



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 13 December 2015

Theme for the Year: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" (Ezekiel 14:4-6)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	87 - <i>Joy to the World</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 2:1-11
Hymn	TP 113:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 13:1-19
Hymn	105 - <i>That Beautiful Name</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	Life Under the New Covenant I: Obey Your Church Leaders
*Closing Hymn	317 - <i>A Charge to Keep I Have</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

†Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

††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.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Joy to the World: A Christmas Hymn Reconsidered

Isaac Watts was arguably the most prolific hymn writer of his day. He is known for writing such timeless hymns as "Behold the Glories of the Lamb" and "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." However, Watts is best known for writing the hymn "Joy to the World"—a song played worldwide during Christmas every year.

While he is much appreciated today, during his lifetime Watts was considered by many to be a disturbance of the status quo and even possibly a heretic for the lyrics he wrote. While he wasn't a heretic, he was a revolutionary.

Watts grew up in a world where the music in every worship service consisted only of psalms or sections of Scripture put to music. Watts found the practice monotonous. To him, there was a lack of joy and emotion among the congregants as they sang. He once famously said, "To see the dull indifference, the negligent and thoughtless air that sits upon the faces of a whole assembly, while the psalm is upon their lips, might even tempt a charitable observer to suspect the fervency of their inward religion."

Hymnology Pioneer

Watts's father issued a challenge. He told Watts that if he struggled with the songs they sang, then he ought to do something about it. Perhaps he should attempt to write something different. This moment set Watts on a lifelong pursuit to write lyrics that exalted Christ and reminded Christians of their hope in his saving work on the cross.

This desire is evident in the way he wrote "Joy to the World." Watts was inspired to write the timeless tune while meditating on Psalm 98. Verse 4 gripped him: "Make a joyful noise to the

LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" And this is exactly what Watts set out to do. Little did he know that this song would spark a joyful noise that would ring through the ages.

Focus on the Second Coming

While "Joy to the World" is primarily sung at Christmas, it's not about the incarnation. Rather, the song tells the story of Christ's return—his second coming. We know this for at least three reasons.

First, the song speaks of the whole earth receiving her King:

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing*

But is that what happened when Christ came? After all, Scripture tells us that he was not readily received by everyone (Isaiah 53:3).

The earth did not receive her King but like sheep, went astray. Still, we know that there will be a day when this will not be so (Philippians 2:9-10).

On that day, both heaven and nature will sing out and repeat the sounding joy for all eternity.

Second, we know this hymn is a song of Christ's second coming because verse 3 talks about sins and sorrows being no more:

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found*

If you have lived on this earth for more than two minutes, you know that this is not our current experience. In Mark 13 Jesus foretold the wars and disasters

that was yet to come after his death (Mark 13:8).

The world is not sin-free. The world is not void of sorrow. Not yet, at least. Jesus told us that we should not be alarmed when we hear of the world's brokenness. Why? Because the end is not here (Mark 13:7). And he is waiting in heaven until the time his enemies will be conquered (Hebrews 10:12-13).

Although the fulfillment of all Christ's work is not fully expressed this side of eternity, we know there will be a day when it is. Christ sits at the Father's right hand, waiting until the perfect moment—a time when all good things will come to fruition. So we have hope.

Third, the final verse reveals that this hymn is about the second coming. It says:

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love*

These final lines speak of how the nations will take an active role in revealing the glory of God.

We know that all the nations of the earth are ultimately subject to God's ever-sovereign hand. He is the one who gives authority, and he's the one who takes it away. He uses every mistake, every poor decision, every war, every calamity, and every season of prosperity, all for his glory.

But we have not yet seen the nations of this world intentionally seeking to prove

the wonders and glories of our ultimate King.

In fact, they often seek to defame the name of God. But he will not share his glory with another. The I Am is jealous for his name. Surely, there will be a day when we can say, "He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove" his glory. And that day will be wonderful.

Christmas Hymn After All?

So why do we sing this song at Christmas? It is clearly a song about Christ's second coming - when the full expression of his glory will be revealed.

It doesn't really have anything to do with the Christmas story. Or does it? After all, there is no second coming without a first coming.

This song is all about the fulfillment of what Christ came to do in the first place. Christmas is not only a time to look back at the grace accomplished in the past.

Christmas is also a time to look forward to the grace that was accomplished for our future. When we sing these words we are proclaiming the ultimate joy to be revealed. This is why we can sing "Joy to the World" at Christmas.

~ Alyssa Poblete

adapted from:

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/joy-to-the-world-a-classic-christmas-hymn-reconsidered>



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 30. Doth God leave all mankind to perish in the estate of sin and misery?

A. God doth not leave all men to perish in the estate of sin and misery, into which they fell by the breach of the first covenant, commonly called the covenant of works; but of his mere love and mercy delivereth his elect out of it, and bringeth them into an estate of salvation by the second covenant, commonly called the covenant of grace.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (13.12.15)	Next Week (20.12.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Keith Morris
Worship Leader	Terence Lee	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Jacob & Marilyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Kim Leow*, Jacob Woo*, David Ong, Rex Sriharan	Ian Read*, Paul Butler*
Usher	Jesslyn Leow	Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Florence Orchard*, Grace Wang, Marilyn Woo	Adeline Ng*, Mary Loh, Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>18 December 2015</i>	<i>25 December 2015</i>
Speaker	Jimmy Orchard	No Prayer Meeting
Chairperson	Johnson Lim	
Pianist	Nancy Lim	

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's messenger is Keith Morris, retired pastor of St Columba's Presbyterian Church. He will speak on "The Promised King" (Jeremiah 23.1-8).
3. JF is on recess until next school term.
4. Adult Bible Class is on recess until next year.
5. Bible Conference. Speaker: Mathews Abraham. Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton. Date: 19-22 April 2016. Register with Rex & Carmel Sriharan.
6. Caroling. 15 December, 7 pm (Tue) and 20 December, 12 pm (Sun). Practice today after service. All welcome. Contact Eugene Lim for details (0477 314 789).
7. Christmas Service. Friday, 25 December 2015, 10 am. Speaker: Pastor Ron Nugent. Worship Leader: Ken Chong. Pianist: Eugene Lim. Welcomers: Josephine Austin & Maureen Grady.
8. Watch Night Service and Potluck Dinner. Thursday, 31 December 2015, 6:30 pm (dinner) and 8-9 pm (praise and testimony).

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting SUN 10:00 am Worship & Sunday School	<i>General Fund - \$4,547.85 (#508 - \$480.00, #509 - \$100.00, #510 - \$20.00. Missions Fund - \$610.00 (#511 - \$100.00. Building Fund - \$230.00 (#314 - \$200.00, #315 - \$30.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,387.85. Attendance - 141.</i>

Building Fund to Date		Building Fund Account:
Available Building Fund	\$52,141.03	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross) BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969 SWIFT: WPACAU2S
Outstanding Pledges	\$28,275.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$230.00	
Total	\$80,646.03	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>-\$430,000.00</i>	
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$349,353.97</i>	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
 Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

Life Under the New Covenant I: Obey Your Church Leaders Hebrews 13:1-19

New Covenant believers are commanded to fear God who is a consuming fire, to desire spiritual things in life, and to worship God. There are 10 additional commandments in verses 1-19. They can be grouped into 5 categories. One of them is obey church leaders (vv 7,17). The author to the Hebrews gave commandments throughout the book and he expected the readers to comply.

1. Leaders Are God's Provision for the People's Welfare.
 - a. OC and NC officers.
 - b. Teach
 - c. Live
 - d. Watch
2. It Is Our Duty to Acknowledge Their Authority.
 - a. Obey
 - b. Submit
 - c. Remember
3. Helping Leaders to Enjoy Their Ministry.
 - a. How to bring joy
 - b. How to bring grief
 - c. Pray

Questions for Reflection

1. Why is it important to obey your leaders on things moral and spiritual?
2. Do you think you bring joy or grief to your leaders?
3. How often do you pray for your leaders?