

# ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

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## PROVIDENCE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bible House, Level 4, Seminar Rooms 1 & 2

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 OCTOBER 11,  
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

### Preparatory Devotion & 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: *Psalms 136.1-3*

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

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

### Opening Prayer

### Responsive Reading of the Word of God: Psalm 92

- <sup>1</sup> It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
- <sup>2</sup> **to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,**
- <sup>3</sup> to the music of the lute and the harp,  
to the melody of the lyre.
- <sup>4</sup> **For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**
- <sup>5</sup> How great are your works, O LORD!  
Your thoughts are very deep!
- <sup>6</sup> **The stupid man cannot know;  
the fool cannot understand this:**
- <sup>7</sup> that though the wicked sprout like grass  
and all evildoers flourish,  
they are doomed to destruction forever;
- <sup>8</sup> **but you, O LORD, are on high forever.**
- <sup>9</sup> 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 RENEWS US IN HIS SON**

Call to Repentance: *Exodus 20:17*

“You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.”

Silent Reflection & Prayer

**Corporate Prayer for Forgiveness:**

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we are thankful that your mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings, deeper than all our sin. Forgive our careless attitudes toward your purposes, our envy of those who have more than we have, our obsession with creating a life of constant pleasure, our indifference to the treasures of heaven, our neglect of your wise and gracious law. Help us to change our way of life so that we may desire what is good, love what you love, and do what you command, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Promise of Forgiveness and Assurance: *Micah 7:18-19*

**18 Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love.**

**19 He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.**

## GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God: *Acts 11:1-18*

**11** **1** Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. **2** So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, **3** "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." **4** But Peter began and explained it to them in order: **5** "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. **6** Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. **7** And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' **8** But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' **9** But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' **10** This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. **11** And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. **12** And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. **13** And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; **14** he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' **15** As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. **16** And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' **17** If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" **18** When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word of God: *Make Way for God's Way*

## GOD RECEIVES US INTO HIS FAMILY

Words of Preparation

Prayer of Preparation

Sacrament of Baptism and Receiving of Membership

## 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: *Psalms 32*

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

<sup>2</sup> **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup> For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah***

<sup>5</sup> I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*

- 6** Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters,  
they shall not reach him.
- 7** You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selab*
- 8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- 9** Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
or it will not stay near you.
- 10** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
- 11** Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Benediction

Postlude

# Sermon Outline

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**Make Way for God's Way** *Acts 11:1-18*

**Since God's covenant promise is to reach and save the people of all nations, we must make way for God's mission.**

1. Going the extra mile and taking the initiative to resolve criticism. (1-3)
2. Navigating the past and the way forward in view of God's covenant promise. (4-15)
3. Making peace to make way for salvation. (16-18)

# The Baptism

Baptism is a sign that points to and confirms the gracious saving promise of God to His people and its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Thus, Christ commanded believers to be baptized. Moreover, Colossians 2:11-12 says that Christian baptism superseded the practice of circumcision in the Old Testament. The Bible relates baptism and circumcision as a continuous sign of God's ideal goodness for His people. It is to be administered to believers and their children, as can be seen from Genesis 17, Matthew 28, Colossians 2, 1 Corinthians 7, and Acts 16.

In Baptism, and especially in infant baptism, God's love is beautifully portrayed His initiative to first reached out to us, when we could not reach out to him. Therefore, this is a picture of God's sovereign and saving grace. God has sovereignly given the community of believers' responsibility to help one another to mature in faith. Thus, baptism and salvation of a believer have to exercise commitment to the church as in a larger family of brothers and sisters. The Questions and Answers of the vows taken are to bring clarity to that commitment.

## INFANT BAPTISM VOWS

### Questions for the parents:

1. Do you acknowledge your child's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit? If so, say, "We do."
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own? If so, say, "We do."
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child, Hannah Phua, to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before Hannah a godly example, that you will pray with and for Hannah, that you will teach Hannah the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God's appointment, to bring Hannah up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? If so, say, "We do."

### Question for the congregation:\*

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of Hannah Phua? If so, say, "We do."

*As used by the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*

## MEMBERSHIP VOWS

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy? If so, say, "I do."
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel? If so, say, "I do."
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ? If so, say, "I do."
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability? If so, say, "I do."
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace? If so, say, "I do."

### **Question for the congregation\*:**

Do you, as members of Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church, receive our brother and sisters, Daniel Chew, Christie Cheah, Grace Ng, Adele Ng, into the membership of this Church, to fellowship with them, pray for and with them, admonish and encourage them, as they, together with you, seek the building up of the Church of God and strive for the advancement of the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ? If so, say "we do."

*As used by the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*