

## ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

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### PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bible House, Level 4, Seminar Room 1

Church Office & Library: 7 Armenian Street, Bible House, #03-03, S179932

Website: [www.providencerpc.org](http://www.providencerpc.org)

Email: [providencecontacts@gmail.com](mailto:providencecontacts@gmail.com)



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

**THE LORD'S DAY OF MAY 24,  
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**.

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## GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

The Greeting of God

The Call to Worship: Psalm 136:1

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise: Trinity Hymnal #3, "*Give to Our God Immortal Praise*"  
(Stanzas 1, 3, 5, 6)

1 Give to our God immortal praise;  
mercy and truth are all his ways:  
wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

3 He built the earth, he spread the sky,  
and fixed the starry lights on high:  
wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

5 He sent his Son with pow'r to save  
from guilt and darkness and the grave:  
wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.

6 Through this vain world he guides our feet,  
and leads us to his heav'nly seat:  
his mercies ever shall endure,  
when this vain world shall be no more.

## **GOD RENEWS US IN HIS SON**

Call to Repentance: Leviticus 19:15-16

<sup>15</sup> “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Prayer for Forgiveness

Promise of Forgiveness and Assurance: Hebrews 5:7-9

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

## **GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD**

Reading of the Word of God: *Philippians 2.12-18*

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. <sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>17</sup> Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. <sup>18</sup> Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word of God: The Mind of Christ (6): A Gospel Work-Out

## **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 #132, "*O Rejoice in the Lord*"

1 God never moves without purpose or plan  
When trying His servant and molding a man.  
Give thanks to the LORD though your testing seems long;  
In darkness He giveth a song.

2 I could not see through the shadows ahead;  
So I looked at the cross of my Savior instead.  
I bowed to the will of the Master that day;  
Then peace came and tears fled away.

3 Now I can see testing comes from above;  
God strengthens His children and purges in love.  
My Father knows best, and I trust in His care;  
Through purging more fruit I will bear.

*Chorus:* O Rejoice in the LORD  
He makes no mistake,  
He knoweth the end of each path that I take,  
For when I am tried  
And purified,  
I shall come forth as gold.

## **GOD SENDS US OFF WITH HIS BLESSINGS**

Benediction

Postlude



## More Than I Can Handle

Psalm 66:8-12

- 8 Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,
- 9 who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.
- 10 For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
- 11 You brought us into the net; you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
- 12 you let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

Israel doesn't often "handle" their blessed position very well. Throughout its history, the chosen nation of God's people repeatedly rebelled against Him by going its own way. Here the psalmist is describing circumstances in which the nation of Israel is hopelessly struggling and helplessly in need of God.

Only when God gave them over to their enemies and they suffered trials would they cry out for deliverance. Only when God had to test them and refined them like silver is purified, and to bring them through fire and water and be crushed by oppressors, did they stop relying on themselves. Yet, amazingly when they cast aside their self-reliance, and when they cried unto the Lord, they testified the Lord did not fail them. He came to their rescue. He kept their souls from slipping. More so, after all the testing, He brings them to a "place of abundance".

Thus, God's people had every reason to praise him. Even in the midst of their distress, God was working and training them. Israel's enemies meant it for evil, but God worked it for good. Yes, You O God Lord have tested us, they acknowledged in v10.

In other words, "God doesn't give us more than we can handle." This Christian saying helps us to put our challenges to do His will into perspective. God knows our weaknesses and does not test us beyond what we can handle and instead gives a way of escape of returning to Him.

On the other hand, God will stretch us to our limits till we cry out for Him. It may be that God does give us more than we can bear. And this is actually or perhaps strangely, a source of comfort. If we could handle every circumstance, we would

never reach the end of our self-reliance. And it's only when we get to the end of ourselves that we realize how much we desperately need Him in our lives.

Testings are painful. But they do give us assurance and comfort. We will go "through fire and through water," a process by which He makes us more wholly devoted to Him. And His refining will bring us through "to the place of abundance" (v12). He returns us to Himself stronger than we were before.

His faithfulness to us, even when we are unfaithful, is reason to praise Him. And this is precisely the psalmist's response: "Bless our God, let sound of his praise be heard." We see God's perfect love for us in Jesus, who was obedient when we could not be and suffered so we would not have to (Phil 2:5–8).

Let's not be afraid to be stretched and strained in the service of the Lord. It speaks of God building us up for bigger work for us. For the Lord when he gives us opportunities it is with grace and purpose to make us stronger for the challenges ahead of us, be it personal or as a church body. Through each challenge and trial, we are made stronger and fitter for His use. What can be a better than to be used for His glory.

It is in situations of "more than we can handle" that we are strengthened by God for His future plan for us.

*"God does not give us overcoming life: He gives us life as we overcome. The strain is the strength. If there is no strain, there is no strength... God never gives strength for tomorrow, or for the next hour, but only for the strain of the minute."*

*Os Guinness*

