

ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bible House, Level 4, Seminar Room 1

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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 30,
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 117

1 Praise the Lord, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

2 For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise: #6, *O Come, My Soul, Bless Thou The Lord*
Stanzas 1, 2, 3, and 5

1 O come, my soul, bless thou the Lord thy Maker,
and all within me, bless his holy name;
bless thou the Lord, forget not all his mercies,
his pard'ning grace and saving love proclaim.

Refrain:

Bless him forever, wondrous in might,
bless him, his servants, that in his will delight.

2 Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion,
most slow to anger, plenteous in love;
rich is his grace to all that humbly seek him,
boundless and endless as the heav'ns above. [Refrain]

3 His love is like a father's to his children,
tender and kind to all who fear his name;
for well he knows our weakness and our frailty,
he knows that we are dust, he knows our frame. [Refrain]

5 High in the heav'ns his throne is fixed forever,
his kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole;
bless ye the Lord through all his wide dominion,
bless his most holy name, O thou my soul. [Refrain]

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. ¹⁵Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that^[a] 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 1:9

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God: *Luke 14:25-35*

25 Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and

children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. 34 “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? 35 It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word of God: Are You Worth Your Salt?

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 #593 Take thou our Minds, dear Lord*

1 Take Thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray,
Give us the mind of Christ each passing day;
Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;
Grant us in all our thoughts to honor Thee.

2 Take Thou our hearts, O Christ, they are Thine own;
Come Thou within our souls and claim Thy throne;
Help us to shed abroad Thy deathless love;
Use us to make the earth like heaven above.

3 Take Thou our wills, Most High! Hold Thou full sway;
Have in our inmost souls Thy perfect way;
Guard Thou each sacred hour from selfish ease;
Guide Thou our ordered lives as Thou dost please.

4 Take Thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will;
Through our surrendered souls Thy plans fulfill.
We yield ourselves to Thee—time, talents, all;
We hear, and henceforth heed, Thy sovereign call.

GOD SENDS US OFF WITH HIS BLESSINGS

Benediction

Postlude

Announcements

Sermon Outline

Are You Worth Your Salt?

Text: Luke 14:25-35

Message: *Because God's salvation design is Christ-likeness, we are to follow Jesus at the cost of giving Him our all.*

I. Context

- 1 Our text sees Jesus on his way to Jerusalem.
- 2 Seeing the crowd with him, Jesus seized upon the opportunity to issue an urgent call to discipleship
- 3 The twin parables of the Tower Builder and the Warring King in our text are unique to Luke

II. Cost demanded of disciples

A. Disciples – Who are they?

- 1 Discipleship was common in the 1st century. It is equivalent to our practice of apprenticeship.
- 2 Christian discipleship is more than just acquiring knowledge but learning to becoming more like the Master in life and practice

B. Demand – What it costs? (14:26-27)

- 3 Jesus used two graphic sayings to explain what it takes to be a disciple. One was hating family relationship and even our own life. And the other of bearing one's cross.
- 4 Believing and following Jesus are not separate actions but one complete act of discipleship.
 - a. **hating family relationship (14:26)**
 - 5 In Hebrew speak, to hate means to love less someone.
 - 6 It is to be loyal to Jesus first and foremost. All other relationships must take second place
 - b. **bearing one's cross (14:27)**
 - 7 A person carrying a cross was on his way to death. It is a symbol of humiliation, suffering, and pain.

C. Discernment – What is required

- 8 Rather than actively recruiting, the Savior seemed to be effectively discouraging followers.
- 9 Jesus was not discouraging following him but following him casually and for the wrong reasons.

III. Consideration required of disciples

A. Parable of the Tower Builder (14:28-30)

- 1 By this parable Christ taught those who follow Him should seriously consider whether they were willing to endure all that was demanded of them in discipleship

B. Parable of the Warring King (14:31-32)

- 2 Jesus was teaching that it is disastrous to delay one's choice without considering the consequences

C. The Cost and the Consequences

- 3 The two pictures are complementary: count the costs of discipleship; consider the consequences of refusing discipleship. There is a price to be paid either way.

IV. Crucial characteristic of disciples (14:33)

A. Essence of discipleship

- 1 The disciple is to renounce all that he has.

B. "giving up," not "giving away"

- 2 This is a call to sign over or yield ownership of everything he has to the Lord.
- 3 It's about giving them up to Christ for the Master's use. For the things we own often come to own us. There is no minimalist approach to discipleship. What God desires is everything

C. Radical nature of discipleship

- 4 Radical but it is not unrealistic. These requirements of Jesus are similar to what is expected in a marriage
- 5 Discipleship is the loving response to the gospel and an outflow of that love and delightful relationship.

V. Commitment expected of disciples

A. God's design of discipleship

- 1 In their witness, believers function as the salt of the earth (Matt . 5: 13). They are the Lord's moral preservatives and seasoning agents for the world.
- 2 Such commitment is not entrance requirement into the kingdom of God. And the degree of commitment required might vary. Jesus' disciples "grew" into this commitments e.g, Peter did not "bear his own cross" during his denials, but he did later.
- 3 No discipleship occurs without human effort or merely because of human effort. "Grace is not opposed to effort, but is opposed to earning.(D. Willard)

B. Power of commitment

- 4 The man who has once made a profession of religion, but has afterwards gone back from it, is like salt which has "lost its savor." Such salt is comparatively useless
- 5 Without discipleship, believers are saltless salt. They have no ability to season those around them with the flavour of Christ. They are useless to achieve divine objectives. Their usefulness depends on a faithfulness in Christian discipleship.

VI. The Conclusion

- 1 Desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
- 2 And don't delay but count the cost
- 3 Yet Christian discipleship is possible for all
- 4 See the gracious offer from the perspective of not so much of how difficult it is to enter the kingdom but how wonderful it is to be given the opportunity to enter therein.
- 5 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.