



COVENANT Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 1 March 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 100
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	297 - <i>O Happy Day!</i>
Hymn	8 - <i>All People that on Earth Do Dwell</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Esther 7:1-10
Hymn	268 - <i>How Firm a Foundation</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"God's Providence in the Affairs of Men"
*Closing Hymn	297 - <i>God Will Take Care of You</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> * <i>Congregation standing</i>

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

Session and Church Retreat - A Summary

On Australia Day, Monday, 26 January 2015, the session of the church met at 8 am.

No church moves ahead simply by planning. Since the church is owned and headed by Christ, office bearers of the church must seek Christ's mind for the church.

Time of Confessing

Since we're sinful men and insufficient to serve God, we needed to repent of our sins and our sloth in ministry. We individually confessed our sins - that we loved ourselves and the world more than Christ and his kingdom; that we had not been faithful in ministry; and that we had not led our wives and children as we should.

Time of Sharing

This was followed by a sharing of our desire for the church. We articulated that there was a greater need for more love and accountability among worshipers and toward newcomers and the community - to replicate the early church. It was agreed that care does not merely depend on programs, but it depends on the initiative & desire of the worshipers.

All shared a concern for the young people, especially in the area of finding life partners. We agreed that more correspondence was needed with other Bible-believing churches for this.

This also led to the discussion that Covenant Church should forge deeper ties with Australian churches - since we are an Australian church and not an appendage of the Singaporean church.

Aside from these, we shared the importance for our ministries to be more visible and that they can afford to be more age-integrated. We also shared about the support of new mission stations, as we have the capacity and the finances to do so.

Time of Evaluating

What followed was an honest evaluation of the ministries of the church and

suggestions for how they could be improved. Among the more pressing items we evaluated were the Sunday School ministry, prayer meeting, and visitation.

Sunday School

There has been a shortage of teachers as the age distribution of children has changed. Some ages need 2 classes. This puts an onus on some to teach more sessions, leading them to miss worship.

We discussed the possibility of having Sunday School at a different hour to the worship service. This would be ideal as it allows more time for classes, teachers would not miss the worship service, teachers can be rostered for longer teaching blocks, and classes for more senior levels can resume. This proposal would become more realistic if the church had a morning session.

Prayer Meeting and Fellowship Groups

While Wednesday night prayer meeting attendance has increased in the past year, some have found it increasingly more difficult to attend due to their family commitments, their stage in life, and the distance from church.

Many of the church folks come together on Friday to attend the fellowship groups and to send their children to the Junior Fellowship.

The parents' have already exhausted parenting topics, & the young people are no longer young, they can easily attend the same meeting & fellowship together.

For some of these reasons, we discussed the possibility of moving the prayer meeting to Fridays, where there will still be a time of study followed by prayer.

Visitation

The session, in wanting to be accountable for the worshipers of the church, discussed a visitation program, where elders and deacons would visit every family and individual in the membership roll of the church over a 1-2 year period.

This would allow the elders to have oversight of the members and it would allow the deacons to ascertain how the diaconate could minister to them.

It would also allow members an avenue to have regular dialogue with the session.

Time of Dividing

We also discussed the difference between the role of the elder and the deacon. There is a marked difference between the role of the elder and the deacon. While the deacon is not called to rule, the elder is.

While the elder's main role is to rule and oversee the church, the deacon's is not. And while the elder's role is to be involved in the Word, the deacon's role is to care for the people physically.

As our church population ages, as the economy teeters, when members fall ill from time to time, and as our spending on missions increases, the role of the diaconate becomes more vital in these situations.

Such a division in labor helps to ensure there's smoother running of the church and oversight and care of the members.

Time of Uniting

We discussed a great deal on church membership and the constitution. Because of the checkered history of this church, certain restrictions were imposed on some from becoming full members.

By providence, the issue surfaced and we had the opportunity to discuss it. The unity of the church is spoken of in Scripture and was our goal in the discussion.

The proposal, which was summarized to the folks thereafter, will be brought up at a congregational meeting. We will tread through this process with caution, upholding Scripture, while considering the fears that some may have.

Time of Fellowshiping

After the session concluded their discussion, the worshipers who came, were given a summary of that discussion and subsequently divided into groups to give their thoughts and their feedback on what they heard and on other matters.

The day concluded with dinner over food that people brought, and a viewing of the Australia Day fireworks at the Attadale Reserve. ~ Pastor



Westminster Confession of Faith XXII - Of Lawful Oaths and Vows

5. A vow is of the like nature with a promissory oath, and ought to be made with the like religious care, and to be performed with the like faithfulness.¹
6. It is not to be made to any creature, but to God alone:² and that it may be accepted, it is to be made voluntarily, out of faith, and conscience of duty, in way of thankfulness for mercy received, or for the obtaining of what we want, whereby we more strictly bind ourselves to necessary duties: or, to other things, so far and so long as they may fitly conduce thereunto.³
7. No man may vow to do any thing forbidden in the Word of God, or what would hinder any duty therein commanded, or which is not in his own power, and for the performance whereof he has no promise of ability from God.⁴ In which respects, popish monastical vows of perpetual single life, professed poverty, and regular obedience, are so far from being degrees of higher perfection, that they are superstitious and sinful snares, in which no Christian may entangle himself.⁵

1. Isaiah 19:21; Ecclesiastes 5:4-6; Psalm 61:8; 66:13-14.

2. Psalm 76:11; Jeremiah 44:25-26.

3. Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Psalm 50:14; Genesis 28:20-22; 1 Samuel 1:11; Psalm 66:13-14; 132:2-5.

4. Acts 23:12, 14; Mark 6:26; Numbers 30:5, 8, 12-13.

5. Matthew 19:11-12; 1 Corinthians 7:2, 9; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Peter 4:2; 1 Corinthians 7:23.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (1.3.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (8.3.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jabez Huang
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Ian Read, Yen Fye Yap	Paul Butler, Jansen Ng
Usher	Jerome Ng	Jesslyn Leow
Kitchen Duties	Peggy Woo*, August Ng Putri Harapan, Victor Poon	Helen Wong*, Sarah Siew Grace Wang
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>4 March 2015</i>	<i>11 March 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	SK Loh	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Merilyn Woo

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "God Delivers His People" (Esther 8:1-9:32).
3. 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.
4. JF and Parents' Group are in recess this Friday.
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). Please register with Raymond and Peggy Woo.
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. Like and share it at www.facebook.com/shepherding.perth. Additional flyers are available at the foyer.

Appointments for the Week

WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 101
FRI	7:45 pm	YPG
SUN	2:00 pm	Adult Bible Class
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,291.45. *Missions Fund* - \$370.00. *Building Fund* - \$100.00 (#20 - \$100.00). *Total Tithes & Offering* - \$3,761.45. *Attendance* - 135.

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.