

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 JULY 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)

WE PREPARE TO MEET WITH GOD

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 111.1-3*

¹Praise the LORD!

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

²Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of splendour and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Responsive Reading of the Word of God: Psalms 65

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.

²**O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.**

³When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.

⁴**Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!**

⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;

⁶**the one who by his strength established the mountains,
being girded with might;**

⁷who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples,

⁸ so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

**⁹ You visit the earth and water it;
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.**

**¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.**

**¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.**

**¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,**

**¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.**

*Opening Prayer

GOD RENEWS US IN HIS SON

Call to repentance: Mark 12.28-30

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important? ²⁹ “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Silent Prayer of Confession

Corporate Prayer for Forgiveness:

Almighty God, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; we have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. Deepen within us our sorrow for the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. Lord, you are full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; there is always forgiveness with you! Restore to us the joy of your salvation; bind up that which is broken, give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls. Speak to each of us, and let your word abide with us until it has wrought in us your holy will. Amen.

Promise of Forgiveness and Assurance: Isaiah 1.18-20

¹⁸ “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God: *Acts 7:54 - 8:3*

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together^[a] at him. ⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

8 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word of God: *“Would Die For, and Live for It”*

GOD FEEDS US AT HIS TABLE

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.

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.

Responsive Reading of the Word of God: Psalms 92

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

2 to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

3 to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

**4 For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

5 How great are your works, O LORD!
Your thoughts are very deep!

**6 The stupid man cannot know;
the fool cannot understand this:**

7 that though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;

8 but you, O LORD, are on high forever.

9 For behold, your enemies, O LORD,
for behold, your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.

**10 But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
you have poured over me fresh oil.**

11 My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

**12 The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.**

13 They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.

**14 They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,**

**15 to declare that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.**

GOD SENDS US OFF WITH HIS BLESSINGS

Benediction

The Peace of Christ , Our Referee **By Elder Keng Ho**

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Col 3:15

Notwithstanding having been converted by the grace of God, the harsh reality is the church is far from perfect on this side of heaven. She struggles to maintain the unity of the body of Christ with much human weakness and sin.

Nowhere is this better seen than in Colossians 3. In brutal honesty, Paul exposes how capable believers are of disruptive behavior of impurity, anger, slander, complaint and unforgiveness (3:13). Unchecked, disputes, divisions, disagreements and discord in the church will break in. This sinning against one another is a very real threat to the unity and tranquillity of the body for which Christ died. This is why Paul inserts this crucial word of counsel. "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body" (Col 3:15a).

Our ACM will be held next Lord's Day. Hence, Paul's exhortation is good reminder to you and I. Differences are natural and there is no sin in being different from one another. But as redeemed sinners, Paul expects us to handle our differences with the peace of Christ in mind.

This is an oft-cited passage when we are considering the topic of personal decision-making. We often hear believers say that they chose to do something because "God gave me a peace about it." This may well be legitimate, but it is not what Paul is addressing here. The "peace of Christ" described here in 3:15 is that which belong to those "called in one body".

Paul earlier stated that Christ made "peace by the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:20). Christ had removed the enmity of God toward sinners. And as a result he established a relationship of peace, tranquillity, harmony, love, and fellowship not only between God and the Christian but also within the community of believers. This peace is a legacy of Christ. It is the peace that Jesus handed down to us in Joh 14: 27, when he said," Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you". It is the peace of reconciliation. It is in the realm of the "one body" (3:15b), the church, where this "peace of Christ" resides and comes to effect with authority and bliss.

Paul is here saying to them as well as to us that whatever we do and say corporately we must give consideration "in our hearts" to what will preserve and promote the peace that Christ died to achieve. He called us to "let the peace of Christ rule" in our hearts. Or allow the peace of Christ to rule or literally to umpire or be the referee of the conflict of

motives or impulses in our hearts. “rule“ is a term used in sports to refer to umpiring. Let this peace referee all our corporate decision-making.

Sam Storm breaks down Paul's point to this: "In making your decisions, in choosing between alternatives, in settling conflicts of will, a concern to preserve the inward and communal peace that Christ gave and gives should be your controlling principle." He goes on further to elaborate that “a decisive factor in how you should conduct yourselves in relation one to another is whether or not the peace that Christ died to achieve and impart is preserved and promoted. When you are faced with tensions and potentially divisive decisions in the community of faith, give strong consideration to what will most effectively sustain the "peace of Christ"”.

However Paul is not suggesting here that peace overrides truth. Or that we should compromise the fundamental truths of Christian faith for sake of peace. But in a body that is united in theological creed and confession, Eph 4:3 calls Christians to be "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." "eager" is to spare no effort, make it a priority, be urgent about it, make haste. Peace has a bonding effect. It is that which enables us to get along and support and sustain one another. Thus, "the bond of peace" in the church assures us of that unity which the Spirit has created among us. But we must be diligently committed to preserving it.

May the Spirit that brought Jesus from the dead give us humility, discernment and wisdom.

Sermon Outline

COUNTED AS WORTHY *Acts 7:54 - 8:3*

We are to die and live in Christ since God has committed Jesus's life to the church.

1. Filled with the Holy Spirit (54-58)
2. Committed to Christ Jesus (59-60)
3. Devoted to living the Truths (1-3)