

Sunday 6th October  
2024



SERMON TOPIC:  
BIBLE TEXT:

How does God Show Himself to Us?  
Romans 1:18-23 & Belgic Confession  
Article 1 & 2

PREACHER:  
ELDER ON DUTY:  
OFFERINGS:

Chris Pretorius  
Martin van der Merwe

1st Collection:  
2nd Collection:

The work of the church  
The work of the Deacons

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## Something to Think About From the New City Catechism

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### Question 41: How is the Word of God to be read and heard?

With diligence, preparation, and prayer; so that we may accept it with faith, store it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.

#### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

#### Reflection by Kevin DeYoung

The Bible is not just another book, and so we ought to approach it in a unique way. The Bible is God-breathed: "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Tim. 3:16). It's inspired. That doesn't mean that the Bible is inspiring. Now, it is inspiring. But whether anyone in the world is inspired by the Bible, the Bible is still inspired itself. It's God's Word to us. It's God exhaling, God opening his most hallowed lips and speaking to us. So, this Word is God's Word, and this Word is exactly what God wanted to be written down in Holy Scriptures.

That means we ought to approach Scripture with a special reverence and with special care. We come to the Bible very carefully. We want to be diligent. We want to be prepared. We want to take it seriously. And we also come to this book with a special reverence, because God is speaking to us. One of the ways to think of submitting to the Word is that we stop telling God what to do. God now speaks to us. A theologian once said that to be a Christian means you put your hand over your mouth and are silent. This doesn't mean that we can't ever cry out to God. Certainly the Psalms are full of that. But it means that we approach Scripture with reverence, wanting to hear from God, submitting ourselves fully to the Word of God.

When we come to the Bible, our aim is not just information. It's never less than information—we're not against information. God uses that. But it's more than just information we're trying to get from the Bible. We want faith. That's what God wants: for us to accept the Word with faith, with a real delight, with a desire for it, a dependence upon it.

When we embrace God's Word with faith, we store it up in our hearts. Charles Spurgeon said of John Bunyan that if you would prick him, his blood would be bibline. He was so full of the Scriptures that it came out of him. That's what we want; that's why we store it up. And then we practice it. Did Jesus say, "If you love me, you will have a tingling sensation in your heart"? No, he didn't say that, though that's wonderful. But he said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). So if we are serious about loving God, we must be very serious about obeying God and obeying his Word to us. That's the aim: to be transformed by it, to embrace it in faith, and to worship at his feet.

Really, in its simplest form, we ought to come to the Word of God with the same sort of attitude with which we'd come to God himself. If God spoke to you, which he does in the Scriptures, if God opened his mouth to us, how would we approach him? Well, I think we would listen carefully. We would listen diligently. We would listen submissively. We would listen expectantly. And we'd listen with an aim to love and obey.

### Prayer

Giver of the Word, help us to treasure your Scriptures as our most precious possession. May it be in our minds and on our lips. Let it transform our thinking and reform our living. Make us attentive students and devoted servants of your perfect Word. Amen.

## Our Giving, an Act of Worship

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In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is a thanksgiving offering and will go towards the work of the Deacons.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

## Birthdays

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22nd October Adri Bennie  
24th October Teddy Pretorius  
25th October Lariza Bergh  
26th October Retha van Staden



## Discussion Questions

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1. In your own words, what are the two ways God reveals Himself to us? Can you share an example of how you've experienced each in your life?
2. Why do you think having "open eyes and a receptive spirit" is important when trying to know God? Have you ever missed something important because you weren't paying attention or open to it?
3. How can studying both nature (God's creation) and the Bible help us understand God better? What are some practical ways you can do this in your daily life?
4. The sermon mentioned that science and faith aren't enemies. How can learning about science help us appreciate God's creation more deeply?
5. The Belgic Confession describes God with words like "eternal," "infinite," and "completely wise." Which of these descriptions stands out to you the most, and why does it resonate with you?
6. Romans 1:20 says that God's qualities are visible in nature. What parts of nature make you think about God, and what do they teach you about Him?
7. Some people see the beauty of nature but don't recognize God in it. Why do you think that happens, and how can we help others see God through His creation?
8. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the Bible is useful for teaching and guiding us. How has reading the Bible helped you in your life? Are there specific passages that have been meaningful to you?
9. What challenges do you face when trying to read or understand the Bible? What are some strategies you can use to overcome these challenges and keep your "spiritual eyes" open?
10. After hearing this sermon, what's one thing you can do this week to be more open to knowing God—either through nature or by reading the Bible? How will you put this into practice?



## Prayer Points

Please take these home to keep handy for your daily prayers.

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“Prayer is the pulse of the renewed soul; and the constancy of its beat is the test and measure of the spiritual life.” Octavius Winslow

### Personal Prayer:

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

Giving thanks to our heavenly Father for revealing his truths to us his children so that we may know him and humble ourselves before him and worship him.

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. (Matthew 11:25-26 NRSV)

### Congregational Prayer Points:

Give praise to God for his grace, his goodness, his love and mercy revealed to us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank the Lord for his clear direction during last week’s AGM, continue to pray for wisdom and resources as we follow his lead.

Please pray for those among us with chronic illnesses and infirmities, pray that the Lord will grant healing, pray that he will bring his comfort and peace to each situation.

### Local & Global Prayer Points:

Please pray for all those caught up in the whole Halloween thing that people will realise that there is more to this than innocent fun.

Please pray for those governing our land that they may realise the responsibility they have before God.

Please continue to pray for those caught up in conflict especially those in Israel and the Middle East and Ukraine, pray that the Lord will have mercy and bring about the peace that only he can bring.

Please pray for and give thanks for God’s church in Vietnam.

Driving along the paved zigzag roads of the Sin Suoi Ho village it’s hard to imagine that the picturesque landscape of rice terraces and manicured vegetable plots were once opium fields. Pastor Hang A Xa describes it as a bleak period for the Hmong village as almost all were drug addicts. “We were selling opium like selling chickens. Everyone was addicted so no one worked in the fields. We did not have food, just leaves from the jungle. People were fighting. It was a very messy time,” Pastor Xa said. That included Pastor Xa’s father, Hang A Lung, an opium addict who was still elected as village chairman.

Because he was a leader, the government provided him with a radio to listen to and stay informed about its policies. Lung, however, did not understand Vietnamese. He only knew the Hmong language and the only radio program he could understand came from a broadcast ministry to the Hmong people. Instead of communist ideology, Lung listened to the Word of God each day.

Pastor Xa said, "My father heard the gospel and became the first believer. He wanted our whole family to receive Jesus. He summoned my brother who was studying in another town to come home right away. He said, 'You need to receive Jesus. If He comes, we all go to heaven, and you go to hell.'" Su admires her grandfather for being firm in his faith at a time when Vietnam banned Christianity. She told CBN News, "Police arrested and beat my grandfather several times. And when they threatened to kill him, he asked them. 'Why take a long time for you to kill me?' He wants to meet Jesus. After a few days, they tell him go back home, we don't have food to feed you." Lung obtained a Bible that had been passed from one household to another. From reading Scripture, Lung and other villagers felt convicted to quit drugs and live a life pleasing to God. Instead of opium, they planted orchids which became a source of income. Though most could not read or write, God gave the villagers wisdom to begin running various businesses.

Ten years later, Sin Suoi Ho village was recognized by the government as a top tourist destination and in 2023 ASEAN recognized it as a top tourist attraction in Southeast Asia. The Sin Suoi Ho village is now known for its beauty, tranquility and testimonies of transformed lives. On Saturday mornings, the villagers flock to the market to sell their produce. Here, Pastor Xa is shining the shoes of the people for free. "This is my way of serving the people and also an opportunity to share Jesus to them," he said. Pastor Xa sees the importance of carrying on the legacy of being a God-centred village. That is why he is thankful that CBN Vietnam is helping disciple the children of Sin Suoi Ho. The children go to the School of Life after-school that is sponsored by CBN Vietnam to learn to speak in English and learn to play different musical instruments. Vang A Hoa is thankful that her daughter, May, has been taking English lessons for 2 years. "Mai did not talk much before joining the School of Life. But now she is confident and even helps translate for us when we have guests.

Pastor Xa is also thankful for Superbook where they learn valuable lessons from the Bible stories. Vang Thi Hoa, a Superbook student shared what she has learned from Superbook. "Through Superbook, I learned that Jesus loves me. He died on the cross to save me, and He is my friend," she said. CBN Vietnam's National Director Phuc Truong shares why it is important to support villages like Sin Suoi Ho. "Sin Suoi Ho is a case study for the different villages in Vietnam. God transformed a community through a church. From the pastor and congregation, they obey the Lord. And God transformed everything. They did not start with the idea of making this village famous. They started with the idea that they love the Lord, they want to glorify Him," Truong said. Truong and CBN Vietnam believe if God can do this in Sin Suoi Ho, He is more than able to transform other villages and cities, and eventually, the entire nation of Vietnam.

*Don't forget*

Our next prayer meeting is Tuesday the 5th of November at 7.30pm



**LUNCH  
TIME**

## **Deacons Lunch & Invite a Friend Sunday 27th of October**

On Sunday the 27th of October it is an 'Invite a Friend' Service where you can invite a friend along who you think may be interested in hearing God's word.

The Deacons will be hosting a lunch and kindly ask that we all bring a plate of food to be shared with each other.

**CRCY**



**THE  
KINGDOM  
IS LIKE...**

STATE YOUTH SERVICE

10th November, 5pm - 7pm  
231 Pakington St, Geelong West

Dinner  
Worship  
Small Groups

Samasodu Primary  
School Library  
Thank You!



Thanks to the generous donations of people in CRCA churches around Australia and New Zealand, through the Compassionate Catalogue, we were able to give over \$2500 worth of quality books to the Samasodu Primary School Library!



The books were personally presented to the staff and students. They were delivered to the school as class sets to be used daily in the classrooms.



**World Transform**  
Christian development for the needy



“FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED THROUGH FAITH. AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN DOING; IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD” - EPH 2:8-9.

# REFORMATION DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*You are invited to join with us for a joint worship service of local churches in the reformed tradition.*

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WHERE? 28 WATTS ST @ THE  
REFORMED CHURCH OF BOX HILL.  
WHEN? 5PM, SUN 27TH OCT.

Please join us as Ps. Lukas Edwards (Mt Evelyn CRC) brings God's word to us as we worship the Lord together.

There will be supper after the service - all welcome!  
For catering purposes, **please rsvp by Mon 21 Oct to: rcbh**  
**pastor@gmail.com**





## CHRISTMAS SERVICE



~2024~



**Come sing again in Afrikaans!**

**When: Saterdag 30 November**



**Time: 6pm**



**Where: Wonga Park Christian  
Reformed Church  
251 Yarra Road,  
Wonga Park, Vic 3115**

**Reverend: Ds Johan du Preez  
0424 782 761**



**Enquiries: Juanita van der Merwe  
0479 006 123**



**Bring a plate to share  
Free coffee and tea**

**See you there!**



## **MECRC Youth and Children's Worker**

Mount Evelyn Christian Reformed Church would like to invite applications for a Youth and Children's Worker.



MECRC has a rich history of discipling youth and children and are seeking applications for a 0.4 FTE youth and children's role to begin in 2025. MECRC currently has a youth ministry of 20 youth and kids ministry of 30.

We are looking for someone with a strong desire for evangelism and discipleship amongst teenagers and children, to help grow these young people in their love for God and his word and to grow the impact of Christ's saving work among the young people of Mount Evelyn.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

- **Youth Ministry:** Develop, lead, and coordinate engaging programs and activities for the youth, focusing on evangelism and discipleship as well as leadership and relationship development.
- **Children's Ministry:** Develop, lead, and coordinate engaging programs and activities for the children, focusing on evangelism and discipleship as well as relationship development and their transition to our youth program.
- **Family Support:** Provide resources, guidance, and support to families, helping them cultivate a Christ-honouring home life.
- **Discipleship:** Mentor and disciple young people, encouraging them in their walk with Christ and helping them grow in their understanding of the Bible.
- **Event Planning:** Organize and lead special events, retreats, and outreach activities that cater to both youth and families.

### **Qualifications:**

- A strong personal faith in Jesus Christ, with a commitment to the teachings of the Reformed tradition.
- Experience with kids and youth ministry would be beneficial.
- Strong interpersonal skills, with the ability to connect with both youth and adults.
- Excellent communication and organizational abilities.
- A passion for working with young people and their families in a church setting.

### **How to Apply:**

Candidates are invited to submit a resume and cover letter detailing their experience and passion for youth and family ministry to [administrator@mtevelyn.crca.org.au](mailto:administrator@mtevelyn.crca.org.au).

Applications will be accepted until 01/11/2024.

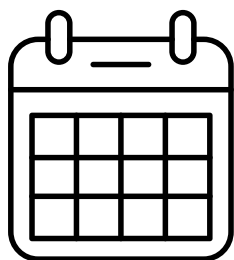
We look forward to hearing from applicants and seeing how God will arrange and combine his body for the advance of his kingdom in Mount Evelyn and beyond.

45-47 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn 3796

(03) 9736 1087; [administrator@mtevelyn.crca.org.au](mailto:administrator@mtevelyn.crca.org.au)

## Coming up this week...

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Tuesday 22nd October The Dining Room Mission  
Friday 25th October 7:30pm SuperDash and Parents group  
Sunday 27th October Invite a Friend Service & Church Luncheon

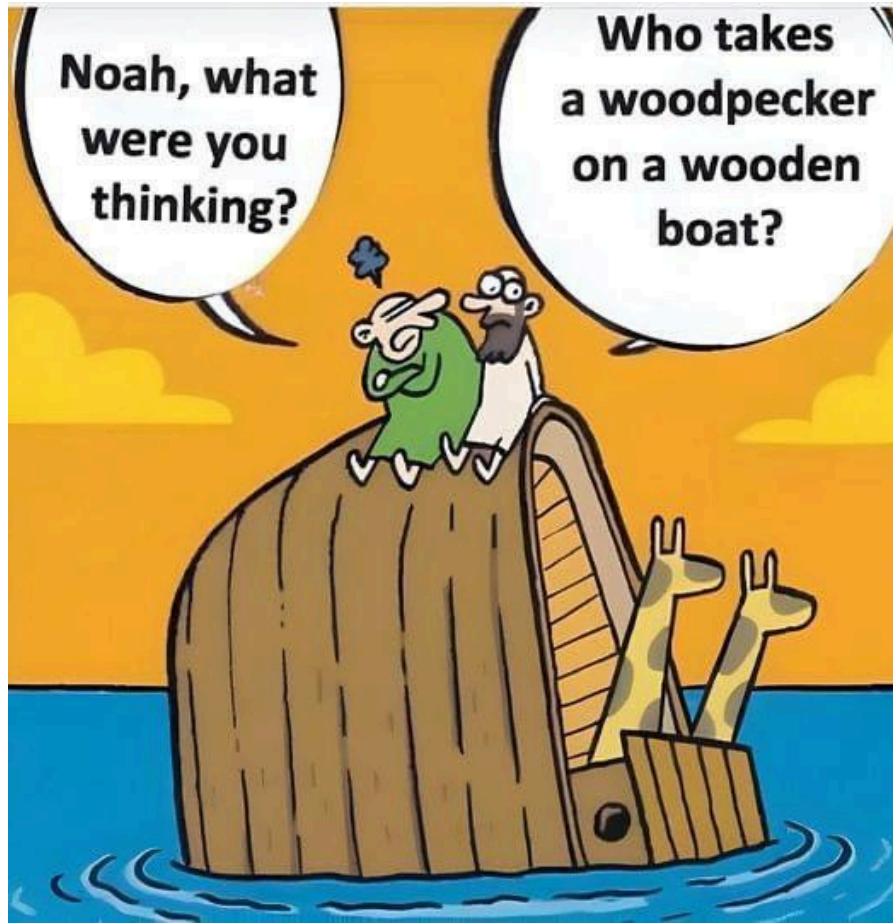
Something to look forward to...

Tuesday 5th November Prayer Meeting

## Helping Hands

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	20th October	27th October	3rd November
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Martin van der Merwe	Peter Williams	Herman Linde
Music Leader	Mia Van Wyk	Nelleke Arnold	Nelleke Arnold
Children's Talk	Inge Theron	Ben Palmer	Sarah Pretorius
Bible Reader	Nina Theron	Nelleke Arnold	Salme Van Staden
Sound	Cassie Van Veen	Nina Theorn	James Van Veen
Visuals	Salme Van Staden	Isaac Organtzoglou	Ene Crous
Broadcasting	James Van Veen	Christo Theron	Cassie Van Veen
Sunday School	Sarah & Ilze	Sarah & Ilze	No Sunday School
Coffee	Theron Family	Hennie & Mia Van Wyk	Ilze & Pieter Kellerman



## Who Should I Contact?

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Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	<a href="mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au">pastor@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	0431 500 006	<a href="mailto:session@wpcrc.org.au">session@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Church			
Administrator:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	<a href="mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au">admin@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Deacons:	Anjali De Beer	0460 671 271	<a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Music Ministry:	Mia Van Wyk	0420 817 800	
Sound & Visuals:	Cassie Van Veen	0499 230 872	
Children's Talk:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Sunday School:	Sarah Pretorius	0409 221 277	
Youth Group:	Lauren Palmer	0488 453 834	<a href="mailto:youth@wpcrc.org.au">youth@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Young Adults:	Kasha Schubert	0450 012 177	
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	0423 889 913	
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	0411 069 808	
Facilities & Maintenance:	Dale Reed	0412 216 300	<a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>