

ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bible House, Level 4, Seminar Rooms 1 & 2
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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 JANUARY 05,
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2020
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

Prelude (Organ)

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 CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

The Greeting of God

The Call to Worship: *Psalms 103:1-5*

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
4 who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
5 who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

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

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 15, "Stand Up and Bless the Lord"*

GOD RENEWS US IN HIS SON

Call to Repentance: *Matthew 5:13-16*

13 "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Silent Prayer of Confession

Prayer for Forgiveness

Promise of Forgiveness and Assurance: *1 John 1:7-9*

7 But 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. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Hymn of Thanksgiving: *Trinity Hymnal 520, "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"*

GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God: *Luke 1:1-4*

1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word of God:

“Fulfilling the Story, Passing on the Faith”

Prayer for Thanksgiving

GOD FEEDS US AT HIS TABLE

Hymn of Preparation: *Trinity Hymnal 427, "Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands"*

Words of Preparation

Prayer of Preparation

Partaking of the Lord's Table

*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 Response: *Trinity Hymnal 355, "We Are God's People"*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

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

*Hymn of Consecration: *"Another Year is Dawning" (sung to the tune of Trinity Hymnal 347)*

Another Year is Dawning

Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
Another year of progress, another year of praise,
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face;
Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier work above;
Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.

Frances R. Havergal, 1874

GOD SENDS US OFF WITH HIS BLESSINGS

*Benediction

Postlude (Organ)

Reflections – Remembering or Forgetting

Somehow, a New Year Day is not complete without setting goals and resolutions. However, we tend to be coy when it comes to reflecting on the past year.

I suspect the reason is we generally don't like to mourn over what we didn't accomplish in the Lord. We would rather gloat about our blessings than our failures and be positive. We like worldly wise sayings that drum into us that we should be looking for the next cow than to cry over spilled milk, never to regret and never to look back but to move on".

Some would even claim that Paul in Philippians 3:13 exhorted us to "forget those things that are behind". Really? How about the Psa_77:10, Psa_28:5, Psa_78:11, Psa_111:4 and Deu 8:2?

There are some things, then, in Christian reflection that I must remember. And there are other things I must forget. Failures are very much part of success, for all things work together for good (Rom 8:28). Both are working in a common purpose. They are both given by the same Divine Hand. Yes, we must learn from the past if we would to move on today. More importantly, there is no better defence against our sins and failures in Christian service than repentance. When we are weak then we are strong. (2 Cor 12:10)

In other words, reflection by prayer and meditation, forgets whatever would hinder me in my struggle heavenwards; but remembers whatever will help me towards my chief end of glorifying God and enjoying Him.

Forget past triumphs if they make you proud. Remember them if they make you strong by the memory of the wonders of the Almighty. Forget past failures from the perspective of God's judgement for there is no more condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Remember them when you are prone to boast. There is power in remembrance when I remember the amazing love and goodness of my God.

Looking back over the year; the key question is your soul prospering. Is our life taking the shape of Jesus' life – more Godward, obedient, devoted, dependent and worshipping. Or has it been a strange year of more of self and less of God. But if the heart is crying in reflection - 'I will not let you go except you bless me', and repents of sin and failure, then forget the things that are behind for Christ's sake. There is indeed a year of promise ahead of you.

Blessed New Year.