

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 – ***The History of the Reformation.***

By R.C.Sproul (*courtesy of Ligonier Ministries*): <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-history-of-the-reformation>

"A cesspool of heresies." This was the judgment rendered by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V on May 26, 1521, shortly after Luther took a stand at the Diet of Worms.

Earlier, in the bull Exsurge Domine, Pope Leo X described Luther as a wild boar loose in the vineyard of Christ and as a stiff-necked, notorious, damned heretic. On May 4, 1521, Luther was "kidnapped" by friends and whisked off to Wartburg castle, where he was kept secretly hidden, disguised as a knight. There Luther immediately undertook the task of translating the Bible into the vernacular.

Frequently the Reformation is described as a movement that revolved around two pivotal issues. The so-called "material" cause was the debate over sola fide ("justification by faith alone"). The "formal" cause was the issue of sola Scriptura, that the Bible and the Bible alone has the authority to bind the conscience of the believer. Church tradition was regarded with respect by the Reformers but not as a normative source of revelation. The "protest" of Protestantism went far beyond the issue of justification by faith alone, challenging many dogmas that emerged in Rome, especially during the Middle Ages.

In a short time, the Reformation swept through Germany but did not stop there. Aided by the translation of the Bible in other nations, the reform spread to the Huguenots in France, to Scotland, England, Switzerland, Hungary, and Holland. Ulrich Zwingli led the Reformation movement in Switzerland, John Knox in Scotland, and John Calvin among the French Protestants.

In 1534 Calvin delivered a speech calling the church to return to the pure Gospel of the New Testament. His speech was burned, and Calvin fled Paris to Geneva. Disguised as a vinedresser, he escaped the city in a basket.

October 20th, 2024

10AM Morning Worship

Preacher
Ps Isaac Overton

Duty Elder
Ronald Paoa

Children's Catechism
Isaac Overton

Music: Earnest Law

Offerings
1. Ministry of the Church
2. Solomon Islands Workgroup

Morning Tea
Lian Chan
Margaret Chin

Slides & Audio
Weichang Yu

5PM Evening Worship

Preacher
Isaac Overton

Duty Elder
Ronald Paoa

Music
Michael Pamphilon

Weekly Church Cleaning
Albert & Anche Geuze

Slide & Audio:
Weichang Yu

During the next year, some two dozen Protestants were burned alive in France. This provoked Calvin to write his famous Institutes of the Christian Religion, which was addressed to the King of France. His thought contained in the Institutes developed into the dominant theology for the international expansion of the Reformation.

The first edition of the Institutes was completed in 1536, the same year Calvin was persuaded by Farel to come to Switzerland to build Geneva into a model city of Reformation. In 1538 Farel and Calvin were forced to leave Geneva. He lived and ministered in Strasbourg for three years until he was recalled to Geneva in 1541.

Calvin's theology stressed the sovereignty of God in all of life. His chief passion was the reform of worship to a level of purity that would give no hint to or support of the human penchant for idolatry. Geneva attracted leaders from all over Europe who came there to observe the model and be instructed by Calvin himself.

During this period turbulence spread to England when King Henry VIII resisted the authority of Rome. In 1534 Henry became the Supreme Head of the Anglican Church. He undertook the persecution of evangelicals, which escalated under "Bloody Mary," causing many to flee to Geneva for refuge.

The persecutions were suspended under "Good Queen Bess," Elizabeth I, whose stance provoked a papal bull against her in 1570. The Reformation spread rapidly to Scotland, largely under the leadership of John Knox, who served nineteen months as a galley slave before he went to England and then to Geneva. In 1560 the Scottish Parliament rejected papal authority. In 1561 the Scottish Reformed "Kirk" was reorganized.

One interesting footnote to this is that the first man John Knox ordained into the ministry of the church was an obscure clergyman by the name of Robert Charles Sproul, of whom I am a direct descendant.

It is only by a serious and earnest recovery of biblical truth that we will be able to avoid falling into a new cesspool of heresy.

In the early seventeenth century, the Reformation spread to the new world with the arrival of the Pilgrims and colonies of Puritans who brought Reformed theology and the Geneva Bible with them.

Reformation theology dominated Protestant evangelicalism for decades but became diluted later under influences of Pietism

and Finneyism.

By the end of the twentieth century, Reformation theology declined dramatically in the Western world, being assaulted by nineteenth century liberal theology on the one hand, and the influence of Arminian theology on the other. This was especially true in America.

In the present scene of American evangelicalism, Reformation theology is a minority report. The dominant strands of theology that reign in current evangelical circles are dispensationalism and neo-Pentecostal charismatic thought. The phenomenal spread and growth of dispensational theology in America is a fascinating chapter in church history. Having its roots in British Plymouth Brethren suppositions, dispensationalism spread rapidly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Fueled by the Bible School movement, prophecy conferences, and the preaching of men like D.L. Moody, dispensationalism gathered enormous popular support.

The American version of dispensationalism got a great boost by the publication of the Scofield Reference Bible. The Scofield Bible, with its study notes, served as a popular tool for the spread of dispensational theology. This theology was forged by men who had their roots predominately in Reformation thought. The themes of classical Reformed theology were modified significantly by this movement.

The New Geneva Study Bible (now the Reformation Study Bible) is the first distinctively Reformed study Bible in English to appear since the Geneva Bible in the sixteenth century. It seeks to recover the theology of the Reformation and provide a guide for the laity to understand its historically, doctrinally, and biblically rich system. Its importance to American Christianity is enormous. It is my hope that it will help guide English-speaking evangelicals back to their Reformation roots. More importantly, it is designed to call evangelicals back to the Bible itself and to their historic confessions of biblical theology.

Beyond the borders of America, the New Geneva Study Bible (now the Reformation Study Bible) may be used to expand the light of the Reformation to lands where the original Reformation never reached, especially to Russia and Eastern Europe.

In our day we have seen a revival of interest in the Bible and a renewed commitment to the authority and trustworthiness of Scripture. But the Reformation was more than a doctrine

about the Bible. It was sparked by a deep and serious study of the Bible. It is not enough to extol the virtue of Scripture—we must hear the teaching of Scripture afresh. It is only by a serious and earnest recovery of biblical truth that we will be able to avoid falling into a new cesspool of heresy.

Memory Verse of the Week

9^{6b} and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

Isaiah 9:6-7

Sunday School Memory Work

Q. 133. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The eating of bread and drinking from the cup in remembrance of the sufferings and death of Christ.

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.

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!). Pray that as we invite folk to attend our Christmas Outreach Event (Sat 14 Dec), many hearts would be moved to come and hear the good news!

Newborns – Give thanks to God for our newborns, Yoshikazu Haoren Eu and Noelle Esther Kol! Please continue to pray for their mums Yumi and Marine, respectively, as they recover. Please continue to pray for Jonathan and Phanuma as they support their respective families.

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.

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.

Jed Saville Vicariate - Please pray for our brother Jed Saville, as he prepares to move up to Inala to serve in his Vicariate year in preparation for ordination. We will miss Jed, it's been great to have him with us, but let's be praying for his time in Inala, that the Lord will be greatly preparing him for a lifetime of pastoral ministry in our churches. Give thanks for our brother, and pray that the Lord may supply all his needs.

ARABIAN PENINSULA - Give thanks for families and individuals who have come to faith in Christ. Pray for wisdom and protection of NH and his family in Yemen who have received life-threatening messages from a close relative due to their faith. Please remember others in similar situations.

LOKICHOOGIO, KENYA - Pray for Turkana evangelist Francis Ekadeli who was seriously injured in a road accident. Praise God that his life was spared and pray for his full recovery.

SOUTHERN LEBANON - Over 90,000 southern Lebanese have been displaced for months by fighting at the border with Israel, including members of 4 evangelical churches. Recently increased bombing has displaced many more, including 340 Christian families. Pray for these sufferings to bring many to faith in Christ, the true Prince of Peace and for a just end of the Middle East conflict.

Pray for the persecuted Church in Burkino Faso- Burkina Faso has been caught up in the sudden expansion of jihadism that began significantly from the collapse of Libya in 2011 when a flood of arms became available to insurgents. The Francophone states of the Sahel are also among the most fragile, with the jihadists adept at exploiting the political vacuums.

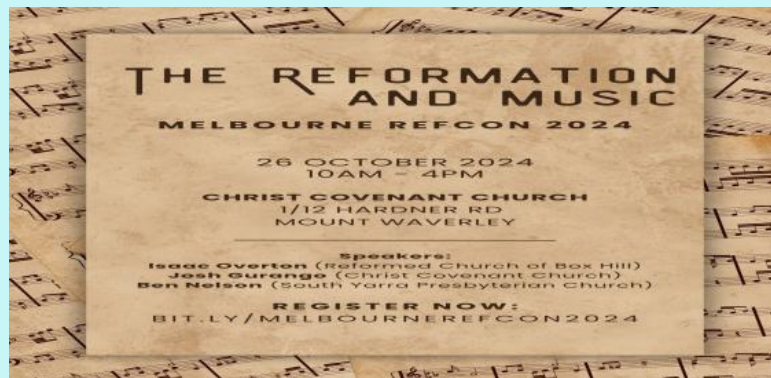
Burkina Faso had two coups in 2022, and in recent years a perfect storm of three extremist movements have begun an extermination campaign of persecuted Christians from the north of the state. Called the "Sahelian Exception" these three jihadist groups have continued to co-operation even though the norm is for these groups to fall out with each other. They are Al Qaeda in the Maghreb (AQIM), the Islamic State in Greater Sahara (IGIS), and another umbrella group of Al Qaeda affiliates known as the Jama'at Nsurat al-Islam wal-Musmimin (JNIM).

In the past two years they have taken control of forty percent of the territory and displaced over a million Christians. According to the GCR-IIRF violent incidents database, 83 Christians were killed in the 2022-2023 period, and this is fraction of the true number (report courtesy of Global Christian Relief).

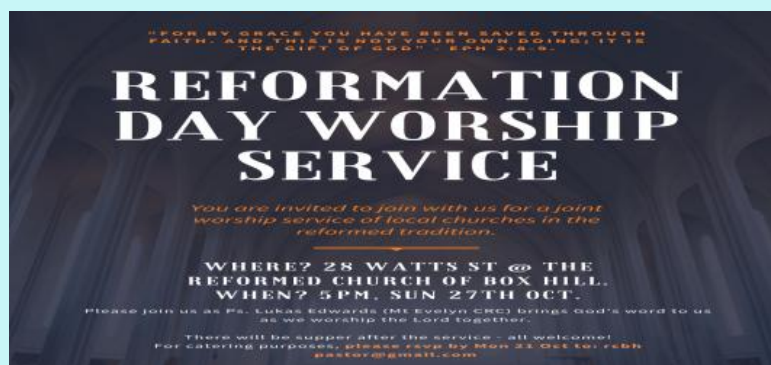
Notices

Prayer meeting update - Please note that our 6:30-6:50 am daily online prayer meetings will be changed from daily to Wednesdays and Saturdays only. Session would like to encourage you to commit to coming to one of those meetings, or our regular fortnightly Prayer Meeting on Thursday night. If none of those times are an option for you, please suggest to a member of Session other possible times that might suit for gathering to pray with the saints - we would love to find times that work for everyone.

RefCon 2024 - What has music to do with the reformation? Our friends at Christ Covenant Church & the Melbourne Reformation Society would like to invite you to come along to this year's Melbourne RefCon as we seek to develop a rich theology of music, particularly singing, from the Scriptures, and the role it plays in the worship of God's people. The conference this year will be held on Saturday October 26. The link for registration, which has more information, is available at: bit.ly/melbournerefcon2024.



Joint Reformation Day worship service - On Reformation Sunday (Sun 27th Oct), we will be holding a joint worship service together with other local churches who share our reformed heritage. As well as some local CRCA churches, we may enjoy the company of brothers and sisters from some other churches as well. Please do plan to come as we worship the Lord together. The service will be held at 5pm, at the Reformed Church of Box Hill, and we will be welcoming the Rev. Lukas Edwards (My Evelyn CRC) to bring God's word to us. Supper will be provided after the service, all welcome! (and if you'd like to help with organising the supper, please talk to one of our deacons!).



Christmas Carols Outreach Event - Please make note in advance that our Christmas Outreach event will be held on the evening of Saturday 14th December. Please note the following message from Weichang, and plan to help spread the word about this event!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the Christmas season, we are planning to invite residents from Box Hill to our events: Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Day Service.

We are seeking volunteers to drop invitation postcards into residents' mailboxes. Each volunteer will be assigned a specific street, and you can deliver the invitations at a time that is convenient for you between 24 Nov and 7 Dec.

Your participation will enable us to extend the invitation to more residents. To sign up as a volunteer, please leave your contact details using the form: <https://forms.gle/q4HhQoqPBumQdYvG7>

Volunteers will be provided with the invitation postcards and further details of their assigned streets in mid-November.

Regards,
Weichang

Youth of yesteryear is a social group within this church. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 am and usually play games and socialise. The second Tuesday of the month we meet for lunch at a restaurant. We like to welcome more members. Over the last few years we have lost 5 members and this year Ann Witteveen had to go into a hostel due to illness.

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/UC6cH9C5hGhqornk2lrvHs0g>
- *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		
21-Oct	John 2	21-Oct	2Kings 2	2Thess 2
22-Oct	John 3	22-Oct	2Kings 3	2Thess 3
23-Oct	John 4	23-Oct	2Kings 4	1Tim 1
24-Oct	John 5	24-Oct	2Kings 5	1Tim 2
25-Oct	John 6	25-Oct	2Kings 6	1Tim 3
26-Oct	John 7	26-Oct	2Kings 7	1Tim 4
27-Oct	Ruth 1	27-Oct	2Kings 8	1Tim 5

Advanced 1 Year Plan				
21-Oct	2Kings 2	2Thess 2	Dan 6	Ps 112,113
22-Oct	2Kings 3	2Thess 3	Dan 7	Ps 114,115
23-Oct	2Kings 4	1Tim 1	Dan 8	Ps 116
24-Oct	2Kings 5	1Tim 2	Dan 9	Ps 117,118
25-Oct	2Kings 6	1Tim 3	Dan 10	Ps 119-v24
26-Oct	2Kings 7	1Tim 4	Dan 11	Ps 119:24-48
27-Oct	2Kings 8	1Tim 5	Dan 12	Ps 119:49-72

Reminders for the week and next Sunday

Today 10:00 **Morning Worship**
17:00 **Evening Worship**

Tue 22 October 10:00 **Youth of Yesteryear**

Thurs 24 October 19:30 **Prayer Meeting**

Sat 26 October 10:30 **Ladies' Bible study**
10:00-16:00 **RefCon 2024**

Sun 27 October 10:00 **Morning Worship**
Preacher – Ps Isaac Overton
Duty Elder – David Luy
Children's Catechism – David Luy
Music – Earnest Law
Offerings 1. Ministry of Church
2. Diaconate
Morning Tea:
Will van Deventer Junior
Herbert Um

Slides&Audio:
Lim's family

17:00 **Joint Reformation Day worship service**
Preacher– Rev. Lukas Edwards
Duty Elder – David Luy
Music – Carolyn Lo
Cassandra Kuruvilla
Weekly Church Cleaning:
Deddy Nababan
Sula Nadarajah

Slide&Audio: Lim's family

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