The Second Sunday of Advent

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Orchard Road Presbyterian Church

10 December 2023 9am & 6pm

AM

10 December 2023 Building a Disciple-Making Church

Holy Communion Sunday
Second Sunday of Advent – Peace
9 to 10.30 am

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO WORSHIP GOD

Entry of the Word

Prelude

WE PRAISE GOD

Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise & Adoration Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth (page 5)

WE SEEK GOD

Prayer of Confession & Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – The Candle of Peace

Worship Leader:

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

Choir:

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation:

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Worship Leader:

We light these candles as signs of God's hope and peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

***Hymn of Prayer** Comfort, Comfort Now My People (page 6)

Pastoral Prayer

Anthem The Yearning (page 7)

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading Psalm 85

Worship Leader: This is the word of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Incredible and Indescribable Joy!

***Hymn of Response** Christ Be Our Light (page 8)

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION

Sacrament of Holy Communion

WE SERVE GOD IN HIS WORLD

Welcome & Announcements

Offertory

*Doxo	logy
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*Prayer of Dedication

*Benediction

*Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

*Congregation to stand

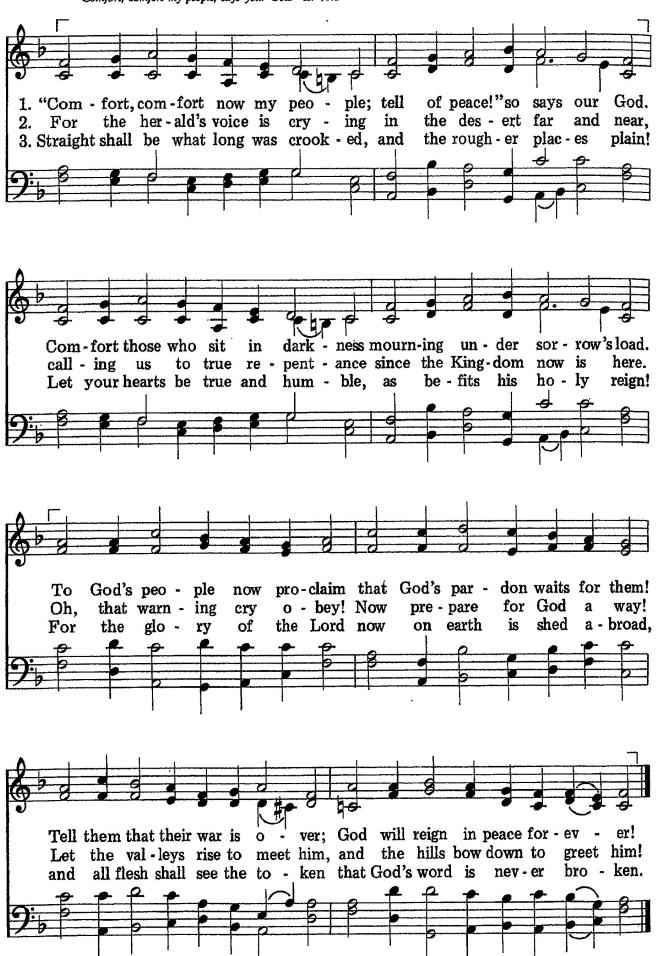
SERMON OUTLINE 10 DEC (AM)

Incredible and Indescribable Joy!

Psalm 85
Introduction:
1. God's track record when it comes to Restoration
2. Asking God in times of need for Restoration
3. God's promise of Restoration
4. What does God's Restoration look like
4. What does dod's Restoration look like
Conclusion

Come Thou Redeemer of the Earth Latin Hymn Puer Nobis Come Thou 1. of the earth, Come, er 2. Be got of will, But ten no hu man From God Fa To 3. the ther he pro ceeds, 0 Fa Gird е qual to thy ther, thou! 4. Thy dle shall glit And 5. here ter bright, cra 6. All laud ter nal Son, to Thee; Whose е All tes ti Thy drous birth: fy won Spi of still The the rit, thou art Fa God the ther back he speeds, Runs The on thy flesh ly tle now, man dark breathe_ born light, No ness a new ple vent sets. thy free Whom ad peo lands åd mire, all times plaud: Such ap Word God, The of in flesh ar rayed, out his course death hell, Re to and weak ness of our mor tal state With Where more shall night ex tin guish day, with the Fa ther And we a dore, 8 2 birth is the that fits our God. Sav iour, now to man dis played. God's high turns on throne dwell. to death less might in vi gor ate. love's bright beams their dis play. power Но ly Ghost, for е more. ver

Comfort, Comfort Now My People Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Is. 40:1



Anthem (AM)

The Yearning

Words by Susan Boersma. Music by Craig Courtney Used by permission. CCLI #346426.

There is a yearning
In hearts weighed down by ancient grief
And centuries of sorrow.
There is a yearning
In hearts that in the darkness hide
And in the shades of death abide,
A yearning of tomorrow.

There is a yearning
For the promised One,
The Firstborn of creation.
There is a yearning
For the Lord who visited His own,
And by His death for sin atoned,
To bring to us salvation.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning
That fills the hearts of those who wait
The day of His appearing.
There is a yearning
When all our sorrows are erased
And we shall see the One who placed
Within our hearts the yearning.
Emmanuel, Emmanuel
Within our hearts, the yearning.

Hymn of Response (AM)





PM



10 December 2023 Building a Disciple-Making Church

Holy Communion Sunday
Second Sunday of Advent – Peace
6 to 7 pm

Prelude

Call to Worship

*Hymns of Praise &

Adoration

All Praise to Him (page 13)

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (page 14)

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle – The Candle of Peace

Worship Leader:

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1). We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

Congregation:

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

Worship Leader:

We light these candles as signs of God's hope and just peace. May they be beacons calling us to repent and to live the good news of Jesus Christ as we wait and watch and labor for the day when all people can gather together to worship and glorify God. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Scripture Reading Psalm 85

Worship Leader: This is the word of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Incredible and Indescribable Joy!

*Hymn of Response

What Child Is This (page 15)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome & Announcements

Offertory

*Doxology

*Benediction

*Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

^{*}Congregation to stand

SERMON OUTLINE 10 DEC (PM)

Incredible and Indescribable Joy!

Psalm 85
Introduction:
1. God's track record when it comes to Restoration
2. Asking God in times of need for Restoration
3. God's promise of Restoration
4. What does God's Restoration look like
T. TITICI GOOJ OOG 3 NOSIGIGITIOON IING
Conclusion

ALL PRAISE TO HIM

Based on the hymn, "All Praise to Him Who Built the Hills" by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889)

Music and additional words by Matt Merker and Bob Kauflin



All music used by permission. CCLI #346426.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus



All music used by permission. CCLI #346426.

Hymn of Response (PM)

What Child Is This

Music William Chatterton Dix Words by Traditional English Folk Melody "Greensleeves"



As Iron Sharpens Iron

Humans are hard. That's not a typo or a grammatical error, by the way. Being human is hard, being *around* humans is also hard, *relating* to humans is hard. This is true everywhere. But when faith and discipleship come into this equation, many times it means humans are harder.

There's just more at stake when faith and discipleship are involved, it seems. Each of us is convinced that our way is the Lord's way, or that God has called us to correct others from their erroneous paths, and so our opinions and preferences become somewhat kin to Holy Writ, and it feels imperative that others must agree with us, must accept our criticism, or else they are not being faithful and obedient.

Of course, there is some truth to that. We are meant to correct and rebuke each other, admonishing each other (see Prov 27:5-6, 17; Luke 17:3; 1 Tim 5:20; 2 Tim 4:2, among others). But what we often forget is that we are meant to rebuke *in love*. Love is the foundation of the rebuke, love surrounds the rebuke, and love seeks to restore. Love does not seek to score a point, does not seek to undermine and destroy. Love covers a multitude of sins (1 Pet 4:8) – love forgives wrongs.

Love doesn't mean that we all have to agree with each other, and love doesn't mean that we don't consider each other's decisions with a critical eye. But love does mean that we pause before we comment, whether to each other, or in congregational settings, and it means that we use that pause to consider if we are being critical or we are criticising. After all, we are meant to be filled with the Spirit of love, not a spirit of criticism, and while the difference between the two may be slight, it remains significant. Take a moment to consider if your way is truly the only way; take a moment to consider if you can begin with affirmation, with acknowledgement; take a moment to consider your phrasing; take a moment to reassure the other party that your comment does not negate your love.

May God give each of us the grace to love each other, to rebuke each other in love, and to grow together as disciples in Christ.

Bible Readings & Prayer Points

Monday

Read Psalm 126:1. In what ways has God restored your "fortunes" in your life?

May God grant our DG leaders the wisdom and ability to lead their flock with love and care.

Tuesday

Read Psalm 126:2. How do you express thankfulness when God has done "great" things in your life?

Pray for missionaries serving in war torn areas in the world. May God keep them safe while empowering them to share the gospel faithfully.

Wednesday

Read Psalm 126:3. How should our church express joy in the Lord for what He has done for us?

Pray that our church members will love and care for each other in a Christlike manner.

Thursday

Read Psalm 126:4. In what ways may the "fortunes" of our church be restored?

Give thanks for those serving in the Floral Ministry. May God continue to give them the gift of creativity in arranging works of floral beauty for our worship services.

Friday

Read Psalm 126:5. Reflect on a time in your life when a moment of "tears" became an outpouring of joy because of what God has done. How did you feel?

Give thanks for those who are caregivers of children with special needs. May God continue to give them the support needed to care for their children.

Saturday

Read Psalm 126:6. The word "joy" appears in four out of six verses in this psalm. How does our faith in God bring us joy?

Pray for those who are facing difficulties in their work. May God give them the wisdom and strength to overcome them.

MINISTRY THIS WEEK

<u>Date</u>		<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Sun	10	9.00 am	Sunday Worship Service	Sanctuary
		9.00 am	Sunday School	Dunman Building
		4.00 pm	Chancel Evening Choir Rehearsal	DB6
		6.00 pm	Sunday Worship Service	Sanctuary
Tues	12	8.30 am	Pastoral Staff Prayer Meeting	Online
Wed	13	2.00 pm	Pastoral Staff Meeting	MR1
		7.30 pm	Congregational Prayer Meeting	Sanctuary & Online
Thu	14	7.30 pm	Chancel Morning Choir Rehearsal	Dunman Hall, SHKA, B, SR2
Sat	16	9.00 am	Candlelight Service Rehearsal	Chapel
		3.00 pm	Christmas Combined Rehearsal	Sanctuary

TITHES & OFFERINGS ORPC English Congregation

(1) CHEQUE or CASHIER'S ORDER

Please make this payable to "Orchard Road Presbyterian Church" and mail to: No. 3 Orchard Road Singapore 238825

(2) INTERBANK TRANSFER

Beneficiary: Orchard Rd Presbyterian Church – Giro Offering

Bank: UOB/7375/001 Account No: 450-312-122-5

(3) PAYNOW/PAYLAH

UEN No.: S90CC0750JGRO

Orchard Rd Presbyterian Church - Giro Offering



(Use your Bank App to scan)

We encourage our ORPC members and regular worshippers to faithfully offer their tithes and offerings and to do so electronically where possible.

This is **not** a general solicitation of funds from the public.

FOR ALL CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please indicate the type of Giving, i.e.

"ENGLISH - MISSION" or "ENGLISH - GENERAL"

- (1) at the back of **Cheque** or
- (2) in "Comments" box for Interbank Transfer or
- (3) in "Reference" box for PayNow

OUR OFFERING

OFFERING	TARGET <u>01.1.23-31.12.23</u>	TARGET TO 03.12.2023	RECEIVED TO 03.12.2023	YTD SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)
GENERAL	\$1,800,000.00	\$1,696,153.85	\$1,618,315.73	(\$77,838.12)
MISSIONS	\$250,000.00	\$235,576.92	\$287,240.60	\$51,663.68
TOTAL	\$2,050,000.00	\$1,931,730.77	\$1,905,556.33	(\$26,174.44)

PREACHING THEMES - SERVICE ROSTER

Sunday Service	10 Dec	17 Dec	24 Dec
	Holy Communion Sunday		Lessons & Carols
Sermon Title	2 nd Sunday of Advent	3 rd Sunday of Advent	4 th Sunday of Advent
	Incredible and		
Carlo Lore Dat	Indescribable Joy!	Dealer 107	De alea O/
Scripture Ref	Psalm 85	Psalm 126	Psalm 96
Preacher	Ps Lim Chung Wei	Pr Ho Wei Liang	Pr Tan Hui Ru
Worship Leader	Eld Tatang Halim	Eld Dr Tang Yew Chung	Eld Gabriel Tan
	Dcn Alicia Yeo	Dcn Benjamin Ong	-
Pastoral Prayer	Ps Lim Chung Wei	Pr Ho Wei Liang	Pr Tan Hui Ru
Music Director	Dr Agnes Tan	Dr Agnes Tan	Dr Agnes Tan
Musicians	Dcn Li-Ki Khaw	Lisa Ong	Eunice Tang
	Dr Noah Lim	Aubert Saragi	Dr Noah Lim
	Juanita Lestari	Shannon Chia	Aubert Saragi
	Andrew Loh	Aubert Saragi	-
Ushers Team/	Team G	Team A	Team B
Leaders	Tan Gek Khim	Veronica Song	Jimmy Tan
	Team D	Team E	-
	Ivy Ang	Eld Winston Choo	-
Greeters	Ps Casurine Low	Pr Tan Hui Ru	Pr Herna Kong
	Eld Derrick Lee	Dcn Benjamin Ong	Dcn Samuel Tandijanto
	Pr Tan Hui Ru	Rev Dr Edward Goh	-
	Eld Philip Ong	Eld Lim Ee Tuo	-
AV Duty Roster	Jethro Cheung	Andrew Loh	Donald Lim
	Maria Halim	Delia Chan	Winduputra Prasetijo
	Susan Tan	Dcn Mazmur The	Selvarajan Rengasamy
	Andrew Loh	Elson Chan	Huang Junxiong [11pm]
	Delia Chan	Jane Tham	Dcn Mazmur The [11pm]
	Geoff Holmes	Eld Paul Johnson	

Bold Italics - Evening Service

YOUTH MINISTRY - SERVICE ROSTER

- Worship in the Sanctuary

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PARENTS ON THE ARRIVAL OF A NEWBORN

We congratulate Nicholas and Viviana Tan on the arrival of their baby boy, Ezra Tan, on 5 Dec 2023. We thank God for Ezra and we rejoice with the family.

ORPC WEBSITE TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE (16 - 17 DEC)

The ORPC website will not be available from 8 pm on Sat, 16 Dec till 4 am on Sun, 17 Dec, due to web server maintenance. We seek your kind understanding.

DR WALTER MCCONNELL'S PARTNERSHIP & SERVICE WITH ORPC ENDS IN DEC 2023

Our financial support for Dr Walter McConnell will be completed by the end of 2023. Walter and Claire have been based in Belfast while serving with OMF. We thank God for their partnership and service with ORPC over the years and look forward to seeing them when they travel back to Singapore.

BE PART OF A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Our Discipleship Groups seek to worship, share life, pray, study God's word and serve Christ together. Come alongside us in our daily growth journey through joining a Discipleship Group. Email discipleshipgroups@orpc.org.sg for more information or speak to one of our staff/leaders.

FEEDBACK/SUGGESTIONS FOR THE A&A PROJECT

Following the dialogue meeting held on 30 Sep, the A&A Steering Committee is keen to hear from you. Please use the following QR code to submit your feedback and suggestions. You may refer to the 'Summary of Feedback and Suggestions received on A&A Proposal' as of 7 Nov 2023 that is attached to this bulletin. The video recording and minutes of the dialogue meeting that was held on 30 Sep are available on our church website. You may access them here https://orpc.sg/aanda/

FLOWER OFFERING

Tony & Jehanne Puah: Remembering our dearest "Jet is fine" boy in heaven on his 18th birthday. With much love, mum and dad.

Kenneth Lee: Praise and thank God for all His providence.

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

If you have changed your personal particulars recently, or you have queries regarding church events/ministries, please email Ping at orpcenglish@orpc.org.sg or contact the church office (Mon to Fri).

STAFF UPDATE

Pastoral Staff on leave: Rev Dr Clive Chin 12 – 19 Dec. Rev Dr Edward Goh 7 – 14 Dec. Pr Herna Kong 5 – 22 Dec. Pr Ho Wei Liang 6 – 13 Dec. CHURCH-WIDE EVENTS: DEC 2023 - FEB 2024

Sun 24 Dec 9 am Lessons & Carols Service

10 pm Outdoor Candlelight Service

11 pm Combined Christmas Eve Communion Service

No 6 pm Service

Mon 25 Dec 10 am Christmas Day Service

Sun 31 Dec 9 am Sunday AM Service

9 pm Year-End Service

No 6 pm Service

Wed 3 Jan 7.30 pm Congregational Prayer Meeting [Sanctuary & Online]

Sun 7 Jan 9 am Leadership Dedication & Leaders' Installation

Wed 7 Feb 7.30 pm Congregational Prayer Meeting [Dunman Hall]

CSSONS CONS The Fourth

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Orchard Road Presbyterian Church

24 December 2023, 9am

Christmas Day Morning Service

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Orchard Road Presbyterian Church

25 December 2023 10am

Summary of Feedback and Suggestions received on A&A Proposal 07 Nov 2023

On 30th September 2023, the Alteration and Additions (A&A) steering committee for the church building held a fruitful dialogue session with members of the ORPC congregation. Since then, we have continued to receive more feedback and suggestions from members.

The church belongs to all of us, to both our present and future generations. We are heartened at the continued support, interest and participation in the future of our church.

In the document below, we outline some of the matters raised about the project to date in order to keep everyone updated on the latest developments.

Some of the most salient themes discussed were the legal implications, the scope of work, funding, time-line of project as well as the need to improve upon our communication between leaders and members of the ORPC congregation. The committee's responses to these themes have also been included.

Where we can, we will seek to incorporate your feedback while considering the existing site constraints, with the goal of achieving the best collective outcome for the future of our church.

1) Legal Implications:

A concern was raised regarding the legal implications that may arise if we were to vacate the present premises during the A&A works, as it may lead to a legal situation where the government may repossess the site on the grounds that it is not used for public worship purposes as stipulated in the land grant and Certificate of Title. We have been advised to seek legal advice on this matter, and not to proceed with the proposed A&A works without first obtaining an unequivocal and legally binding confirmation from the State that the proposal is not a breach of the condition attached to the land and the same will not trigger a reversion of the land to the State.

Response: Session intends to seek independent legal advice and clearance from the relevant authorities before deciding to cease public worship for any period at our church land.

2) Scope of Work:

A question was also raised regarding the proposal being over and above the scope of work mandated at the Extraordinary Congregation Meeting (ECM), given that a prior decision was already made on the exact scope of work to be carried out. The member also sought to understand the necessity for strengthening of the rear slope behind the Sanctuary and Chapel.

Response: Session appreciates the mandate given on 19th Jan, 2020. However, three years on and since the beginning of 2023, the A&A Steering Committee has undertaken a fresh review of the scope of work required and its associated costs. The A&A Steering Committee has identified an option where with an incremental cost of \$4 million, Dunman Building will be reconstructed into a five storey building to better meet present and future ministry needs. This alternative approach was presented for Session's consideration and has received unanimous support from the church leadership to bring forward for ORPC congregation consideration.

Specific details on both the Jan 2020 mandate and the latest approach can be found on our slide deck available on our website or through this link: https://orpc.sg/aanda/projectproposal/

3) Enhancing the usage of our church premises:

A few members have raised the possibility of using the enhanced church facilities for greater outreach to our surrounding community; promoting the Christian faith to the youths, students and seniors, leveraging on our location and ministry potentials.

Response: The Session and A&A Steering Committee acknowledge the tremendous ministry potential that ORPC may offer, given its strategic location and history. We will seek to maximise flexibility during the design and planning phase so that the ministry goals of a Disciple Making Church may be achieved.

4) Funding:

Given the funding gap of about \$10 million for ORPC, a question was raised as to the possibility of ORPC committing more from its accumulated reserves, leaving less to be raised from fundraising activities as the amount of \$10 million is still a substantial sum.

Another member wanted to know more about the fundraising plans and schedule and if fundraising activities can be launched now.

Question was also raised regarding the basis of cost sharing with Providence Presbyterian Church (PPC), and the legal ownership of the redevelopment as well as our commitment towards PPC in return for their sharing of A&A project cost.

Response: We noted the concern regarding the substantial funding gap. Based on current calculations, the proposed total funding requirement from ORPC is \$23 million. The Finance Committee has provided a maximum sum of \$13 million from the church's accumulated reserves towards the A&A project. The amount provided by the Finance Committee takes into consideration the need to set aside sufficient reserves for the ongoing operating expenditures of ORPC. This leaves us with a funding gap of \$10 million that needs to be raised from members. We seek your prayer and support towards this endeavour.

A Fundraising Committee is being formed to plan and execute the fundraising program. We will provide further details as they become available.

The cost sharing/commitment proposal presented at the dialogue meeting is in the midst of being discussed and negotiated with the leadership of PPC. We will provide details of any final decisions to our congregation when they are available.

Do note that current proposals are a high-level cost estimate done by professional architects. Specific costs can only be provided after a full feasibility study is conducted on our site.

More specific details on the funding proposal can be found on our slide deck available on our website available or through this link: https://orpc.sg/aanda/projectproposal/

5) Prayer:

A suggestion to start a prayer group specifically to pray for this project was received.

Response: A series of prayer meetings and congregation information programs are being planned currently. We hope that every member of ORPC will be able to vote on the project at the oncoming Extraordinary Congregation Meeting in an informed and prayerful manner. Prayer and Communication will remain key to the project until its completion.

We thank each of you who are joining the A&A steering committee on this journey. We will continue to share progress updates as information becomes available and ask that you continue to pray alongside us for our church's A&A project. Please continue to reach out to us to share your concerns and thoughts.

Thank you.

ORPC A&A Steering Committee



HISTORY

The Orchard Road Presbyterian Church (ORPC) was founded in 1856 to minister to the needs of the Scots community in Singapore. The first church building on the present site was completed in 1878, and has been extended several times. In 1975, the sanctuary was extended, and in 1985, the new extension of Dunman Hall was completed and a new chapel was built. Alongside the growth of the physical facilities has been the development of the church from an English-speaking expatriate congregation to a local church embracing four different language congregations. In 1995 we planted a branch church (Bukit Batok Presbyterian Church) which became independent in 2013. Similarly, our Mandarin congregation (Providence Presbyterian Church) became independent in 2005. ORPC consists of the English Congregation and the Indonesian Congregation, and worshipping with us now in the same building are Providence Presbyterian Church, and the German-speaking Protestant Congregation in Singapore.

FAITH AND MEMBERSHIP

As a church with roots in historic Presbyterianism growing out of the Westminster Confession of Faith, we affirm the Lordship of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We look to the Scriptures as the inspired Word of God and the one authoritative and infallible standard for our faith and practice. We welcome those who profess Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour into our formal membership. Our membership is truly international, representing the breadth of God's call upon people from all ethnic and economic backgrounds. Members are received upon initial profession of faith in Jesus Christ by baptism, confirmation, and in transfer from other Christian churches. Classes for baptism, confirmation, and for transfer of membership are held periodically and announced in the bulletin.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the grave. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.