

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 OCTOBER 25,
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**.

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

The Greeting of God

The Call to Worship: *Psalms 134:1-3*

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!

²Lift up your hands to the holy place
and bless the Lord!

³May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who made heaven and earth!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL

Opening Prayer

Responsive Reading of the Word of God: *John 1:1-18*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'")

And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

GOD RENEWS US IN HIS SON

Call to Repentance: *Mat 5:21-24*

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Silent Prayer

Corporate Prayer for Forgiveness:

Almighty God, Giver of life

we have not always loved our brethren as we should.

We have often hurt them by

thinking evil of them,

speaking poorly about them,

and inflicting pain against their persons.

Father, purify our hearts by your Holy Spirit!

Create in our hearts true love for our brethren.

Grant us to turn from sin

and do good to our brethren out of Christ-like love.

Through Jesus our Lord,

who died for sinners

and fulfilled all righteousness,

forgive our many sins.

Amen

Promise of Forgiveness and Assurance: *Ephesians 1:7*

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

GOD FEEDS US WITH HIS WORD

Reading of the Word of God: *Phil 3.8-21*

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith__ ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Prayer for Illumination

Preaching of the Word of God: *Having the Mind of Christ (9): Life in Christ*

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 2*

Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying,

"Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us."

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,

"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.

Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

GOD SENDS US OFF WITH HIS BLESSINGS

Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Outline

HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST (9): LIFE IN CHRIST *Phil 3.8-21*

I. Introduction

- A. Philippians chapter 3 verses 1 to 9 answer the most important question in life i.e. how can I be right with God? The answer is through faith in Christ!
- B. After we have come to faith in Christ, we are a new creation. We began our new life in Christ!
- C. How does a life in Christ looks like? Philippians chapter 3 verses 10 to 21 offer us a few pointers on how it looks like in three key words – knowing, straining, and looking

II. Knowing vs 10-12

- A. Christ – personally and experientially as we grow in his knowledge
- B. Power of Christ's resurrection – practically as we combat temptations and sins daily

PS. Paul, even though he has been a Christian for over 30 years, a veteran missionary, church planter, theologian and Bible scholar par excellence, confessed that he is a work in progress; so are you and your fellow brethren!

III. Straining vs 13-16

- A. Forgetting what lies behind
- B. For the goal for the prize of the upward call of God

IV. Looking vs 17-21

- A. Look up to Godly man and woman

- B. Look out for false teachers

- C. Look forward to the return of Christ

V. Conclusion

- A. Our citizenship is in heaven; we are to march to a different drumbeat from the world.

- B. We will be transformed; mortality will put on immortality, the earthy will put on heavenly!

- C. But until then, it is a lifelong journey of knowing Christ, pressing on to the goal for the prize of the upward call of God and looking forward to Christ's soon return!

LEST WE FORGET

1. Almost 503 years to this day, the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century changed Christianity forever. We are descendants of that great movement inspired by God. The Reformation recovered for us the true gospel of Jesus Christ at a time when the church was losing its way.
2. One of the enduring legacies of the Reformation is the Five Solas. These are five Latin slogans that summarized the Reformers' theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity. From *sola Scriptura* (*Scripture alone*) flow the other four watchwords of the Reformation - *solus Christus* (*Christ alone*), *sola gratia* (*grace alone*), *sola fide* (*faith alone*), and *solī Deo Gloria* (*to the glory of God alone*).
3. In brief, it means that the Bible alone is our highest authority. We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ. We are saved by the grace of God alone. Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King. We live for the glory of God alone.
4. It was the Reformers' commitment to Scripture alone that led to the rediscovery of the doctrines of grace. Any Spirit-led return to the Bible inevitably leads to the truth of God's sovereignty in saving grace.
5. The Reformers spilled blood to recover this foundation by being faithful and humbly submissive to the Word of God. It was not a single act, nor was it led by one man. This history-changing movement played out on different stages over decades. The tipping point came on October 31st, 1517 when Martin Luther nailed the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.
6. But the battle continues today. Many Reformed creeds and confessions have been written subsequent to that history making event that led to renewal in the church of Jesus Christ. The novelty of that new found rediscovery has passed on. Many of these creeds are now covered with dust in libraries of the Protestant churches. Only a semblance in the name of relevance is taught and believed.
7. But as children of the Reformation today, the best way for us to hold up high these doctrines of grace is to cherish and experience them ourselves. In other words to live them out for the glory of God alone, having been saved by God's grace through faith alone in Christ, who alone is our Lord, Saviour and King. Do that by knowing in our hearts what these basic eternal truths are about. Study and love them. Amidst all the Satan-led deception and distractions of modernity, the church cannot afford to lose its way again.
8. Not all old-fashioned things are obsolete especially if they are foundational. Foundation is not something that can be discarded without disastrous results.

By Elder Keng Ho