



COVENANT Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 31 May 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	450 - <i>Isn't the Love of Jesus Something Wonderful!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 111
Hymn	TP 111:1-2,7-10
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 3:7-19
Hymn	367 - <i>His Way With Thee</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"It is Dangerous for You Not to Believe"
*Closing Hymn	327 - <i>O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink</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

A Quick Look at Christianity in Western Australia

In commemoration of Western Australia Day, I thought I would research into Christianity in Western Australia. This is by no means exhaustive but gives a glimpse into our Christian history and scene.

Swan River Colony and Anglicanism

WA was settled on 1 June 1829, with the coming Captain Charles Fremantle and Governor James Stirling.

Not long after this, on 30 January 1830, the Reverend John Burdett Wittenoom arrived. He was Anglican and was appointed to be the Colonial Chaplain for the new colony.

Hence the very first churches in WA were Anglican and today, a number of churches, both Bible-believing and liberal, are under the WA diocese.

With the expansion of the colony and the influx of people, came ministers of other denominations.

Baptists

Many of the first baptists in Australia were Particular or Reformed Baptists. The first congregation was founded in Tasmania in 1835.

Overtime, the theological leanings of the Baptists in Australia became less Reformed but more General (holding to an unlimited atonement of Christ).

And although WA had been settled for many years, it was not until 1895 that the first Baptist church was founded. The union was formed a year later.

The Baptist Union practices congregational polity, and an evangelical range of doctrinal convictions among members and ministers is accepted, including those with a more Reformed leaning and those with a more broadly evangelical leaning.

There exists a smattering of unaligned Reformed Baptist churches. There are also a few independent Fundamentalist Baptist churches, mainly planted from American churches.

Churches of Christ

The Church of Christ was founded in Australia as an outreach of the American Church of Christ. They have had a presence in South Australia since the 1840s and the movement spread westward.

They are part of the Restoration Movement, a movement that purports to return the church to the New Testament model.

Weekly communion, baptism by immersion, and a rejection of creeds characterise the church.

One heresy espoused by the Restoration Movement, whether currently or historically held by the Australian branch, is baptismal regeneration - the idea that baptism is needed for salvation.

Presbyterians

The flagship captain of First Fleet, John Hunter, was a former Presbyterian minister. Later Presbyterianism came to WA with the arrival of Presbyterians from Great Britain at the end of the 18th century.

In 1977, two-thirds joined with most of the Congregational and Methodist Churches to form the Uniting Church of Australia.

Those who did not join did not agree with its liberal views. Hence the continuing Presbyterian Church is conservative, after a resurgence of Reformed theology in the early 80s.

It pulled out from the ecumenical World Communion of Reformed Churches, repealed the ordination of women, and has aligned itself with Bible-believing Presbyterianism world-wide. There are a number of Presbyterian churches in WA.

The Westminster Presbyterian Denomination developed independently of the PCA. Having its roots in the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Evangelical Synod) of the USA, it is a broadly confessional church.

The Bible-Presbyterian Church was founded by immigrants from South East Asia, with congregations in Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth starting in 1987.

It has a Fundamentalist and a mainly Asian background. In its short history in Australia and WA, it has been characterised by multiple splits, symptomatic of the absence of a Presbytery.

The individual churches are very similar - Bible-believing and mildly confessional; but the practice of extreme separatism as well as the diversity of doctrinal adherence common among migrants, have bred mistrust and suspicion.

With its Fundamentalist and Irish background, the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster also has a congregation in WA, with others in South Australia and Tasmania.

Uniting Church

The Uniting Church was formed in 1977 with the union of most of the Congregational and Methodist Churches with two-thirds of the Presbyterians.

The Uniting Church covers the whole spectrum of theological persuasions, with evangelicals and rank liberals in its fold. This is attested by the lack of consensus

on but the ongoing promotion of the ordination of gay and lesbian persons.

Independent Churches

Along with the Charismatic explosion in the 70s, many independent and non-denominational churches with charismatic sympathies and practices have also sprung up all over Australia, and therefore also in WA.

They vary greatly, with those promoting the heretical Word Faith theology of health and prosperity, to those with a more moderate Charismatic theology.

Final Remarks and Thoughts

The church in WA is by no means perfect. But it is beautiful as it has spread the message of the gospel and has touched lives wherever it exists.

We pray each church would remain faithful to the Scriptures and propagate the true Gospel of Christ which is able to liberate sinners.

Hopefully this gives you an idea of the church situation in WA. And hopefully this gives you a better appreciation of where our church ought to stand in our separated and Bible-believing witness, and building fellowship with other Bible-believing churches. ~ Pastor



Westminster Confession of Faith XXVIII - Of Baptism

5. Although it is a great sin to contemn or neglect this ordinance,¹ yet grace and salvation are not so inseparably annexed unto it, as that no person can be regenerated, or saved, without it:² or, that all that are baptized are undoubtedly regenerated.³
6. The efficacy of Baptism is not tied to that moment of time wherein it is administered;⁴ yet, notwithstanding, by the right use of this ordinance, the grace promised is not only offered, but really exhibited, and conferred, by the Holy Ghost, to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongs unto, according to the counsel of God's own will, in His appointed time.⁵
7. The sacrament of Baptism is but once to be administered unto any person.⁶

1. Luke 7:30; Exodus 4:24-26.

2. Romans 4:11; Acts 10:2, 4, 22, 31, 45, 47.

3. Acts 8:13, 23.

4. John 3:5, 8.

5. Galatians 3:27; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 5:25-26; Acts 2:38, 41.

6. Titus 3:5.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (31.5.15)	Next Week (7.6.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Ron Nugent
Worship Leader	Jabez Huang	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	Jacob & Merilyn Woo	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	LH Chua, Jacob Woo	Paul Butler, David Lim
Usher	Jerome Ng	Merilyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Helen Wong*, Adeline Ng, Chris Budiman	Mary Loh*, Vincent Chiu, Jemima Ng, Grace Wang
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>3 June 2015</i>	<i>10 June 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Chairperson	Ken Chong	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Nancy Lim	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 messenger is Ron Nugent, retired pastor of All Nations Presbyterian Church. We will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship dinner.
3. Sunday School teachers for the month of June are: Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman, Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim; Evelyn Lee, Dorcas Pang; Grace Lee; Wendy Gong; David Ong; Jabez Huang, Ken Chong. Singspiration Leader: Joyce & Jemima Ng. Pianist: Wendy Gong.
4. Please submit your building fund pledges in the offering bag by next Lord's Day.
5. Catechism class commences next Lord's Day. Please indicate your attendance to Jimmy Orchard.
6. Adult Bible Class will be in recess from next week. It will start again on 21 June.
7. Pastor will be overseas for ministry from 5 to 19 June 2015.
8. From 10 July 2015, Prayer Meeting will shift to Fridays at 7:45 pm.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>WED 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting - Psalm 112 FRI 7:45 pm JF and Parents' Group SUN 2:00 pm Catechism Class 3:00 pm Worship & Sunday School</p>	<p><i>General Fund - \$3,462.90 (#477 - \$300.00). Missions Fund - \$390.00. Building Fund - \$5,100.00 (#225 - \$100.00, #226 - \$3,000.00, #227 - \$2,000.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$8,952.90. Attendance - 131.</i></p>

Building Fund to Date			
Starting Fund	\$54,185.68	Interest Free Loans	\$80,000
Collection Up to LW	\$42,330.00	On-going Gifts	\$7,965.00
LW's Collection	\$5,100.00	One Time Gifts	\$211,000.00
<i>Total Building Fund</i>	<i>\$101,615.68</i>	<i>Total Pledges</i>	<i>\$298,965.00</i>
Building Fund Account:	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)		
	BSB: 036-031	Acct: 316969	SWIFT: WPACAU2S

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.