

**ORDER OF  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

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**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 AUGUST 23,  
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 103.1-5*

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

### Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise: *Trinity Hymnal 76 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" Stanza 1,2,3,5*

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who, like me, his praise should sing?  
Praise him, praise him,

praise him, praise him,  
praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him, still the same forever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless;  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes;  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
widely as his mercy goes.

Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space,  
praise him, praise him,  
praise him, praise him,  
praise with us the God of grace.

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

Call to Repentance: *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.”

Silent Prayer of Confession

Prayer for Forgiveness

Promise of Forgiveness and Assurance: *Hosea 6.1-3*

“Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers as the spring rains that water the earth.”

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

Reading of the Word of God: *Genesis 4:1-16*

<sup>1</sup>Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” <sup>2</sup>And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup>and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup>The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup>If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup>Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. <sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?” <sup>10</sup>And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup>And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup>When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” <sup>13</sup>Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. <sup>14</sup>Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. <sup>16</sup>Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Prayer for Illumination

## 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 475 “Come to the Saviour Now”*

1 Come to the Saviour now,  
he gently calleth thee;  
in true repentance bow,  
before him bend the knee;  
he waiteth to bestow  
salvation, peace and love,  
true joy on earth below,  
a home in heav'n above.

2 Come to the Saviour now,  
ye who have wandered far;  
renew your solemn vow,  
for his by right you are;  
come, like poor wand'ring sheep  
returning to his fold;

his arm will safely keep,  
his love will ne'er grow cold.

3 Come to the Saviour, all,  
whate'er your burdens be;  
hear now his loving call,  
"Cast all your care on me."  
Come, and for ev'ry grief  
in Jesus you will find  
a sure and safe relief,  
a loving Friend and kind.

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

Benediction

Postlude

Announcements

## Sermon Outline

### The Battle Begins: In Adam or In Christ?

*Genesis 4:1-16*

#### Introduction

- What battle is that?
- Ephesians 6:12, *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”*
- Jude 11, *“Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain.”*
- 1 John 3:12, *“We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And for why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.”*

#### 1. The characteristics of unbelievers.

- a. Unbelievers appear, very often, to have hopeful beginnings (vs 1-2).
  - Cain means: to obtain as “gotten” (in ESV, KJV, NASB), or “gain” (in New Jewish Publication Society), or “brought forth” (in NIV).
  - Eve is saying that the LORD has given her Cain as a gift to the fulfilment of the promise.
  - Abel means “breath” or “vanity.” Abel’s life was just a mere breath according to Eve.
  - Unbeliever seems to “overcome” the righteous (v 8).
  - Proverbs 16:25, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”*
- b. Unbeliever is characterized by an unbelieving heart to God’s Word (v 7).
  - Lev 2:1, *“When anyone brings a grain offering as an offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour. He shall pour oil on it and put frankincense on it.”*
  - Hebrews 11:4, *“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain.”*

- The Lord expected Cain to know how to do it right (“*If you do well, will you not be accepted?*”).
- Deut 12:31,32, “*You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, ...Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.*”

c. Unbeliever exhibits an appearance of righteousness and spirituality (vs 3-5).

- Cain too was a worshipper and religious.
- A person’s good works may exhibit an appearance of righteousness and spirituality to the person, but true righteousness and the acceptance of a person by God is by faith.

d. Unbeliever resents godliness (vs 6-7).

- Cain was angry with Abel for the way he worshipped God and ultimately he was angry with God.

e. Unbeliever has an unrepentant heart (vs 6-7).

- 1 Pet 5:8,9, “*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, ...*”
- No excuse for Cain not to do right. He has to repent.
- God warns Cain that sin is like a lion, ready to kill, lying just outside the door.
- Cain has to come to God in God’s way: in repentance.
- We know which way Cain chose: He refused to repent.

f. Unbeliever has an ungodly or sinful heart (vs 8-9).

- The lost sinner is a slave to sin and Satan.
- Cain’s condition of the heart determined the course of his life.
- He refused to admit his sin and tried to hide his sin by lying to cover it.
- He gets deeper and deeper into sin because his heart is sinful and he is a slave to sin.

## 2. The consequences.

- a. He committed sin and was indicted by God and placed under a curse (vs 10-11).
- God sees and knows everything.
  - Psalm 51:4, “*Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*”
  - This is the first occasion in Scripture where a human is cursed.
- b. The sin is not only against God, but also against creation (v 12).
- Cain will never be able to survive as a farmer. His life has become meaningless.
- c. Sin brings guilt and fear of the punishment (vs 13-14).
- Sin brought guilt to Cain in front of the Holy God (v 14).
  - Cain protested that his penalty is too harsh.
  - He expressed no inkling of remorse, only self-pity, and resentment.
  - God’s abundant grace: Cain was given the free gift to return to God.
  - The curse is not a sentence of damnation.
  - But Cain, the reprobate, fails to appreciate God’s grace.
- d. Cain cannot stand the presence of the Lord (v 16).
- Cain settled defiantly outside the presence of God.
  - He loves the world.

## Conclusion

- The faithful and gracious God has given you opportunity to repent and come back to Him: “*Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”
- There is only one way to be **in Christ**: “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*”
- Come to Jesus that you may have life.