



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 25 January 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	485 - <i>Revive Us Again</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 95
Hymn	Insert - <i>O Come to the LORD</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Esther 4:15-5:8, 7:1-6
Hymn	351 - <i>Near the Cross</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"How to Make a Wise Appeal"
*Closing Hymn	291 - <i>Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah</i>
*Benediction & † <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>
Announcements	† <i>Inside cover of hymnal</i>

**Congregation standing*

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 3:00 pm
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia
Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au
Email: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Loving the Health of the Church, But Loving the Church More

The Health of a Church

The Bible speaks frequently about the health of the church. Titus was exhorted to teach sound (or healthy) doctrine (Tit 2:1). This would result in a healthy church with spiritually healthy members (Tit 2:2-10).

The Reformers used to identify the three marks of a true church; that if a church had these characteristics, it would be a true and not a false church. They are namely, correct preaching of the Word, correct administration of the Sacraments, and correct Church discipline.

The argument was very simple. True preaching of the Word leads to the conversion of souls (Rom 10:14-15).

True administration of the sacraments admits true believers and their children into the visible church, and keeps them repenting as they remember Christ's death for their sins.

And correct discipline deals with those who are not repenting, and in some cases, identifying those who never did genuinely believe and repent. It weeds out sin and wilful sinners from the midst of Christ's congregation.

There are other ways to gauge the health of a church. Some have suggested 9 marks - expository preaching, biblical theology, biblical understanding of conversion, biblical understanding of evangelism, biblical understanding of membership, biblical understanding of discipline, promotion of discipleship and growth, and biblical understanding of leadership.

Loving the Health of a Church

Therefore, as believers in Christ and worshipers in the local church, we should love the health of the church. There ought to be a desire to see

biblical growth through promoting the means of growth.

A worshiper should expect biblical preaching and teaching, that the gospel would be preached to believers and unbelievers, that worshipers would be actively evangelizing, that members are confronted and admonished when they sin, that office bearers would love the people and discharge their duties, and most importantly, that worshipers would be growing in fellowship with and love to God and man.

The Dangers of Loving the Health of the Church

While it is vital for the worshiper to love the health of the church, and to yearn for it, there are certain dangers associated with it.

In Love with the Ideals

The first danger is that we can love the idea of a healthy church more than we love the church.

We may look at its current state and lament - we wish there was more of this, or more of that; or less of this, or less of that. We may have an ideal and we love that ideal.

As such one can feel contempt for a church at its present state. As Jonathan Leeman has said, "*we can love our vision of what a church should be more than we love the people who compose it. We can be like the unmarried man who loves the idea of a wife, but who marries a real woman and finds it harder to love her than the idea of her. Or like the mother who loves her dream of the perfect daughter more than the daughter herself.*"

The church may be comprised of doctrinally shallow worshipers - they need instruction. The church may be comprised of immature people - they

need maturing. The church may be comprised of difficult and proud people - they need mellowing. The church may be comprised of impatient people - and they need patience. We are the church.

In Love with the Methods

The second danger is that we can love the means and methods of achieving a healthy church more than we love the church.

Because of our education, experience, and background, we have seen certain things that have worked and things that have not worked.

We may come from different churches that have done things differently. As such we think the church can be reformed through these means.

EM Bounds wrote, *"We are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain, to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the Church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the gospel. This trend of the day has a tendency to lose sight of the man or sink the man in the plan or*

organization. God's plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God's method. The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men...What the Church needs to-day is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Ghost can use."

Methods may be justifiably used - but those who are in love with methodology will push it. We must love men more, and know that God works through us and our service than by organization.

Love the Church

As we come together tomorrow to pray and to discuss the health and programs of the church, let keep in mind the health of the church - the ideals - but let us remember to love the church more than its health.

And let us determine what we can do, and not what methods to use, how we can pray, and how God can work to strengthen this congregation. ~ Pastor



Westminster Confession of Faith XXI - Of Religious Worship, and the Sabbath Day

3. Prayer, with thanksgiving, being one special part of religious worship,¹ is by God required of all men:² and, that it may be accepted, it is to be made in the name of the Son,³ by the help of His Spirit,⁴ according to His will,⁵ with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love and perseverance;⁶ and, if vocal, in a known tongue.⁷
4. Prayer is to be made for things lawful;⁸ and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter:⁹ but not for the dead,¹⁰ nor for those of whom it may be known that they have sinned the sin unto death.¹¹

1. Philippians 4:6.

2. Psalm 65:2.

3. John 14:13-14; 1 Peter 2:5.

4. Romans 8:26.

5. 1 John 5:14.

6. Psalm 47:7; Ecclesiastes 5:1-2; Hebrews 12:28; Genesis 18:27; James 5:16; 1:6-7; Mark 11:24; Matthew 6:12, 14-15; Colossians 4:2; Ephesians 6:18.

7. 1 Corinthians 14:14.

8. 1 John 5:14.

9. 1 Timothy 2:1-2; John 17:20; 2 Samuel 7:29; Ruth 4:12.

10. 2 Samuel 12:21-23; Luke 16:25-26; Revelation 14:13.

11. 1 John 5:16.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (25.1.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (1.2.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Jacob & Marilyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Ian Read, Kim Leow	David Pang, Jacob Woo
Usher	Jesslyn Leow	Marilyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Mary-Anne Chan*, Vincent Chiu, Mary Loh	May Poon*, Florence Orchard Ken Hong, Marilyn Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>28 January 2015</i>	<i>4 February 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Chairperson	Jacob Woo	SK Loh
Pianist	Marilyn Woo	Jerome Ng

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 message: "Eaten Up By Little Things" (Esther 5:6-6:12).
3. Next Lord's Day we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. There will be Fellowship Dinner after the Worship Service. Please bring a dish.
4. Sunday School teachers for the month of February are Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim, Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman; Grace Lee, Esther Ong; Angela Yap; Sandra Tan, Wendy Gong; Jonathan Ong; Jabez Huang. Singspiration Leader: Eugene Lim, Pianist: Ian Tay.
5. Session and Church Retreat. Monday, 26 January 2015. Please come tomorrow by **2:30 pm** to discuss matters pertaining to the church. The day retreat concludes with dinner and watching of the fireworks. Please indicate your attendance to Jacob and Marilyn Woo.
6. Bible Conference 2015. Theme: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" Speaker: Dr Tedd Tripp. Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton. Dates: 7-10 April 2015. Registration forms are in the foyer. Registration closes today.

Appointments for the Week

MON	2:30 pm	Session and Church Retreat
TUE	10:30 am	Retirees' Bible Study (Yen Fye Yap's residence)
WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 96
SUN	2.00 pm	Adult Bible Class
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2,555.95. *Missions Fund* - \$790.00 (#453 - \$500.00). *Building Fund* - \$200.00 (#19 - \$200.00). *Total Tithes & Offering* - \$3,545.95. Attendance - 106.

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 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. **SK Loh** 9386 1660.