



Reformed Church BOX HILL

A CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA
Grace Alone | Christ Alone | Faith Alone | Scripture Alone | Glory to God Alone

19 October 2025

WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship today. Worship services are recorded and sermons are available at rcbh.org.au. You can listen to them online or download to listen offline.

MEDITATION

Who was Abraham?

By T. Desmond Alexander, courtesy of Ligonier Ministries: <https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/who-was-abraham>

The patriarch Abraham, who lived around 2000 BC, is one of the most significant figures in biblical history. Portrayed as a man of remarkable faith, Abraham is central to God's plan of redemption. An integral member of the righteous patrilineage recorded in Genesis, he is the recipient of divine promises that anticipate the blessing of the nations through the establishment of a royal lineage, which will culminate in the arrival of Jesus Christ.

Abraham's Life Shaped by Divine Promises

Abraham's story starts in [Genesis 11](#), where he is known as Abram, the son of Terah, living in Ur of the Chaldeans. When God calls him, Abram embarks on a journey that will have profound significance for all humanity. This special call, recounted in [Genesis 12:1–3](#), climaxes in the remarkable assurance that all the families of the earth will be blessed through Abram.

In faithful obedience, Abraham leaves his familiar surroundings to venture into the unknown. This marked the beginning of a profound relationship with God. Through the prophet Isaiah, God affectionately refers to the patriarch as "Abraham, my friend" ([Isa. 41:8](#)).

The story of Abraham's life is filled with challenges, wanderings, and divine encounters. He travels to Canaan, experiences famine, sojourns in Egypt, and navigates complicated relationships with neighboring peoples. He rubs shoulders with kings, yet maintains a semi-nomadic lifestyle, prompting the author of Hebrews to claim that Abraham "was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God" ([Heb. 11:10](#)).

His wife, Sarai (later called Sarah), confronts infertility, which causes tension and heartache. God reassures Abraham that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars and will eventually possess the land of Canaan ([Gen. 15](#)). Yet, as the years pass, Sarai remains barren. Impatient, Sarai gives her servant Hagar to Abram, and through her, Ishmael is born ([Gen. 16](#)). God, however, confirms that Abraham's proper heir will come through Sarah.

The birth of Isaac, the son of promise, marks a key moment in Genesis. However, Abraham's faith is put to the test when God instructs him to sacrifice Isaac ([Gen. 22](#)). Abraham's willingness to obey, even with such

MINISTER OF THE WORD & PASTOR

Isaac Overton | 0408144340
rcbhpastor@gmail.com

PASTOR'S BLOGS

Down-to-earth, bite-sized theology:
theologyinthetrenches.substack.com

Reformed Bible devotionals:
rcbhpastor.substack.com

a heartbreaking command, shows his trust in God. At the last second, God intervenes, provides a ram for the sacrifice, and confirms His covenant with Abraham that all nations on earth will be blessed through one of his descendants ([Gen. 22:18](#)).

Abraham's life is not without flaws. Genesis documents instances of doubt, deception, and moral ambiguity. Nevertheless, his persistent faith in God's promises characterizes his enduring legacy.

Father of Many Nations: The Covenant of Circumcision

One of the most critical divine encounters in Abraham's life is the establishment of the covenant of circumcision ([Gen. 17](#)). Central to this covenant is God's promise to make Abraham "the father of many nations," a promise with royal connotations. God has previously guaranteed through another covenant that Abraham will be the father of one nation, with his biological descendants taking possession of the land of Canaan ([Gen. 15](#)). Significantly, the covenant of circumcision expands Abraham's fatherhood metaphorically to include many nations. Abraham will be their spiritual father. Those who have faith like Abraham will be his children ([Gal. 3:1–9](#)).

Abraham stands as a model not only of faith-imputed righteousness but also of a life shaped by faith-inspired obedience to God's commands.

In [Genesis 17](#), God instructs Abraham to circumcise every male in his household, including those bought from foreigners, as a "sign of the covenant" ([Gen. 17:10–14](#)). Viewed against the backdrop of the early chapters of Genesis, circumcision serves as a continual reminder of God's promise that the unique lineage traced through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will culminate in a king who will overcome evil forces and bestow blessings upon the nations by establishing God's kingdom on earth. With these things in mind, the gospel of Matthew highlights how the promises made to Abraham are fulfilled in Jesus by beginning with a royal genealogy that traces back to Abraham ([Matt. 1:1–17](#)).

Righteousness Through Faith: Abraham's Enduring Legacy

The account of Abraham's life illustrates the concept of righteousness imputed through faith. [Genesis 15:6](#) declares, "And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness." This verse becomes a cornerstone for later theological reflection, especially in Paul's writings, where Abraham is held up as the exemplar of faith ([Rom. 4](#)).

It is not Abraham's achievements or perfection that secure his righteous standing with God, but his trust in God's word and willingness to act upon it. This radical understanding of righteousness, rooted in faith rather than obedience to the law, remains a guiding principle for followers of Jesus Christ.

Yet Abraham's faith is not passive; it leads him to act righteously. His willingness to leave his homeland, to trust in promises unseen, and to offer his beloved son at God's command reveals a faith that is evident by what it achieves (see [James 2:20–24](#)). Abraham stands as a model not only of faith-imputed righteousness but also of a life shaped by faith-inspired obedience to God's commands.

Conclusion

Abraham is a figure whose life holds enduring significance. His story is more than a distant tale; it is a relationship between God and a patriarch who plays a key role in God's redemptive plan for the world. As the recipient of divine promises that will be fulfilled in Jesus Christ and an exemplar of righteousness derived through faith, Abraham's legacy continues to inspire, challenge, and unite countless people from every tribe and nation.

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.

BOX HILL PRAYER & PRAISE

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 help us to be grateful for "receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken." Pray that we may come to "offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire" (Heb 12:28-29). Please pray that we may be encouraged as we consider living faithfully in a world that doesn't share our faith in Genesis 21, and also as we learn more lessons in Job 39 about how to live in a wide and wild world. Pray that the Lord may bless the fellowship of his table in our evening service

Please pray! - please pray for those among us who are laid low in sickness at this time. Please pray for those in our congregation who experience the advance of age, and are no longer able to attend worship services. Please pray for our sister, Adri de Boer, who is very weakened at this time.

Drieberg family - In recent weeks we heard of the passing of former RCBH member Brian Drieberg. In this last week, Brian and Electra's son, Dalmain, also succumbed to cancer. Dalmain was also a member of Box Hill. Please pray for Dalman's wife and children, and the wider Drieberg family, in this time of great grief to them.

Give thanks for work: Some of our members continue to seek employment, and have a real need for this, so please pray for them.

Pray for office bearers: As Session is engaging the men who have been nominated to serve in office, please pray for these men as they consider the nominations.

Paul Chan candidacy: Please pray for our brother Paul and sister Lian, as they work with Session towards new plans for Paul's pathway to ministry. Please give thanks that the Lord has been providing an increase in ministry candidates in recent years in our denomination, and pray that the Lord would bless them in their studies and preparation.

English Classes: As a number of folk in our church continue to volunteer to provide English lessons to members of our Box Hill community, please pray that these lessons may bless those who receive them. Pray that these lessons may provide opportunities for us to connect with our community, and share the love and message of Jesus Christ.

New babies! - Give thanks to the Lord for new babies in our church! Please pray especially for Cass, as her delivery time is quickly approaching.

AUSTRALIA AND WORLD-WIDE PRAYER & PRAISE

Reformed Theological College: As the RTC prepares for the large-scale project of moving the majority of its facilities to Melbourne, please give thanks for many a provision (including the provision of a project manager for this task), and continue in prayer that the Lord would help the college through the process, and become all the more fruitful as a result - to the glory of God alone! Give thanks for the Lord's continued provision for the board as they navigate the various tasks before them.

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Indiway prayer update – OCTOBER 2025

1. All our IndiWay workers praise the Lord for the 60 new believers from different mission fields who came to know about Christ last month. Please pray for these new souls to remain steadfast and continue to grow in their faith. Kindly pray for our workers to guide these new believers in the word of God and make them true disciples.
2. Our IndiWay workers praise and thank the Lord for the various meetings held across our mission fields during September 2025. These includes Women's Meetings in several clusters, a Men's Meeting, and gatherings for fasting prayer. We praise and thank our Lord for around 645 believers from different congregations across our mission fields participated in these gatherings and were richly blessed.
3. One of our IndiWay workers praises our Lord for the new prayer group started in one of his outreach villages which welcomed 15 new believers. We request your kind prayers for this new prayer group and believers to grow in their faith and become good witnesses in their community for the glory of God.
4. Another field worker praises God for his recovery from dengue fever. He was admitted to the hospital for a week during the month of September. Through the testimony, he and his family praises God for his complete recovery and give thanks for your valuable prayers.
5. Please pray for the upcoming Sunday School Teachers' Training, scheduled for two days this month in our Southern region. Around 50 to 60 teachers from various congregations will be attending this training. Kindly uphold in prayer the arrangements, the resource team, and the safe travel of all participants from different locations.
6. We request your kind prayers for the mission fields in Rajasthan. The recent amendment of the stricter anti-conversion law, the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2025, has created challenging circumstances for churches and Christian ministries. The amendment mandates imprisonment of 20 years to life for mass conversions deemed to be through deception. It also prescribes a jail term of seven to fourteen years by fraudulent means. Since the amendment, there have been increasing disruptions to worship services, prayer gatherings, Christian schools, and even medical services. There is a fear that this amendment could be misused to harass normal and regular Christian activities. Please pray for God's protection over all churches, believers, and ministry work, and that the Lord will bring peace, stability, and an open door for the Gospel to advance even amid these legal and social challenges.

NOTICES

Reformation Day Conference: Once again, the Melbourne Reformation Society will be hosting its annual Reformation Day Conference. This year, the conference's theme focuses on "**He made them, male and female.**" This promises to be a confessional conference looking at a Reformed Perspective on a very relevant current issue. This year the conference welcomes Rev. Darren Middleton as a special guest speaker, along with the Rev Joshua Guarango, and Pastor Isaac.

When? 25th October 2025, 10am-4pm

Where? Presbyterian Theological College, 684 Elgar Road, Box Hill North

Attendance is FREE, but please do register your attendance at: bit.ly/2025refcon SDG.

Reformation Sunday Evening Service - Please come along for our Reformation 5pm Sunday Evening Service! On Sunday 26 October, the Rev Chris Pretorius (CRC Wonga Park) will bring God's word to us. All our local CRCA churches have been invited, so please do come, invite others, and let's join to worship the Lord together. Light supper to follow!

Presbyterian Theological College Women's Conference - on the topic of "Faithfulness." Please encourage your ladies to come along to this conference. Please note that our own Joy Williams (wife of RTC lecturer Martin Williams) is one of the speakers at this conference. It promises to be a good time. November 8, 10am-3pm, registration and details at: <https://ptc.edu.au/event/ptc-womens-conference-2025/>

Word & Prayer Email List | Newsletter Mailing List: Please note that Pastor 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 the list and would like to be, please send Isaac an email at isaac.t.overton@outlook.com and he will add you to the list. Thanks!

Sermon notes available for those whose English is a second language: Contact Pastor Isaac (isaac.t.overton@outlook.com) if you want to be on the distribution list.

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TODAY

10am Morning Worship

Preacher: Pastor Isaac Overton

Duty Elder: Ronald Paoa

Children's Catechism: Ronald Paoa

Offerings: Ministry of the Church & Solomon Islands Workgroup

Music: Simon Wang

AV & Slides: Yu family

Morning Tea: Trinh Vu & Janice Lim

5pm Evening Worship

Preacher: Pastor Isaac Overton

Duty Elder: Ronald Paoa

Music: Verity Law

AV & Slides: Yu family

Weekly Church Cleaning: Sula Nadarajah & Jackson Wong

NEXT WEEK

10am Morning Worship

Preacher: Pastor Isaac Overton

Duty Elder: Ronald Paoa

Children's Catechism: Ronald Paoa

Offerings: Ministry of the Church & Diaconate

Music: Kathy Dean

AV & Slides: Law family

Morning Tea: Sarah van Deventer & Tieng Kucan

5pm Evening Worship

Preacher: Pastor Isaac Overton

Duty Elder: Ronald Paoa

Music: Carolyn Yu & Cassandra Kuruvilla

AV & Slides: Law family

Weekly Church Cleaning: Paul & Lian Chan

MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. **Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,** that she received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEMORY WORK

Q39. What is a change of heart called?

A. Regeneration.

RCBH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

- **Box Hill Central** on 1st and last Tuesdays, 7:30pm at 28 Watts St
- **Tuesday Morning** on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, all welcome. 10am at Church, or online: meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex
- **EastEnders** on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7.30pm
- **Ferntree Gully** fortnightly on Saturday afternoons
- **SouthEnders** weekly on Sunday afternoons, occasionally Saturdays

YOUTH OF YESTERYEAR FELLOWSHIP GROUP

2nd Tuesdays: lunch at a hotel

If you're interested in joining one of our Bible Fellowship Groups, please reach out to our elders Ronald or David and we will connect you with one of our groups.

MEETING DETAILS & LINKS

Worship Services | Every Lord's Day, 10am & 5pm
youtube.com/@reformedchurchofboxhill2134/streams

Morning Prayer | Every Wednesday and Saturday, 6.30-6.50am
meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex

Prayer Meetings | Usually 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 7.30pm
meet.google.com/tfd-bwku-mex

2025 BIBLE READING PLAN

The Bible translation/version used in our worship services and recommended for personal use is the English Standard Version (ESV).

Easy 3-Year Plan		Medium 2-Year Plan			Advanced 1-Year Plan				
20 Oct	John 1	20 Oct	2Kings 1	2Thess 1	20 Oct	2Kings 1	2Thess 1	Dan 5	Ps 110,111
21 Oct	John 2	21 Oct	2Kings 2	2Thess 2	21 Oct	2Kings 2	2Thess 2	Dan 6	Ps 112,113
22 Oct	John 3	22 Oct	2Kings 3	2Thess 3	22 Oct	2Kings 3	2Thess 3	Dan 7	Ps 114,115
23 Oct	John 4	23 Oct	2Kings 4	1Tim 1	23 Oct	2Kings 4	1Tim 1	Dan 8	Ps 116
24 Oct	John 5	24 Oct	2Kings 5	1Tim 2	24 Oct	2Kings 5	1Tim 2	Dan 9	Ps 117,118
25 Oct	John 6	25 Oct	2Kings 6	1Tim 3	25 Oct	2Kings 6	1Tim 3	Dan 10	Ps 119-v24
26 Oct	John 7	26 Oct	2Kings 7	1Tim 4	26 Oct	2Kings 7	1Tim 4	Dan 11	Ps 119:25-48

