

11 June 2026

### **National Council of Churches' Statement on the Staging of Jesus Christ Superstar in Singapore**

The National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) is aware of the discussions among Christians regarding the staging of the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* in Singapore.

*Jesus Christ Superstar* is a rock opera created by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice in the 1970s. It is an artistic interpretation of the final week of Jesus' life, primarily through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. It portrays Jesus as a conflicted prophet or revolutionary plagued by doubt as he approaches his death. It features Jesus' humanity but downplays his divinity. It depicts Jesus' crucifixion but is completely silent about the resurrection.

Christians have diverse views about *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Some Christians regard its portrayal of Jesus as not only incomplete but also theologically problematic. Others have even taken offense because, in their view, the musical has blasphemously distorted the true identity of Jesus Christ. However, there are still others who view the musical as an artistic work that provides opportunities for reflection, conversation, and even witness concerning the person and work of Christ.

The NCCS acknowledges the different perspectives that Christians have on the musical, especially those with strong concerns. The Council has brought these legitimate apprehensions to the attention of the relevant authorities.

At this point, the Council wishes to affirm several important tenets of the Christian faith regarding the person of Jesus Christ. Christianity confesses that Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God, who died for the sins of the world and rose bodily from the dead on the third day. According to the Christian faith, Jesus Christ cannot be reduced to a mere prophet or teacher, much less a tragic figure of history. Artistic representations of Jesus should be judged on the basis of the biblical revelation and the faith of the Church through the ages. In this regard, the Jesus that the musical portrays does not fall within the bounds of Christian orthodoxy. In fact, in the history of Christianity, similar denials of the divinity of Christ – presenting him as only a human being, such as Ebionism – have been condemned as heresies.

With regard to this musical, the Council encourages Christians to express their convictions responsibly. It also urges believers to engage cultural works with discernment and wisdom.

For those who find the musical deeply offensive to their conscience or harmful to their faith, the Council respects their decision to abstain from viewing or supporting it. For those who choose to attend or reflect on the musical, the Council encourages a critical and prayerful engagement.

In a multi-religious society like Singapore, Christians are called to be true to the 'faith which was once for all delivered to the saints' (Jude 1:3) and to engage the wider culture with grace and respect.

Our purpose as salt and light of the world is best fulfilled when we bear witness to the truth of the Gospel in humility and love (Matthew 5:13-16). In this way, we offer a compelling account of our hope in Christ (1 Peter 3:15-16).