

# 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](http://rcbh.org.au).

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

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#### Meditation – *Poet of the Reformation.*

By Gene Edward Veith (courtesy of Ligonier Ministries:  
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/poet-reformation>).

Christians have a rich cultural heritage, but these days they are often oblivious to it. I suspect most American Christians have no idea who George Herbert was—other than, perhaps, the first two names of President Bush I (“George Herbert Walker Bush”). Some may recall him from a British Literature class as the author of those poems that were shaped like physical objects (an altar, wings, and so forth). Others may know him as a major literary figure, who sprung poetry loose from its dependence on a few conventional forms to invent a new form for every poem. But few know him as arguably the greatest Christian lyric poet, who writes about his relationship with Christ in a profoundly biblical way and who captures poetically the spiritual dynamics of the Reformation.

Part of the problem may be that Herbert (1593–1633) was an Anglican priest whose imagery draws on liturgy, vestments, and the sacraments. Indeed, high church Anglicans do know him very well, as do many Catholics. But Herbert was writing in a time long before nineteenth-century Anglo-Catholicism, when the Church of England—though on the verge of coming apart—was still very much influenced by the Reformation. And certainly George Herbert lived and breathed the Reformation gospel.

In the religious poetry of medieval Catholicism as well as later mystical verse, God tends to be imagined as high and lifted up, with the poet striving to reach Him. In *The Divine Comedy*, Dante imagines himself slogging through hell, laboring up the mountain of Purgatory, and finally—freed from his sinfulness—soaring upward through the sky and all its spheres, until he breaks out into heaven itself and the glorious, beatific vision of God.

In Herbert's poetry, grounded in the Reformation, the vectors are reversed. The speaker in the poems is not ascending to God. Rather, the speaker has a habit of running away from God, and God descends to him. God in Christ is doing the laboring. God is the actor, breaking into the poet's life through His Word.

October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### 10AM Morning Worship

Preacher  
Ps. Andy Buchan

Duty Elder  
David Luy

Children's Catechism  
David Luy

Music: Earnest Law

Offerings  
1. Ministry of the Church  
2. Diaconate

Morning Tea  
Will van Deventer Junior  
Herbert Um

Slides & Audio  
Lim's family  
Ben Kim

#### 5PM Joint Reformation Day worship service

Preacher  
Ps. Lukas Edwards

Duty Elder  
David Luy

Music  
Carolyn Lo  
Cassandra Kuruvilla

Weekly Church Cleaning  
Deddy Nababan  
Sula Nadarajah

Slide & Audio:  
Lim's family  
Ben Kim

In his poem "The Collar," the speaker of the poem is rebelling against God. He is a frustrated pastor, angry that he has thrown away his talents and a promising career to minister to people in an obscure country church who do not seem to be responding, who only give him grief. (Herbert was an heir of one of the noblest families in England, a member of parliament, who, upon his religious awakening, left it all to serve in a tiny country parish in Bemerton.) He wants to break out of all of his restrictions and be free from all of this religious stuff: "I struck the board, and cried, No more; / I will abroad. / What? Shall I ever sigh and pine? / My lines and life are free; free as the road, / Loose as the wind."

He carries on like this for thirty lines or so. Then something happens: "But as I raved and grew more fierce and wild, / At every word, / Methought I heard one calling, Child: / And I replied, My Lord."

The "word" of God breaks in. Despite all of his rebellion, God calls him, addressing him lovingly as His "child." The rebellion melts away as the poet acknowledges his "Lord." The relationship between the Lord and His child is restored.

The title of the poem, once we know the ending, expresses it all: The pastor's "collar" feels restrictive; but the value of his ministry and his Christian life has to do with the "caller." The poet has been called by the Gospel, and he has been called into the ministry (the "caller" has given him the distinctive clerical "collar"), and that makes all the difference.

Herbert's acclaim as a poet is also due to his mastery of poetic form and to his way of relating the form to the content. In this poem, as the emotions grow "more fierce and wild," so does the form: the rhyme scheme is disordered; the lines are

of varied lengths; the rhythm goes wild. But then, when the word of God breaks in with that last stanza, order is restored: the lines rhyme; they have a regular rhythm; the varied line lengths of the earlier stanzas come together into a poetic order. As the poet attains emotional and spiritual harmony, the poem itself becomes harmonious.

Herbert arranged his poems into an ordered whole that he titled *The Temple*, with reference to the Old Testament building, the New Testament church, and the human heart as the temple of the Holy Spirit. His first section, "The Church Porch," consists of maxims of the Law, but this is only a portal to "The Church." This section consists of a series of poems on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, punctuated by poems of response to what Christ has done. After these poetic emblems of justification, we have a poem on baptism and then a large number of poems on sanctification, the ups and downs of the Christian life.

The series ends with surprisingly upbeat poems on death, concluding with the famous poem "Love," the third of that title, in which Herbert compares entering into heaven with coming into an inn. He feels dirty and unworthy, but his Host insists on serving him. "'Know you not,' says Love, 'who bore the blame?'" The unworthy guest, feeling that he would be more at home in hell, than at this feast, keeps pulling back. He says to the Divine Love, I need to serve you. No, says Love, you just have to accept what I do for you and sit down for the feast.

### **Memory Verse of the Week**

9<sup>th</sup> Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

### **Sunday School Memory Work**

Q. 134. What does the bread represent?

A. The body of Christ, broken for our sins.

## ***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.

**Farewell to the Tan Family** - Over the last 10 months or so, many of you will have enjoyed the fellowship we have shared with Perry and Kim Tan, and their children Isabella, David, and Daniella as they have been worshipping with us. As Perry and Kim have prayerfully considered church membership while with us, they wish to pass on to you all a fond farewell as they have decided to lead their family to another gospel-preaching church. Please pray for the Tan family, as they seek to find a settled spiritual home for their family. We wish the Tans well, and look forward to any occasional opportunities we may have to enjoy their fellowship again - Session.

**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. Pray also for those in need of employment, that they Lord would soon provide for them.

**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, and other CRCA churches as they seek to call a pastor. Give thanks to God that Ps Douglas Watson (Orthodox Presbyterian Church - USA) has accepted a call to serve as Pastor at Canberra Reformed Church.

**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.

### **Pray for the persecuted Church in Indonesia - About Christian persecution in Indonesia**

Although Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, it has a history of toleration unlike few others. The founding constitution mandates that everyone believes in one God but guarantees equal rights for all, and in the 1960's, President Suharto required everyone to belong to five "religions", Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism or Buddhism. This created a canopy of freedom unusual in the region, but with Indonesia being such a vast set of islands, local tensions and areas where Islamic extremism took hold created much anti-Christian violence and Christian persecution in Indonesia began to take root. In the late 1990's, a dreadful conflict between Muslims and Christians in Ambon left hundreds—if not thousands—dead, and in the province of Aceh, sharia law is in operation since 2014 although it is not supposed to apply to the Christians. The country is afflicted with mainly foreign backed Islamic extremist groups, which target Christians regularly, and younger people are becoming more observant Muslims, and in many cases, more strident.

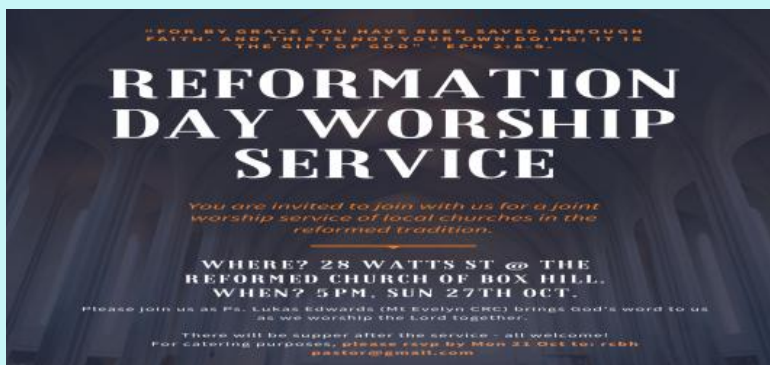
In 2000, extremists planted bombs at churches on Christmas Eve in various cities, killing 18 people. The country's most prominent Christian, the Governor of Jakarta, a Chinese Christian known as Ahok, was convicted on trumped up blasphemy charges and imprisoned for two years in 2016. Still, most Islam in the land is moderate, significantly due to the massive 100m member Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), which is sympathetic to ideals of religious freedom and whose members even guard churches on Christmas Eve. It is Islamic movements backed by foreign funds that drive the persecution of Christians in this vast archipelago, and sometimes the government acts with alacrity to put a stop to it, and sometimes not.

## **Notices.**

**Pulpit Swap** - Please note that we welcome the Rev. Andy Buchan, of One Hope Community Church, into the pulpit in our morning sermon today as part of our regular Classis pulpit swaps. Andy looks forward to being with us, but does apologise that he will need to leave soon after the service. Isaac will be filling the pulpit at One Hope.

**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.

**Joint Reformation Day worship service** - On Reformation Sunday (Sun 27th Oct - today!!), 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 (Mt 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!).



**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!

**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](mailto: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](mailto:isaac.t.overton@outlook.com)) if you want to be on the distribution list.

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#### 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		
28-Oct	Ruth 2	28-Oct	2Kings 9	1Tim 6
29-Oct	Ruth 3	29-Oct	2Kings 10	2Tim 1
30-Oct	Ruth 4	30-Oct	2Kings 11,12	2Tim 2
31-Oct	1Sam 1	31-Oct	2Kings 13	2Tim 3
01-Nov	1Sam 2	01-Nov	2Kings 14	2Tim 4
02-Nov	1Sam 3	02-Nov	2Kings 15	Tit 1
03-Nov	1Sam 4	03-Nov	2Kings 16	Tit 2

Advanced 1 Year Plan				
28-Oct	2Kings 9	1Tim 6	Hos 1	Ps119:73-96
29-Oct	2Kings 10	2Tim 1	Hos 2	Ps119:97-120
30-Oct	2Kings 11,12	2Tim 2	Hos 3,4	Ps119:121-144
31-Oct	2Kings 13	2Tim 3	Hos 5,6	Ps119:145-176
01-Nov	2Kings 14	2Tim 4	Hos 7	Ps 120-122
02-Nov	2Kings 15	Tit 1	Hos 8	Ps 123-125
03-Nov	2Kings 16	Tit 2	Hos 9	Ps 126-128

## Reminders for the week and next Sunday

Today 10:00 **Morning Worship**

17:00 **Joint Reformation Day Worship service**

Sun 03 November 10:00 **Morning Worship**

Preacher – Ps Isaac Overton

Duty Elder – Ronald Paoa

Children’s Catechism – David Luy

Music – Carol Lu

Cassandra Kuruvilla

Offerings 1. Ministry of Church

2. Candidacy Committee

Morning Tea:

Felice Abhayawickrema

Mark De Boer

Slides&Audio:

Law’s family

17:00 **Evening Service**

Preacher– Ps Isaac Overton

Duty Elder – Ronald Paoa

Music – Michael Pamphilon

Weekly Church Cleaning:

Arwen Rogers

Precious Mae Duan

Slide&Audio: Law’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