



# 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](http://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](http://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:  
[isaac.t.overton@outlook.com](mailto:isaac.t.overton@outlook.com)

#### Meditation – What is love?

What is love? What does that word mean to you? When you get beyond the sentiments and fuzzy ideas, what are we actually talking about when we use this word? Go on, try and answer it for yourself: What is love? Write down your answer in a sentence or two (go ahead and use the margins of the page – that's what the blank space is there for!). What is love? In John 15:12, Jesus said to his disciples: "This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you." If the significance and importance of love was not already self-evident, as Christians these words from the mouth of our Lord ought to immediately arrest us. If we're going to pursue obedience to the Lord in this commandment, then one thing becomes immediately obvious: we need to know what love is. So I ask again: What is love? In this first meditation, we're going to pause and try to answer just that question.

When you look at the culture around us, and then open up your Bible to see what it says about love, it's not hard to see that something is missing in the world out there. The world will tell you that that word "love" mostly refers to sexual relationships, and furthermore that it is almost exclusively associated with feelings. People speak of "falling in love," and then of course when things don't work out, you fall "out of love." In the Miriam-Webster dictionary, we find this definition: "love is a feeling of strong or constant affection for a person." But is this it? Is this really what love is? Can you imagine if love in the church operated only on the basis of feelings of affection for our fellow believers? As we seek to discern what God says about love, we're going to see that these sorts of assumptions not only need to be challenged, but that they need to be turned completely upside down.

The first thing that we need to see about love is a truth that is both offensive to the world and perhaps surprising to us. What is it? It's the truth that the world does not actually know what love is. Why do I say this? Well, in 1 John 4:8 we read: "anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love." In John 1 we also read that the world does not know God. The conclusion you come to when you put these two things together is not hard to draw. Since God is love, and the world does not know God, therefore the world does not truly know love. In fact, in Romans 5:10 people are described as enemies of God, and so as enemies of God in our natural state, we have to say that we are also enemies of love – because God is love. It's a fairly startling conclusion, but also

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### 10AM Morning Worship *With Lord's Supper*

Preacher  
Isaac Overton

Duty Elder  
David Luy

Children's Catechism  
Isaac Overton

Music: Kathy Dean

Offerings  
1. Ministry of the Church  
2. RTC

Morning Tea  
Trinh Vu      Grace Liao

Slides & Audio  
Samantha Lu  
Ethan Lu

#### 5PM Evening Worship

Preacher  
Isaac Overton

Duty Elder  
David Luy

Music  
Kathy Dean

Weekly Church Cleaning  
David & Yi Ya Kim

Slide & Audio:  
Weichang Yu

inescapable.

This insight also applies to us personally, because it shows us that – outside of Christ – we simply don't have love in and of ourselves. We are born as sinners, and sinners – as enemies of God – do not know love. And so the answer is very clear here, and the answer is this: we need God to give us a new heart and teach us to love. In fact, even as Christians, as we consider this question of what love is, it may be helpful for us to start with the assumption that we know very little of love at all. Because even as Christians, sin remains in our hearts and wages war against the Holy Spirit within us (Gal 5:16-18). Sin persists within us as a powerful force opposing God and, by implication, opposing love. And so right here at the beginning, start with this assumption: I am most likely very ignorant of love. I most likely don't understand it, and I most likely am immature in it. Now maybe that's not the case, maybe you are very spiritually mature and truly are walking in the ways of love – all praise be to God! But even so it is nonetheless healthy to

start with the assumption that we have much learning and growing to do yet. "Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance" (Prov 1:5).

There is an obvious application that flows out of what we have just learned, and the application is this: if God does not give us love, then we will not love ourselves. It is beyond us to tame the wild selfishness of our own hearts. Our sinful passions are like wild horses that cannot be controlled. Do you ever feel like that? Like some sinful or selfish passion consumes you in a moment. Like a forest fire in a windstorm it is whipped up into a frenzy, and before you know it there is devastation everywhere. And it happens again, and again, and again. We must pray and ask God to fill our hearts with love! Seeking the gift of love from the Lord. Are you praying to grow in love? A helpful book to grow further in this is Jonathan Edwards' "Charity and it's fruit." Grab it now from the church library! SDG.

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

<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

*Psalm 72:4*

### **Sunday School Memory Work**

Q. 108. Repeat the Lord's Prayer.

A. 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 forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

### **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.

**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 in to a new season of life. Please pray also for Braydon and Dorothy as they settle in to married life together. 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 all our unmarrieds would use their singleness to the glory of God. Pray 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. Please pray for Ina as she recovers from her operation.

**Reformed Theological College** – Our second offering for this week will be for the work of the Reformed Theological College, our denominationally supported institution for training ministry workers, and especially for training preachers and teachers to serve in our churches. Please pray for the RTC, giving thanks for many decades of faithful service, and ask that the Lord of the harvest may raise up many more workers to serve in his 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 (in one week!), 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.

### **Indiway – Prayer Items for May**

#### FROM THE FIELD

1. Our Lord has granted us 188 new people in the IndiWay Mission field. He pours out his Spirit to bring many to himself.
2. One of our workers was constantly being opposed by the village leaders. Believers were not allowed to meet together in that village. Finally, however after discussion with the leaders the congregation has now been allowed to gather in that village. The Lord has answered our prayers.
3. Missionary training course (semester) 3 being rolled out will be completed on 10th May. The 16 participants have had to travel far from their villages to attend.
4. Please continue to pray for our national government elections. They are being conducted right now and we are concerned that the outcome will mean that there will be even more opposition.

#### FROM THE INDIWAY COMMITTEE

For 21 amazing years our Lord has provided the means to support the ministry of IndiWay financially. We thank him for the means he has given. The “door” to the tribal people is still wide open. The partnership has been richly blessed by at least 20,000 believers.

From the equivalent of one full time minister's stipend in the CRCA, we support 20 full time evangelists. God has given us a team on the ground of some 80 full time dedicated evangelists.

Our present financial situation is really “tight”. IndiWay leaders in India want to appoint 6 more workers, but our committee has not decided to approve this request as yet.

### **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

## **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.

## **Notices**

**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 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8pm, "SoK" will be having a very special 30<sup>th</sup> 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](https://mailchi.mp/sonsofkorah/30th-anniversary-concert?mc_cid=cae74f5718&mc_eid=24281d9598) Please rsvp to Isaac for dinner by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July. If you can only make the dinner but not the concert, you're also welcome to join!

**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 12<sup>th</sup> July and Sat 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

**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. 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/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		
13-May	Lev 18	13-May	Num 22	Ps 62,63
14-May	Lev 19	14-May	Num 23	Ps 64,65
15-May	Lev 20	15-May	Num 24	Ps 66,67
16-May	Lev 21	16-May	Num 25	Ps 68
17-May	Lev 22	17-May	Num 26	Ps 69
18-May	Lev 23	18-May	Num 27	Ps 70,71
19-May	Lev 24	19-May	Num 28	Ps 72

Advanced 1 Year Plan				
13-Apr	Num 22	Ps 62,63	Is 11,12	Jas 5
14-Apr	Num 23	Ps 64,65	Is 13	1Pet 1
15-May	Num 24	Ps 66,67	Is 14	1Pet 2
16-May	Num 25	Ps 68	Is 15	1Pet 3
17-May	Num 26	Ps 69	Is 16	1Pet 4
18-May	Num 27	Ps 70,71	Is 17,18	1Pet 5
19-May	Num 28	Ps 72	Is 19,20	2Pet 1

## Reminders for the week and next Sunday

Today 10:00 **Morning Worship**  
*With Lord's Supper*

17:00 **Evening Worship**

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> April 19:30 **EastEnders Bible Study**

Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> May 19:30 **How to read your Bible Seminar**

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May 10:00 **Morning Worship**

Preacher – Isaac Overton

Duty Elder – Ronald Paoa

Children's Catechism – David Luy

Music – Carol Lu

Offerings 1. Ministry of Church  
2. World Transform

Morning Tea:

Jed Saville Peter Weinlich

Slides&Audio: Verity Law

Earnest Law

17:00 **Evening Worship**

Preacher – Isaac Overton

Duty Elder – Ronald Paoa

Music – Carolyn Yu

Weekly Church Cleaning:

Deddy Nababan

Peter Weinlich

Slide&Audio: Verity Law

Earnest Law