



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 12 April 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	62 - <i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 84
Hymn	Insert - <i>Blest They Who in Thy House Abide</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 16:11
Hymn	447 - <i>The Lily of the Valley</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Enthroning and Delighting in Christ"
*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

Covenant Church Is Blessed

Today we are celebrating our fifth anniversary. As a church, we had a tough beginning. But these last 5 years have been blessed.

We have seen many new families joining the church. We have witnessed spiritual growth and maturation.

Recently, constitutional changes will allow for more worshipers to become members. We are on the cusp of acquiring properties for the church.

The church is blessed.

But the church is not blessed because of these things. While we are growing, we also experience besetting sin and strife. While we are united, people still need to be reconciled to one another.

Despite these issues, the church is blessed because of Christ.

The Church Is Blessed Because Jesus Dwells Amongst Us

Psalm 48:2-3 speaks of Zion. It is the most beautiful place on earth - "*Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge.*"

Zion was a physical place in Israel. But Zion refers to much more than just the capital city of Israel.

Hebrews 12 identifies Zion as the city of the living God and the heavenly Jerusalem. The author of Hebrews was talking about the church of God. Zion is the church. Therefore, the church is most beautiful.

Why is it beautiful? It's not beautiful or blessed because it is filled with beautiful people. We are sinners. It is not blessed because the inhabitants are great. We are weak. Zion is blessed because God the king dwells there.

The garden of Eden was blessed because God walked with Adam in the midst of that garden. He had fellowship with him.

Israel in the wilderness was blessed because God was present with them in

the tabernacle, symbolised by the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire.

Moses was blessed because he met with God face to face on the mountain. And the church is blessed because Christ has come to dwell among his people, who behold his glory.

And in the end, his people will be blessed in the garden of God (Revelation 21-22), because God will dwell among his people at the throne of the Lamb.

The church is blessed because our King dwells with us.

So despite all our pockmarks, our problems, and our personalities; the church is blessed because Jesus dwells amongst us.

The Church Is Blessed Because Jesus Is Powerful

Psalm 48 tells us that the kings of the earth are afraid of the church. Their fear is described as being paralysis - "*pain, as of a woman in travail.*"

The reason why they are afraid of the church is because Jesus is powerful. Jesus said that he will build his church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Indeed - "*As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God: God will establish it for ever.*"

Since the beginning, Satan and his children have tried to destroy the church. They never prevail.

"Of thirty Roman emperors, governors of provinces and others in high office, who distinguished themselves by their zeal and bitterness in persecuting the early Christians, one became speedily deranged after some atrocious cruelty, one was slain by his own son, one became blind, the eyes of one started out of his head, one was drowned, one was strangled, one died in a miserable captivity, one fell dead in a manner that will not bear recital, one died of so loathsome a disease that several of his

physicians were put to death because they could not abide the stench that filled his room, two committed suicide, a third attempted it but had to call for help to finish the work, five were assassinated by their own people or servants, five others died the most miserable and excruciating deaths, several of them having an untold complication of diseases, and eight were killed in battles, or after being taken prisoners."

Churches will have problems, and while local congregations will cease to exist for various reasons, the Church will always prevail because Christ is powerful. She has existed since the beginning!

A church will ordinarily retain its candlestick if we rely on Christ to sustain us.

The Church Is Blessed When We Focus on Jesus

When the church is about man and what man can do, she will fail. But when the church looks to Jesus, she will flourish. Psalm 48:9 - *"We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple."*

When God's people ponder and focus on God's steadfast love, the church is blessed.

We are embarking on a project to raise funds. \$1.75 million is beyond our ability. We have many ministries that require our prayer and involvement. We have a whole suburb to reach out to for Christ. But if we look at our inabilities, our measly talents, and our fear of man; we will never be able to give, serve, and reach out.

But we are blessed when we look in faith at what God can do - how much money he can raise, how much he can use us, and how how much he can embolden us.

Romans 8:32 - *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*

Concluding Thoughts

5 years is a short time. But we would never last another 5 years without the mercy of God.

The church is not blessed or beautiful because of the members or the activities, but it is blessed because Jesus dwells amongst us. If we allow him to rule us and if we submit to him, we will flourish. When we focus on him and have faith in him, we will flourish.

~ Pastor



Westminster Confession of Faith XXV - Of the Church

1. The catholic or universal Church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fulness of Him that fills all in all.¹
2. The visible Church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion;² and of their children:³ and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ,⁴ the house and family of God,⁵ out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.⁶
3. Unto this catholic visible Church Christ has given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life, to the end of the world: and does, by His own presence and Spirit, according to His promise, make them effectual thereunto.⁷

1. Ephesians 1:10, 22-23; 5:23, 27, 32; Colossians 1:18.

2. 1 Corinthians 1:2; 12:12-13; Psalm 2:8; Revelation 7:9; Romans 15:9-12.

3. 1 Corinthians 7:14; Acts 2:39; Ezekiel 16:20-21; Romans 11:16; Genesis 3:15; 17:7.

4. Matthew 13:47; Isaiah 9:7.

5. Ephesians 2:19; 3:15.

6. Acts 2:47.

7. 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-13; Matthew 28:19-20; Isaiah 59:21.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (12.4.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (19.4.15)</i>
Speaker	Tedd Tripp	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Elizabeth Huang	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Jacob & Marilyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Philip Orchard, Jacob Woo	Paul Butler, Jansen Ng
Usher	Merilyn Woo	Jesslyn Leow
Kitchen Duties	Nancy Lim*, Ken Hong, May Poon	Peggy Woo*, Lisa Lim, Grace Wang
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>15 April 2015</i>	<i>22 April 2015</i>
Speaker	No Prayer Meeting (Parenting Seminar)	Mark Chen
Chairperson		Raymond Woo
Pianist		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: "Jesus Christ Is God's Revelation" (Hebrews 1:1-3).
3. Reminder: Church Anniversary Dinner **tonight**. Venue: North Lake BBQ Restaurant (406 North Lake Road, Bibra Lake). Time: 7 pm.
4. Shepherding a Child's Heart Parenting Seminar. Speaker: Dr Tedd Tripp. Dates: Monday, 13 - Wednesday, 15 April 2015. Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Venue: Westminster Presbyterian Church (Bull Creek).
5. Prayer meeting will be in recess this Wednesday because of the Parenting Seminar. Please pray for the participants and for Dr Tedd Tripp who will be the speaker. Please pray for Mrs Margy Tripp as she teaches the children.

Appointments for the Week

MON - WED	Parenting Conference
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 - \$2,782.05. Missions Fund - \$310.00. Building Fund - \$1,100.00 (#208 - \$500.00, #209 - \$500.00, #210 - \$100.00).
 Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,192.05.
 Attendance - 156.*

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.