



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 22 February 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	7 - <i>Praise Our God</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 99
Hymn	Insert - <i>The LORD Is King Indeed</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Esther 2:21-23; 6:1-14
Hymn	168 - <i>Even Me</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"God Rewards Us in His Time"
*Closing Hymn	267 - <i>All Things Work Out for Good</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](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au)  
Email: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## Remembering and Sharing Christ this Chinese New Year

As many people in this church are Chinese, I thought it would be appropriate to share some thoughts on the Chinese New Year.

At this time of the year, even the Chinese Diaspora in Australia will find time to celebrate, by visiting and feasting with other folk.

But in the midst of all this, remember Christ and let the items of cultural significance be catalysts for not only remembering what he has done for us but be opportunities to witness for him.

### *The Significance of the Color Red*

The color red is significant – it's a color of prosperity, happiness, and good luck. And the reason for this is steeped in superstition and myth.

According to legend, at each new year in ancient China, there was a mythical beast called "Nian" who would come on the first day to devour the livestock, crops, and children.

To protect themselves, people hung red banners to ward off the creature, a color it feared.

So people decorate their houses with and wear red for such reasons. Chinese believers also do this, not for superstitious reasons, but cultural ones.

To Christians, the color red is also significant. In Exodus 12, God was about to unleash the 10th plague upon the Egyptians – where he would enter into their houses and kill their firstborn.

God instructed the enslaved Israelites to sacrifice a perfect lamb, and to take its blood and paint the posts and lintel of the entrance door to their homes.

Those who did this would be protected from an angry God.

We as believers have the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, shed for us for the remission of sin. We have overcome Satan and the beast by the blood of the lamb (Rev 12:9,11).

So as Chinese Christians don their red clothes and drape red banners over their doors, let them remember what the Lord Jesus Christ has done and be thankful.

### *The Significance of Spring*

Chinese New Year is also called the Spring Festival because it occurs at the cusp of winter and spring.

It celebrated the coming of life after a long winter. Three things of significance would be done at this time of year for the Chinese New Year season.

Firstly, there's spring-cleaning. The house would be swept and cleaned before the first day. Old things would be thrown away to make room for the new.

Secondly, there are the activities to signify growth. Spring is characterized by new growth. Homes are adorned with blooming plants symbolizing birth, rebirth, and new growth.

Thirdly, there's the paying off of debts. Accountants ensure that the books are cleared of debts so that the New Year starts on a clean slate.

When friends and family members meet, greetings are exchanged and old grievances are forgotten.

Spring is also a very significant concept in Scripture. Christ's call to his people to be reconciled to him is likened to the coming of spring.

Song of Solomon 2:10-12a says, "My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come."

Those who have heeded this call have passed from winter to spring, from death to life, from old to new (2 Cor 5:17-18a).

Hence, there should be a changed life – our desires should be those of Christ. Our behavior should be that of Christ. These are the new fruits to bear.

Christ said in John 15:16a, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain."

As Chinese Christians visit their friends and relatives, let them remember to show forth their changed lives.

#### *The Significance of the Feast*

Chinese New Year is a time of great feasting and there is great significance in the food consumed.

Pineapple tarts are eaten to signify the coming of wealth. Sticky rice cakes are

consumed in expectation of a higher and better year ahead.

Oysters cooked in black moss are distributed in hopes that the diner would increase in wealth.

Wealth is an important theme in Chinese New Year. But as believers, we know that the Lord is our wealth.

While popping tarts in our mouths are enjoyable and satisfying, we place no hope in material wealth.

As Chinese Christians enjoy reunion with their families and friends, let them look forward to their eternal hope, not in the material gains of this life, but in their future rewards.

As they eat, let them do so, "giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:12).

And as they meet up and eat with people, let them consider those and ask if they shall partake of that great marriage feast of the Lamb.

Let them share with those the greater significance of the color red, of a permanent spring, and an eternal feast. ~ Pastor



### **Westminster Confession of Faith XXII - Of Lawful Oaths and Vows**

3. Whosoever takes an oath ought duly to consider the weightiness of so solemn an act, and therein to avouch nothing but what he is fully persuaded is the truth:<sup>1</sup> neither may any man bind himself by oath to any thing but what is good and just, and what he believes so to be, and what he is able & resolved to perform.<sup>2</sup>
4. An oath is to be taken in the plain and common sense of the words, without equivocation, or mental reservation.<sup>3</sup> It cannot oblige to sin; but in any thing not sinful, being taken, it binds to performance, although to a man's own hurt.<sup>4</sup> Not is it to be violated, although made to heretics, or infidels.<sup>5</sup>

1. Exodus 20:7; Jeremiah 4:2.

2. Genesis 24:2-3, 5-6, 8-9.

3. Jeremiah 4:2; Psalm 24:4.

4. 1 Samuel 25:22, 32-34; Psalm 15:4.

5. Ezekiel 17:16, 18-19; Joshua 9:18-19; 2 Samuel 21:1.

# Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (22.2.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (1.3.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Merilyn Woo	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Jonathan & Esther Ong	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Kim Leow, Jonathan Ong	Ian Read, Yen Fye Yap
Usher	Esther Ong	Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Nancy Lim Jenni Budiman	Peggy Woo*, August Ng Putri Harapan, Victor Poon
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>25 February 2015</i>	<i>4 March 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Jimmy Orchard	SK Loh
Pianist	Wendy Gong	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: "Coincidence or God's Providence?" (Esther 6:1-7:10).
3. We will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship dinner.
4. Sunday School teachers for the month of March are: Sandy Chua, Eileen Tay, Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman, Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim; Evelyn Lee, Carmel Sriharan, Esther Ong; Joyce Ng; Sandra Tan, Valerie Ong; Elizabeth Huang; May Poon. Singspiration Leader: Alvar Ongkowidjaja. Pianist: Nancy Lim.
5. Church Anniversary Dinner. Venue: North Lake BBQ Restaurant (406 North Lake Road, Bibra Lake) Date: Sunday, 12 April 2015. Time: 7 pm. Subsidised cost: \$20/adult, \$15/child (4-12 years). Registration will commence next Sunday.
6. Shepherding a Child's Heart Parenting Conference. Speaker: Dr Tedd Tripp. Dates: Monday, 13 - Wednesday, 15 April 2015. Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Venue: Westminster Presbyterian Church (Bull Creek). Please register at [www.covenantbpc.org.au/shepherding](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au/shepherding). Like and share it at [www.facebook.com/shepherding.perth](http://www.facebook.com/shepherding.perth). Additional flyers are available at the foyer.

## Appointments for the Week

WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 100
FRI	7:45 pm	JF and Parents' Group
SAT	7:30 pm	Ladies' Bible Study
SUN	2:00 pm	Adult Bible Class
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

## Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

*General Fund* - \$3,623.60. *Missions Fund* - \$410.00. *Total Tithes & Offering* - \$4,033.60. *Attendance* - 126.

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.