUMMONS

*Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 731, "Doxology"*

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 12, "Exalt the Lord, His Praise Proclaim"*

GOD DECLARES HIS LAW

Reading of the Law: *Exodus 20:17*

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LAW

Silent Prayer of Confession

**Heavenly Father, Lord of life, Source of all good things,
you have given us every spiritual blessing in Christ.
But we have been unbelieving and ungrateful.
We have not trusted your goodness.
Nor have we loved the happiness of our neighbors.
Instead, we have desired what belongs to them
and taken advantage of them.
Father, purify our hearts from all unbelief and greed (Col 3:5).
Help us to trust in you and care for others.
We turn from our greed
and return to you for life.**

**Through Jesus our Lord,
who died for sinners (Rom 5:6)
and fulfilled all righteousness (Mt 3:15),
forgive our many sins.
Amen.**

GOD DECLARES HIS GOSPEL

Reading of the Gospel: *Philippians 2:6-11*

[Jesus Christ], though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Confession of the Gospel (Unison): *Based on Calvin's Institutes II:XVI:19*

**Almighty God,
we are greatly sinful and unable to save ourselves.
But we trust in the Savior you have graciously given—Jesus Christ our Lord.
We trust in Christ's obedience for our righteousness,
his death for our release from the Law's curse,
his resurrection for our immortality,
his ascension for our reconciliation with you,
his rule for our final victory and peace.
We trust in Christ alone for salvation. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon: *1 Timothy 2:5-6*

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: *Trinity Hymnal 161, "O Christ, Our Hope, Heart's Desire"*

GOD TEACHES US HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God: *James 5:1-6*

¹ Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. ² Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. ³ Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. ⁴ Behold, the wages of the

labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. ⁵ You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. ⁶ You have condemned and murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you.

Prayer for Understanding

Preaching of the Word of God:

“The Sin Of Pride (3): Resting On Earthly Security”—Elder Erry Gunawan

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn of Response: *Trinity Hymnal 585: “Take My Life, and Let It Be”*

A Prayer of Response

Thanksgiving

Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Republic of Singapore

The Holy Church of Jesus Christ

The Lord’s Prayer (Unison): *Matthew 6:9-13*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Offering

*The Confession of Faith (Unison): *The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell;

the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;

the holy catholic⁺ Church;

+universal

the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins;

the resurrection of the body;

and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn of Consecration: *Trinity Hymnal 598, " Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah "*

GOD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSINGS

*Benediction

THE SIN OF PRIDE (3): RESTING ON EARTHLY SECURITY

James 5:1-6

Introduction

The last topic of the sin of pride in relation to stewarding the world's resources and goods entrusted to us by God and our dependence on them. How a person feels about and handles wealth is a test of his humility and living faith.

1. The utterly worthlessness of all worldly riches (verses 1-3).

- Matthew 6:19-21, *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
- No new teaching.
- Why do we keep our earthly treasure?
- Three common treasures in the Middle-East during James' time:
 1. Produce of the earth (Lk 12:16-21). The Greek word for *“riches”* comes from the name of the ancient Greek god which means the abundant yielding of the earth. Hence *“riches”* refers to the food, vegetables and grain. They will all rot when kept and not eaten.
 2. Garments (Lk 16:19). Only garments which are not used and stored away are moth-eaten.
 3. Gold and silver. No one expect gold and silver to corrode. They corroded because they are not pure. The rich are deceived by the appearance.
- James' point is so basic: How sinful, how foolish and how stupid to hoard food, to hoard clothing, to hoard money when it all rots.
- Wealth not used is wealth that does not exist and a possession is worth no more than the use we make of it.

2. The detestable character of these rich people (verses 1-6).

- (i) *Put their confidence and security in their wealth and possession.*
- James wrote his letter (45 to 50 AD) during a time of great need (Acts 11:28—Claudius' reign is between 41 to 54 AD).
 - About this time the saints in Jerusalem were also scattered as mentioned in Acts 8:1. James 1:2, *“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.”*
 - This is the reason for a severe condemnation from James on the rich who stockpiled their wealth for their own security and ignoring others who were greatly in need.
 - The Bible is not against Christians making investments/buying insurance. We are not to be irresponsible about our life. See Prov 6:6-8; Prov 21:20; Prov 13:22; 2 Cor 12:14 with 1 Tim 5:8.
 - Deu 8:18, *“You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your father, as it is this day.”*
 - The judgment of God is coming to them soon (verse 1).

- (ii) *Gained their wealth by injustice (verse 4).*
 - The farm-workers are day labourers which is a normal.
 - Mat 20:1-2, “*For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard.*”
 - The OT law was very strict on how the employer paid day labourers (Lev 19:13; Deu 24:14-15).
 - They “*kept back by fraud*” or to withhold by default. It does not indicate delay which is already forbidden by the law, but it indicates total default, they refused to pay.

- (iii) *Used their wealth selfishly (verse 5).*
 - They stole from the poor to self-indulge in luxurious living.
 - Thomas Manton: “There were but two common parents of all mankind, Adam the Protoplast (the first created), and Noah the Restorer, and both miscarried by appetite; the one fell by eating, and the other by drinking.”
 - They “*have fattened*” their “*hearts in a day of slaughter.*”

- (iv) *They are murderers (verse 6).*
 - To sustain the high-roller life-style, the rich use the courts to condemn and murder the righteous who does not even resist them.
 - Who is this the “*righteous person*”? We do not know for sure. Some understand it collectively.
 - There was one who was fit the description, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

- Is the Bible against the rich and for the poor?
- Lk 6:24, “*But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.*”
- Generalization is typical of the Bible’s style (G. B. Caird, “Language and Imagery of the Bible”).
- To understand what the Bible teaches about the rich, we must study the whole Bible.
- There is no absolute value attached to material things in the Bible. Wealth can be good or evil (Prov 30:8-9).
- But the Bible is against trusting in wealth (Psa 52:7; Prov 11:28; Mk 10:24; 1 Tim 6:17). The Bible is also against obtaining riches unjustly (Jer 17:11).
- A. Barnes: “there is no sin in merely being rich; where sin exists among the rich, it arises from the manner in which wealth is acquired, the spirit which it tends to engender in the heart, and the way in which it is used.”
- James says nothing of the great good that those who possess wealth can do: “the actual doing of good still leaves those who are rich within the high risks he has outlined. Good may be done with all the implicit arrogance, and sense of self-importance, that is more plainly seen when riches are wreaking their more obvious ill-effects on the human spirit”—Alec Motyer.
- From the treasures of heaven God chose to send us not money or temporal pleasures that pass away, but an ultimate gift of glory that has no equal and no end.