



Reformed Church

BOX HILL

Grace Alone • Christ Alone • Faith Alone • Scripture Alone • Glory to God Alone

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A congregation of the
Christian Reformed
Churches of Australia

Statement of Purpose

In response to God's call, it is the purpose of the Reformed Church of Box Hill to be a community of believers committed to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaiming in word and deed the Word of God by worship, fellowship and care, diaconal service, and evangelism and outreach.

Welcome!

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship today.

Worship services are recorded and sermons are available on our web site — rcbh.org.au.

You can listen to them online or download and listen offline.

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Meditation – How deep is the Father's love?

By Patrick Ramsey - Courtesy of Reformation 21

(<https://www.reformation21.org/blog/how-deep-is-the-fathers-love>).

Stuart Townend's hymn, "How deep the Father's Love for Us," says that the Father's love is beyond all measure. Nevertheless, if we were to attempt to measure it, how would we go about doing that? We use a thermometer to gauge the temperature and a ruler to measure the height and width of an object. But how do we determine, to borrow Paul's words in Ephesians 3:18, what is the breadth and length and height and depth of the Father's love?

One instrument that we can use is the object of our love. Love for those who are good or who are like us is commendable, but it isn't extraordinary. So too is love for those who love us. Frankly, that is easy to do. As Jesus said, "For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same (Matt. 5:46-47)?"

Love shows its depth, not in loving those who deserve our love or in loving those who are easy to love, but in loving the unlovable, which is exactly who God loves. He loves the weak, the ungodly, sinners, and even his enemies (Rom. 5:6, 8, 10).

Another instrument that we can use to plummet the depths of love is timing. Paul says in Romans 5, that God demonstrated or showed his love for us "while we were still sinners (vs. 8)," and "while we were enemies (vs. 10)." Dylann Roof is a mass murderer, who had gone to a Bible study at Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina where he shot and killed nine people in the hopes of igniting a race war. He is evil and has done unspeakable evil. For the sake of illustration, consider him as an unrepentant and unreformed criminal. He doesn't regret what he did. In fact, he would do it again if he could. He remains every bit the monster he was when he entered that church and killed nine people. By contrast, consider him as if he was someone who had been reformed and transformed. He is utterly broken over what he has done. He has apologized to the victims' families, even though he believes that he doesn't deserve to be forgiven. He is not the same person he was before. He is kind, considerate, helpful, and loving. Which person would be easier to love? Obviously, the one who had changed.

April 21st, 2024

10AM Morning Worship

Preacher
Isaac Overton

Duty Elder
David Luy

Children's Catechism
Ken Dean

Music: Carol Lu
Cassandra Kuruvilla

Offerings
1. Ministry of the Church
2. Diaconate

Morning Tea
Calvin Wang & Jessie

Slides & Audio
Samantha Lu
Ethan Lu

5PM Evening Worship

With Lord's Supper
Preacher
Paul Chan

Duty Elder
David Luy

Music
Carolyn Yu

Weekly Church Cleaning
Daphne Coller
Felice Abhayawickrema

Slide & Audio:
Weichang Yu

God loved us while we were still sinners and his enemies, and not after we had waved the white flag or after we had reformed ourselves. He loved us while we hated him, while we were evil and doing evil, while we were shaking our fists at him. Moreover, God didn't love us because he could see down the corridor of time that we would change and stop hating him. He loved us while we were still sinners and it is because he loved us that we have changed and have stopped hating him. "In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that he loved us (1 John 4:10)."

A third instrument is manner. Love can be measured by what a person is willing to do or give to their beloved. It is easy to say that you love someone, much harder to show it, and you show it by what you do, give, or sacrifice for the one you love. The greater the gift or sacrifice, the greater the love. How did God love us? What did he give or sacrifice for us? His one and only Son (John 3:16; 1John 4:9, 10; Rom. 8:32). He didn't sacrifice Abraham or David or an angel or some other created being. He gave his one and only Son. His Son who is righteous, holy, and good. His Son who is altogether lovely and lovable.

Consequently, the Father sent his Son, not to the garden of Eden, but to this present evil age, where he would suffer and die on a cross as a sacrifice for sins. This involved the Father handing his Son over to his enemies, including Satan, his archenemy. Jesus noted Satan's involvement in his death when he said to his disciples during his farewell discourse, "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming (John 14:30)."

Satan didn't, however, work alone. In John 8 Jesus pointed out that the Jewish leaders were like the devil in that they too hated him and were trying to kill him. After many failed attempts, they were finally able to satisfy their thirst for his blood. This is why Jesus had said to them in the garden of Gethsemane, "But this is your hour, and the power of darkness (Luke 22:53)." Unsurprisingly, they took full advantage of the opportunity the Father gave them when he delivered Jesus into their hands. Psalm 22 paints the terrifying picture for us: "Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and

my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet--I can count all my bones-- they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

How the Father loved us in giving up his Son shows us how great his love is for us. As John Murray writes, "the Father gave over his own Son, who is perfectly good and pure, to the malignity and hate, power and ingenuity of the prince of darkness. And he did this for you while you were still his enemy. Does this not tell you that the Father loves you? Does this not prove to you the vastness of the Father's love for you?"

Still another instrument that measures love is the goal or purpose. The reason the Father gave his Son is so that we might not perish but have everlasting life. Or as 1 John 4:9 says, "God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him."

Paul says in Galatians that if the law could have given life, then Christ died in vain. To die in vain is to die for nothing. It would be like jumping into the lake and dying for your little brother when he isn't drowning. You may have the best intentions in jumping to your death and you may be eager to demonstrate your love by dying, but if what you do doesn't benefit your brother, then it isn't good or even loving. It is pointless. However, if your little brother is drowning and you give your life to save him, then that indeed is the height of love. The Father gave us his Son to redeem us. He met our greatest need with his greatest gift and thereby demonstrated the greatness of his love.

Although the Father's love for us is beyond all measure, we can capture a glimpse of its depth by considering who the Father loved, when the Father loved, how the Father loved and why the Father loved. In short, "How deep the Father's love for us, How vast beyond all measure, That he should give His only Son, To make a wretch His treasure."

Memory Verse of the Week

¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

Psalm 72:1

Sunday School Memory Work

Q. 105. What is prayer?

A. Prayer is talking to God

Parking at RCBH

It is great to see the church filled for worship services, but that also means the church car park is often crammed full. So where should you park, particularly on Sunday mornings?

If you are able-bodied and prepared to walk the short distance from a parking place on Watts Street or in the council car park at the end of the rear lane way (also accessed from Court Street), please leave spaces in the church car park for those who need them more – particularly our elderly brothers and sisters, and young families with prams and strollers.

See the poster on the Notice Board about nearby parking locations and other parking arrangements.

Box Hill Prayer and Praise Points

Lord's Day Worship – Pray that the Lord will bless our worship, and that He will use the testimony of our public worship to bring others into His kingdom. Pray that the Lord will increase our zeal and love for Christ, and that our joy in the Lord would abound as we worship him. Pray that both services, in Box Hill and at our church camp on Phillip Island, would be abundantly blessed to the glory of God.

Zeal – Pray that the Lord may increase our zeal for Him, our hunger for His Word, and our love for Christ. Pray that the fruit of the Spirit may be growing and abounding in our lives – at home, at church, and in the work place. Give thanks for the growth in zeal that he has given in answer to our prayers!

Gospel outreach - pray that the Lord will lead and equip us in bringing the gospel to our neighbours, both in Box Hill and at our places of residence. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel, courage to take those opportunities, and that we may see many unbelievers come to Christ and join in worshipping the Lord.

Newborns, babies, and weddings – Please continue to pray for our recent newborns and their parents settling into a new season of life. Please pray also for Braydon and Dorothy as they prepare and plan for their marriage in May this year – please pray especially that Braydon's family will all be able to have visa arrangements in place to make the trip across! Pray for Yumi and Marine as they each continue on in their pregnancies. Please pray also that any of our single folk desiring the gift of marriage may receive it, and that those who are married would be able to live as a faithful portrait of Christ and his Church in their marriages.

Sick & grieving – continue to pray for comfort, recovery, and confidence in God for those who have health concerns, especially those struggling daily with ongoing injuries and conditions.

Diaconate – Our second offering for this week will be for the work of our diaconate. Our deacons oversee and lead us as a congregation in works of ministry to adorn the proclamation of the gospel. These funds are used to help people in need, both in our church community, and as we look out into our suburb and city. Please pray for this ministry, and be sure to approach our deacons if you see opportunities for us to be serving as a church.

Food-Aid Hampers – don't forget the collection trolley in the church foyer. The deacons will collect, sort and distribute your gifts of non-perishable, packaged food as part of our ministry of mercy to people in our community. Any items you give will be put to good use! Please talk to the deacons if you want to know more about this activity, and especially if you know people in need who they might reach out to and help.

Australian and World-wide Praise & Prayer

More Pastors to serve in the CRCA – Continue to remember South Barwon Reformed Church, Casey Reformed Church, Canberra Reformed Church, and other CRCA churches as they seek to call a pastor.

Synod 2024 – Our denominational Synod will be meeting in May this year, please pray for our churches and Classes as they consider the reports before Synod this year, and pray that wisdom and humility may prevail at Synod – to the glory of God! Please pray that our office bearers would be able to manage the extra workload required with properly examining all the synodical reports that are now before our churches. Give thanks to God for Oasis Church in Queensland who is extending hospitality to all our churches in hosting this year's Synod.

Victoria – pray for our state, our government, and for the protection and freedom of liberty that we may live quiet, godly lives, free to worship and share the gospel. Pray for the conversion of our elected representatives, and for revival in our city and state.

Religious Discrimination Bill – The Prime Minister has announced his intention to work with the Greens party to develop a Religious Discrimination Bill. This bill would likely take away from Christian Schools their freedom to exclusively employ teachers who share Christian convictions, and attempt to force them to adopt non-Christian ideologies into their curriculum. Please pray that this bill would not restrict gospel freedom in Australia, and that it would amount to nothing damaging toward the cause of Christ. More information is available on the Australian Christian Lobby website: <https://www.acl.org.au/>

Indiway – Prayer Items for April

1. HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Please join in praise to God for the addition of 143 new believers who came to know about Christ last month.

2. NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Please pray for the general elections in India which will be held from 19th April to 1st June 2024. We request you to pray for a peaceful atmosphere during the election period and National leaders will be chosen who uphold the constitution that grants freedom of religion in India. The present ruling party is a militant Hindu party.

3. PERSECUTION

A ministry couple has asked for special prayer as in one of the outreach villages there continues to face opposition from the village leaders. The village leaders allow families to pray in their homes but do not allow house groups meeting for prayer. They may not gather together for worship events in that village.

4. MINISTRY TRAINING

From mid-April to early May another group of ministry workers will receive theological training. Three teachers are rolling out this ongoing program. Please remember that Jesus has never been proclaimed amongst these people. In the global West we have a rich Gospel heritage. Please also remember that most of these leaders are first generation believers and have had little formal education. May God bless the young and growing church amongst tribal people. May he enable these leaders to be equipped and strengthened in their understanding of the Gospel and teach the whole counsel of God.

5. BIBLE COLLEGE

Let us pray that God in his goodness and in his time will provide a Bible College for training many more tribal pastors to effectively reach the lost amongst our peoples. Fifteen million are yet to be reached, so there is a great need for well trained evangelists to proclaim Christ effectively.

Vanuatu–Give thanks to God for the completion of Bible translation projects into two Vanuatu languages, following linguistic, translation and literacy work by missionaries from the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia and the Reformed Churches of New Zealand, working with the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), over more than 50 years. The portions of scripture published and used over the decades have been instrumental in many conversions to Christ and in establishing churches in those parts of Vanuatu. The whole Bible in the Big Nambas language, spoken by the people of NW Malekula, will be launched and dedicated at a service TODAY (31 March) and widely distributed among the Big Nambas people over the next week. A revised New Testament translation in the Lenakel language,

spoken on the island of Tanna, will be dedicated at a service on Friday 5 April. These translations will be used in gospel preaching and discipling on Malekula and Tanna, and in the capital, Port Vila, where many people from those language groups live. Give thanks for the completion of these translation and publishing works, and for those who have given many years of their lives to complete it. Pray for the Lord's blessing on the special events over the next few weeks, and that through them God's Word will reach many people and by used by Him to bring many more to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray for the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) in India - PTS in Dehradun has had their Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) license revoked. This means that they are now unable to receive any funding from overseas. Since PTS relies heavily on foreign donors this could potentially be devastating in terms of their ability to continue to operate.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters at PTS, especially that the reapplication process will be successful, and that they will somehow be able to continue with their vital gospel work in the meantime.

Notices

Men's hike, hamburgers, and hang out (correction) – As per the church calendar, the Men's hike, hamburgers, and hang out is coming up on this Thurs, 25th April. Our topic will be: "Cultivating male friendships." We seem to be living in an age when men tend to be isolated, and lacking in deeper friendships with other men. As well as loving our sisters in all purity, every David also needs a Jonathan or two in his life (or perhaps every Timothy needs a Paul, and vice versa!). As we get together to hike and to eat, we will be opening the floor for discussion and wisdom on this important topic. Following our get together, we plan to get along to our regular Thursday night prayer meeting for those who can make it – men, please be sure to come along! Please let Isaac know if you can make it. SDG.



Synod Reports – As Synod prepares to meet in May this year, Session notes that there are a number of weighty issues to be considered this year. These matters include: proposed changes to our forms for baptism, proposed changes to our membership structure as churches, consideration of whether or not credo-baptist men should be permitted to serve as elders in our churches, and one church overture raising the possibility of allowing both men and women to preach in our churches. Please do be praying about these matters, that God's will will be done in our churches. Note also that the reports and overtures, which are public documents, can be viewed on the following link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14vE5UvgaAGmo5OzBsJm88XSJRMvFWE5X?usp=drive_link

Ladies Bible Study - Starting again this Saturday 27th at 10.45 at church. If you still need to pick up a Bible study book, they are under the switchboard in the foyer. We will be working through the first half of chapter two.

"How to get married" – Following from our evenings series in Amos, Session thinks it is a good idea to have a short series on biblical instruction for "How to get married" (beginning, Lord willing, next Sunday 28th of April). The first sermon will be: "It's good to be single", taken from 1 Corinthians 7. Contentment in singleness is good preparation for marriage, and helpful for all of us to think about – married or single. Following the evening service, there will be a chance for some informal discussion and questions arising from the night's message for those interested. Please pray for me as I prepare these messages, much wisdom is needed! SDG – Isaac.

Pastoral Counselling Unit - Audit Option: Rev. Neil Chambers (Bundoora Presbyterian Church) and Dr Rod Smith (A Christian Psychiatrist) have been invited to co-teach the final six weeks of the RTC's 'Pastoral Counselling' unit. We have decided to make these sessions available, on an audit basis, to the wider Christian public. So, if there is anyone in your life who you think would appreciate this opportunity, please let them know! More information can be found here: <https://rtc.edu.au/pastoral-counselling/>

"Sons of Korah" Psalms in music concert – Sons of Korah is a Geelong-based group of Christians who has been putting music to the Psalms for 30 years. Their ministry has been a wonderful help to the church in recovering musical awareness of the psalms, and of hiding the words of the psalter in our hearts. On Saturday July 13th, at 8pm, "SoK" will be having a very special 30th anniversary concert in Vermont, Melbourne (with a very special 8-piece string accompaniment!). For those interested in attending, the Overton's home will be open for dinner at 5:30pm on the day, before we make our way to the concert. If you're interested in joining us, tickets can be purchased at: https://mailchi.mp/sonsofkorah/30th-anniversary-concert?mc_cid=cae74f5718&mc_eid=24281d9598 Please rsvp to Isaac for dinner by Friday 5th July.

Religion in the Public Square Colloquium – The Presbyterian Church of Victoria is hosting a colloquium on the theme "Christian living as if truth matters." With truth being a key in our theme verse for the year, this colloquium is very timely for us. The colloquium promises to be a very helpful two days of teaching looking at the connection between truth and what's going on in Australian society at the moment. The colloquium is scheduled to run on Fri 12th July and Sat 13th July, for more information, go to: <https://www.churchandnationvic.org/>

Word and Prayer email list – as well as our newsletter mail out list, please note that Ps Isaac has an email list for members and regular attendees sending out occasional congregational updates. It's not always easy to keep track of everyone's email on the list, so if you're not on this email list and would like to be, please send an email to Isaac at isaac.t.overton@outlook.com and he will add you to the list. Thanks!

Families with small children – with the blessing of more children in our church comes the need to take care of them in our worship! Session would like to kindly request that we seek to keep the edges of our seating rows towards the back of the sanctuary free for the use of parents with prams and small children. This will allow them greater freedom when a quick exit is necessary, and greater ease for seeking to bring our children into the sanctuary to train them to worship the Lord with us. Thank you for your understanding!

How to read your Bible – Why is 66% of the Bible told in story? How should we read the narratives of the Bible? How can I benefit in my own reading of the Bible stories? Please mark your diaries (if you haven't already) for the first seminar in this year's "How to Read your Bible" seminar. Over the course of three sessions, we're going to be talking through and thinking about how to engage with biblical narratives. Session 1 will be at the church on Thurs, 16 May, starting 7:30pm.

Sermon notes are available for those with English as a second language. Contact Isaac (isaac.t.overton@outlook.com) if you want to be on the distribution list. There is normally a translation of the sermon notes into Chinese included as well.

Links & details for joining meetings online:

- *Worship Services*
(Every Lord's Day 10:00 & 17:00)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6cH9C5hGhqornk2IrvHs0g>
- *Morning Prayer*
(Every day 06:30–06:50)
<https://meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex>
- *Tuesday Bible Studies*
(Every first and third Tuesday 10:00) <https://meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex> – see Albert E for more details.
- *Wednesday Evening Bible Studies*
(Every first and third Wednesday) usually in-person only, please see Ken for more details and to get on the email list to join in.
- *Prayer Meetings*
(Every second & fourth Thursday 19:30) <https://meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex>



Bible Reading Plan

The translation/version of the Bible used in our worship services & which is recommended for personal use is the English Standard Version (ESV).

Easy 3 Years Plan		Medium 2 Years Plan		
22-Apr	Lev 4	22-Apr	Lev 26	Ps 33
23-Apr	Lev 5	23-Apr	Lev 27	Ps 34
24-Apr	Lev 6	24-Apr	Num 1	Ps 35
25-Apr	Lev 7	25-Apr	Num 2	Ps 36
26-Apr	Lev 8	26-Apr	Num 3	Ps 37
27-Apr	Lev 9	27-Apr	Num 4	Ps 38
28-Apr	Lev 10	28-Apr	Num 5	Ps 39

Advanced 1 Year Plan				
22-Apr	Lev 26	Ps 33	Eccles 9	Tit 1
23-Apr	Lev 27	Ps 34	Eccles 10	Tit 2
24-Apr	Num 1	Ps 35	Eccles 11	Tit 3
25-Apr	Num 2	Ps 36	Eccles 12	Philem 1
26-Apr	Num 3	Ps 37	Song 1	Heb 1
27-Apr	Num 4	Ps 38	Song 2	Heb 2
28-Apr	Num 5	Ps 39	Song 3	Heb 3

Reminders for the week and next Sunday

Today 10:00 **Morning Worship**

17:00 **Evening Worship**
With Lord's Supper

Thurs 25th April 15:00 **Men's hike, hamburgers& hangout**
19:30 **Prayer Meeting**

Sat 27th April 10:45 **Ladies Bible Study**

Sun 28th April 10:00 **Morning Worship**
Preacher – Isaac Overton
Duty Elder – Ronald Paoa
Children's Catechism – Ken Dean
Music Group– Kathy Dean
Simon Wang
Offerings 1. Ministry of Church
2. G.O.S.P.E.L

Morning Tea:
Simon Young Jackson Wong
Slides&Audio: Verity Law
Earnest Law

17:00 **Evening Worship**
Preacher – Isaac Overton
Duty Elder – Ronald Paoa
Music – Kathy Dean
Weekly Church Cleaning:
Si Ning Chua
Si Wei Chua
Slide&Audio: Verity Law Earnest Law