

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 APRIL 19,
THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2020
9.30 AM**

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

WORSHIP ORDER

Prelude

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: *Psalm 136:1-3*

- ¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ² Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 32, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

- 2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

GOD RENEWS US IN HIS SON

Call to Repentance: *Leviticus 19:5-8*

⁵ “When you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted. ⁶ It shall be eaten the same day you offer it or on the day after, and anything left over until the third day shall be burned up with fire. ⁷ If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is tainted; it will not be accepted, ⁸ and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to the Lord, and that person shall be cut off from his people.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Prayer for Forgiveness

Promise of Forgiveness and Assurance: *1 Timothy 2:5-6*

⁵ 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.

GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God: *Genesis 3:8-19*

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

16 To the woman he said,
“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be contrary to your husband,
but he shall rule over you.”

17 And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word of God: *“Paradise Lost (2): The Punishment”*

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.

Hymn of Consecration: *Trinity Hymnal* 708, "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

- 1 O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

- 2 O Light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

- 3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

- 4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

GOD SENDS US OFF WITH HIS BLESSINGS

Benediction

Postlude (Piano)

Sermon Outline

PARADISE LOST (2): THE PUNISHMENT *Genesis 3:8-19*

Introduction

- Question: What is your view on God, what is your world view?
- Paradise Lost: “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man [i.e., Adam], and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” (Rom 5:12)
- Total Depravity of man: He needs to be born again. “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).
- Abounding grace: “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 5:20).

1. The curse on the serpent (vv. 14-15)

a. Curse on natural serpent (v. 14)

- Leviticus 11:42, “Whatever goes on its belly, and whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet, any swarming thing that swarms on the ground, you shall not eat, for they are detestable.”
- Psalm 72:9, “May desert tribes bow down before him [i.e., the King], and his enemies lick the dust!”
- The serpent is a symbol for a constant reminder of the degradation of Satan.

b. Curse on supernatural Satan (v. 15)

- Satan thought that he has successfully created conflict and enmity between man and God.
- It is the Protoevangelium (the first gospel proclamation in its infancy form):
 - i. Irresistible grace: The promise that the woman who has become the enemy of God (a friend of Satan) is going to turn and become the enemy of Satan and the friend of God. The regeneration: She is going to be changed radically. The unmerited grace: The gospel enters into the Bible in the form of a curse on Satan.
 - ii. The unconditional election: The division of mankind. The unconverted (Satan’s offspring). Mat 3:7, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” John 8:44, “You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.” The elect (the woman’s

offspring). Eph 1:4, “he chose us in him before the foundation of the world.” Election is “according to the purpose of His will.” Eze 36:22, “It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name.”

iii. The Saviour’s definite atonement: The Lord Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, who will bruise Satan’s head and will be wounded on the cross (Isa 53:5) to secure victory for the woman’s offspring.

2. **The curse on the woman (v. 16)**

Two areas that define a woman’s life and role in the world:

- Relationship to her children: Pregnancy and pain of pregnancy are greatly multiplied. This can be extended “to all the mother's pains and anxieties concerning her offspring” (Barnes).
- Relationship to her husband: The woman seeks to control the husband, but the man will rule over the woman. Conflict in marriage.

3. **The curse on the man (v. 17)**

- The reason for the curse (v. 17)
- Adam chose to listen to his wife rather than the Word of God.
- The curse.
- It is not directly on man but also on the sphere in which he lives.
- When God cursed the ground, there is no more promise that the ground will always produce enough food for men and work becomes a mean for survival. There is no more delight in work of all kinds.

Conclusion:

1. It is a reminder for mankind of why the world is as it is today. Apostle Paul: “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.” (Rom 5:12)
2. It is a reminder that there is always a constant battle between God’s people and Satan and his seed and the victory we have through Christ.
3. The first judgment Day is a preview of the last judgment.

4. It is to declare God's abundant grace: man was given an opportunity to return to God and escape his final destiny in hell. "For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many... For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ." (Rom 5:15,17)
5. It is a reminder that He is a sovereign and compassionate God.
6. Brothers and Sisters, knowing the Word that God has given to us, what is your view on God?



THE LORD'S SUPPER, UNTIL WE COME TOGETHER AGAIN

by Pastor Terence Ng

The Longing To Come Together

We have been meeting on the digital platform for worship for the last couple of weeks. Through the video conferencing platform, we see one another while we are at home in different parts of Singapore. On one hand, it was comforting to see one another doing well from our screens. On the other, we long to see one another in person again. We now have lost something precious to us.

I suspect that this longing for the presence of another, in a most personal and profound way, is built into our being. Adam and Eve were created in God's image. Before the Fall of Adam and Eve, they were able to meet God face-to-face. After the Fall, they hid away from God in their Sin. They lost the precious fellowship with God in His presence. Since then, mankind has felt a void and deep yearning for the presence of an ultimate person in their lives. That ultimate person is God. In God's gracious love, God became Man in Christ Jesus. He came to redeem us out of God's wrath into His loving presence again. He restores the fellowship between Man and God. Jesus has face-to-face time with His disciples on earth and in the heavens.

To remind us of Christ's restoration of our fellowship with God, He re-instituted The Lord's Supper for the disciples on top of God's institution of the Passover (Exodus 12) meal as a celebration feast to commemorate God's deliverance and victory over death. Paul, as a Jew, knowing the deep significance

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of the partaking of The Lord's Supper meal instructed the Corinthians in his letter. In 1 Corinthians 11:17-34, he especially instructed that The Lord's Supper should only be taken in very specific terms because some were doing it wrongly. He especially emphasized that the church members must *come together* (1 Corinthians 11:17, 18, 20,

33, and 34); out of their homes, in the presence of one another to partake The Lord's Supper. At the end of the Gospel of John, the apostle made special mention of Jesus who took the bread and gave it to the disciples (John 21:14) in their presence to remind them of The Lord's Supper. Then the Apostles and disciples began to have the Lord's Supper together as the church was birthing at the beginning of the book of Acts (Acts 2:42).

After that, when the elders and the disciples were separated due to persecution, they were praying, and possibly fasting, for the return of their elders and the congregation to come together again. When they finally came together in the presence of another, they would partake in the Lord's Supper for celebration! How strange and inappropriate, therefore it would be to have a feasting meal via video live-streaming in our present circumstances if the Christians back then were praying and fasting when they were under lock-down by their enemies!

The Scattered People of God

The Psalmist said, "The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob" (Psalm 87:2). That means the Lord loved Jerusalem more than all the rest of Israel. Why? Because the Temple was in Zion and only there could his children gather to fully worship him. No wonder his people wept when God sent them to Babylon. Later, in the book of Hebrews, the Spirit tells us that believers have, "come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22). When we gather as a people, we are manifesting all that Jerusalem was and will be. Perhaps that's why Paul used the phrase "when you come together" five times while urging the Corinthians to honor the Table.

For all these reasons, Providence began celebrating the Lord's Supper once a month regularly only when I was installed as Providence's pastor. Those reasons are also why we cannot partake of the Lord's Supper now. Paul said, "because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread (1 Corinthians 10:17). In God's providence, the Body is not together now. He scattered us by a life-threatening virus. That is sorrowful, even tragic, but God's hard ways are also tender. Our displacement from the church can stir our souls for what we likely took for granted. It is good to be reminded of the unique and glorious gathering we casually call "going to church." That's a fitting phrase during our scattering in the current stay-at-home order. The Church is alive, but we must not assume technology or even the promise of God's presence in each of us means things are alright. Things would not be alright until we can physically gather as a church again and feast at the family table.

What Do We Do Until We Come Together Again?

1. We need to fast and pray rather than feast the Lord's Supper.
I have provided the link to a helpful article by one of the Reformed Theological Seminary systematic theology professors and pastors of PCA, ["Should we live stream The Lord's Supper"](#).
2. Let ourselves be uncomfortable in our displacements.
Embrace rather than dismiss the feeling that something is not quite right doing church live streaming. Then turn that feeling into longing. Even with excellent sermons and beautiful music online, this cannot be compared to our full inheritance in coming together as the body of Christ. Be thankful for the manna on your screen, but do not lose your taste for the full feast that we are promised. Godly discontentment is a useful skill if it makes us want more of coming together, not less.
3. Do daily devotion and get Sunday nourishment.
When the exiled Israelites could not worship at the Temple, they met in synagogues. They were humbled and wanted whatever spiritual nourishment they could get in their exile. So, it should be with us. Be present and prepared to worship in the manner God has provided during the scattering. Do not click the link just to "watch church." Prayerfully engage the moment and ask God to meet you despite the strangeness of the setting.
4. Tell the gospel to our covenant children.
When they ask, "Why can't we take the Lord's Supper?", pause, and give thanks that they know it's important and miss it. Affirm their instinct but tell them that the Lord's Supper is the Church's family meal and the Church is away from God's house right now. When God allows us to go back to His house, we will have that feast again and it will be great. For now, it's okay to be sad about not getting to taste it. In fact, it's good for our soul.

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The Lord's Supper, as a Sacrament, is a family meal for the whole community. That community has biblical structure and appointed shepherds and the Sacraments' physical reality requires us to be present to partake properly. For these reasons and more, a genuine attempt to honor its importance by delivering the Supper to everyone's home would dishonor it. So, we would do well longing for the Lord's Supper, until we come together again.