



Reformed Church

BOX HILL

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

28 Watts Street, Box Hill, 3128
P.O. Box 217, Box Hill, 3128

rcbh.org.au

(+613) 9872 3720
(+613) 0407 532 816

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.

Minister of the Word & Pastor:

Isaac Overton

Mobile:
0408 144 340

Phone:
(03) 9872 3720

Email:
rcbhpastor@gmail.com

Pastor's blog:
<https://theologyinthetrenches.substack.com/>

<https://rcbhpastor.substack.com/>

Meditation -The spirit of truth.

In my youth as a Christian, I was raised and worshipped in a pentecostal church. I remember distinctly a time in my 20s when I sincerely yearned for sure and true guidance from God on something significant that was going on in my life. I found it to be a season of life in which I felt immense uncertainty, and at which I was greatly perplexed and disheartened. I was instructed to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and received at times what seemed to me fairly vague words of prophetic revelation concerning what I ought to do. Nevertheless, those words given by well meaning believers only ultimately fuelled my uncertainty, and did not offer any discernable direction to me.

For me, that season represents a pastoral touching point on this question of how the Holy Spirit guides us in our lives. No doubt you have had other experiences for yourself. Perhaps, like me, you had a season of life in the pentecostal church, and that raised questions for you. Perhaps you've been raised in a tradition that speaks little of experience when it comes to the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian. Maybe this area of life leaves you with a yearning, or desire for something that you don't understand, but nevertheless you do desire. You want to know the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Perhaps it's actually something you don't think about much at all.

I don't intend to say all that there is to be said on these questions in this short meditation, and I don't think that I could if I wanted to. But I do want us to consider, in a little, the connection between the Spirit and truth. I think that as we consider the relationship between truth and the Holy Spirit, we will find that scripture affords us a great deal of clarity and insight into how the Holy Spirit ministers in our lives. I suggest that the very first thing that we need to consider is a very special title that the Lord Jesus revealed to us concerning the Holy Spirit, being that he is the "Spirit of truth."

The Apostle John, in his gospel, especially highlights to us Jesus' teaching on the relationship between the Holy Spirit and truth. He does this by revealing to us, at God's behest, that the Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of Truth" (Jn 14:17; 15:26; 16:13). Let's consider each of these passages in turn.

Our first passage, John 14:17, shows us that the Spirit of truth communicates truth (Christ) to us. In John 14:16-17 we read: "...I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, (17) even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." As Don Carson notes, Jesus' reference to the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of truth" is made, primarily, because "he communicates truth" (Carson, John, ref:14:17).

July 7th, 2024

10.00 AM Worship

Preacher
Barry Gregor

Duty Elder
David Luy

Children's Catechism
Isaac Overton

Music
Carol Lu
Cassandra Kuruvilla

Offerings
1. Ministry of the Church
2. Diaconate

Morning Tea
Braydon & Dorothy

Slides & Audio
Lim Family

12PM Fellowship lunch

Luncheon
Peter Weinlich
Anny Thong
Bob Li
Carol Lu
Grace Liao

5.00 PM Worship

Preacher
Ken Dean

Duty Elder
David Luy

Pianist
Kathy Dean

Weekly Church Cleaning
Jarrad & Genevieve Rogers

Slides & Audio
Lim Family

Carson goes on to note that we should not neglect to interpret this verse in light of 14:6, where Jesus has already made reference to the truth: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” In other words, Jesus is saying that as the Holy Spirit communicates the truth to us, Jesus himself will be present (Mt 28:20b), and thus the encouragement of verse 18 on the heels of verses 17: “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

The second passage in which the Spirit is called “the Spirit of truth”, John 15:26, reinforces and makes explicit Carson’s point about the Spirit ministering to us the voice and presence of Christ. The verse itself reads as follows: “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.” The Spirit, proceeding from the Father, reveals the Son, in accordance with the will of Father, and in the very centre here we find that glorious title of the Spirit, that he is “the Spirit of truth.” In other words, and in summary, the Spirit of truth is the living voice of Christ in the midst of the Church, in accordance with the decree and authority of the Father, in whom and from whom exists and proceeds all truth.

Our final passage with reference to this divine title of the Holy Spirit is John 15:16: “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” In these words we find further confirmation of all points previously made (i.e. in 14:17 and 15:26), but with a more clear and specific reference to the continuous work of the Spirit in guiding us, his people, into all the truth. Here is a supreme comfort above all comforts. You and I may falter and fall, and our knowledge of the truth in this life is partial and incomplete. So too we may be discouraged by the inner workings of sinful unbelief in our hearts, and troubled and perplexed by errors we hold in ignorance. But beyond all such failing, failures, and sins, that Sovereign Sentinel of Truth, the Holy Spirit, infallibly and irresistibly guides his people safely into the harbour of salvation, and ever works unto our sanctification. And his work will be perfect and completely perfect when all is said and done. Rest in this, dear believer, when your own ignorance and folly threatens to destabilise you, rest in the eternal presence and work of God’s Holy Spirit among us. He will guide us into all truth.

As a seal upon these three revelations of “the Spirit of truth”, we find the Apostle once again showing us the connection between the Spirit and the truth. In 1 John 5:6, we find an equivocation so clear that it’s glory begins to transcend us. As you may remember, scripture at times makes a seamless interchange between God himself and the concept of truth. So one of the Father’s names is revealed to be “the God of truth” (Is 65:16), so the Son reveals himself to “the truth” (Jn 14:6); and so we read in 1 John 5:6 that the “the Spirit is the truth.”

I confess, I do not have all the answers when it comes to the ways and workings of the Holy Spirit among his people. But this I can say with confidence: the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Because of this, I know that his chief ministry is to reveal Christ, who is the truth, to us, and to guide us into all truth that we may more and more truly reflect Christ’s image. Any doctrine of the Holy Spirit that does not hold these truths to be front and centre has missed the point. Christ is with us, and he speaks to us through his word, and by the power and presence of his Holy Spirit. SDG.

Sunday School Memory Work

Q. 5. Why should you glorify God?

A. Because He made me and takes care of me.

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.

Peace – Pray that the Lord may cause the fruit of peace to grow and abound among us - both in ourselves, as we rest in Christ, and in our relationships together, as we are one in Christ. Pray for an increase of the peace of Christ among us!

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. Pray for fruit from the gospel conversations that have been had with the people of Box Hill who our evangelism team has talked with (and prayerfully consider joining in on the labour!).

Pregnancies – Pray continue to pray for Yumi and Marine as they each continue on in their pregnancies.

Pastoral needs – 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. Please pray also for those in need of employment.

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 Casey Reformed Church, Canberra Reformed Church, and other CRCA churches as they seek to call a pastor.

Defending religious freedom - as our federal parliament continues to consider the proposed Religious Discrimination Bill and amendments to the Sex Discrimination Act, Australia faces significant threats to the free expression of religious beliefs and practices in our country. Please pray that this freedom may be maintained, so that the gospel may be freely proclaimed and believed by Christians in Australia.

ACL's "Baby Booties" abortion protest - From the Australian Christian Lobby: Every year, hundreds of babies are born alive during failed abortions in Australia, only to be denied basic medical care and left to die. Despite being perfectly formed, these fragile infants are tragically forgotten and abandoned without the dignity and protection all children deserve. *Knit, Crochet or Buy Baby Booties to Help Us Create a Powerful National Visual Protest.* This year, make a bold stand for life by participating in the Baby Booties Campaign. Whether you knit tiny booties yourself or purchase them, each one represents a precious life lost and becomes a powerful symbol honouring their humanity. You can POST BOOTIES NOW to Australian Christian Lobby, GPO Box 1424, Canberra, ACT 2601. For more information, please look at the ACL website, and be praying that this protest would send a powerful message to our elected representatives: <https://www.acl.org.au/baby-booties-2024/>

Indiway – Prayer Items for July

1. Our missionaries: praise God as they were able to share the good news to many. 77 people responded to the Gospel in June. Please pray that God in grace will work his life changing power in their lives and communities.
2. We thank God for Vacation Bible School program which was conducted in for over 300 children over two days. They were taught Bible stories, songs and games in 12 Christian teachers helped conduct the classes.
3. Please pray for a good monsoon season with adequate rain. Most of the people in our mission field are farmers and farm labourers. They depend on rainfall for good cultivation since agriculture is the main source of their livelihood.
4. Please pray for the Thanksgiving meetings which are going to be organised during the first week of July 2024 at three different locations The reason for these meeting is that we can look back on 18 years of God's faithfulness over the last 18 years. By God's grace thousands and thousands of people have responded to the Gospel and gathered into churches in the tribal belt. God has blessed the partnership in missions.

Prayer item from the IndiWay Committee.

5. Please also pray about financial situation. Humanly speaking IndiWay is facing shortfalls right now. For 18 years God has faithfully provided for our needs. We started then with just 10 missionaries. Today there are over 70 full time missionaries. The total budget is about the same as 2.5 full time ministers serving in Australia.

The IndiWay committee faces a serious shortfall in meeting our budget. We have never had to decrease our level of support for reaching these needy tribal people.

All our missionaries on the ground belong to the very tribe they are trying to reach. God is using them to effectively reach their own people.

· Western missionaries are not allowed to proclaim Christ in tribal villages.

· Western missionaries would never be able to relate to the suffering that comes from such poverty, discrimination, exploitation and rejection that tribal people face.

· Western missionaries would never become proficient with the language, traditions and culture of tribal people; neither would they understand the darkness and oppression of animism and Hinduism.

God is using us as partners to build his Kingdom.

a. Pray for more individual partners. Most partners do commit for a season. Some partners for a year or two. Some have retired and stepped back from support. Some are facing greater cost of living pressures. We need more individuals to take their place. Individual partners provide 75% of our funds.

b. Pray for generous congregational giving for this harvesting ministry in our congregations. Covid has significantly changed the giving patterns of our churches. Denominational support continues to decline.

RCBH Banking Details

Main Account:

Reformed Church of Box Hill Inc
BSB: 013 284 / Account No: 309 733 026

Deacon's Account:

Reformed Church of Box Hill
BSB: 013 259 / Account No: 196 788 337

Notices

Welcoming Br. Joshua Hong into membership - Br. Joshua Hong has indicated an interest in joining RCBH as a member. Josh is a student at the RTC, and regularly supplies preaching support to other churches around the city. He has been worshipping with us for some months now and, having conducted a membership interview, Session fully supports welcoming our brother in to our church as a member. We will welcome Joshua in to membership in our morning service on Sunday 14th 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/>

Sermon passages for next week - Lord willing, we will begin looking at Jesus' teaching on prayer next Sunday morning from Mt 6:5-8; as well as beginning a sermon series in Job (Job 1) in our PM service.

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!

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.

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>



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		
8-July	Mark 12	8-July	Josh 10	Ps 142,143
9-July	Mark 13	9-July	Josh 11	Ps 144
10-July	Mark 14	10-July	Josh 12,13	Ps 145
11-July	Mark 15,16	11-July	Josh 14,15	Ps 146,147
12-July	Deut 1	12-July	Josh 16,17	Ps 148
13-July	Deut 2	13-July	Josh 18,19	Ps 149,150
14-July	Deut 3	14-July	Josh 20,21	Acts 1

Advanced 1 Year Plan				
8-July	Josh 10	Ps 142,143	<u>Jer 4</u>	Matt 18
9-July	Josh 11	Ps 144	<u>Jer 5</u>	Matt 19
10-July	Josh 12,13	Ps 145	<u>Jer 6</u>	Matt 20
11-July	Josh 14,15	Ps 146,147	<u>Jer 7</u>	Matt 21
12-July	Josh 16,17	Ps 148	<u>Jer 8</u>	Matt 22
13-July	Josh 18,19	Ps 149,150	<u>Jer 9</u>	Matt 23
14-July	Josh 20,21	Acts 1	<u>Jer 10</u>	Matt 24

Reminders for the week and next Sunday

Today 10:00 **Morning Worship**

12:00 **Fellowship Lunch**

17:00 **Evening Worship**

Thurs 11 July 19:30 **Prayer meeting**

Sun 14 July 10:00 **Morning Worship**

Including Lord's supper

Preacher – Isaac Overton

Duty Elder – Ron Paoa

Children's Catechism – Isaac Overton

Pianist – Kathy Dean

Offerings 1. Ministry of the Church

2. RTC

Morning Tea:

Ethan & Yalan Lu

Slides & Audio: Lu Family

17:00 **Evening Worship**

Preacher – Isaac Overton

Duty Elder – David Luy

Pianist – Micheal Pamphilon

Weekly Church Cleaning:

Jed Saville

Matthew Kim

Slide & Audio: Wei Chang & Carolyn