



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 5 July 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	TP 147:1-8, 12-15, 19-20
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 116
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	TP 116
Hymn	479 - <i>Jesus Loves Me</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 4:14-16
Hymn	163 - <i>Open My Eyes, That I May See</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Jesus, Our Great High Priest"
*Closing Hymn	Insert - <i>A Man There Is, a Real Man</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

Same Sex Marriage, Australia, and the Church

Same Sex Marriage and the USA

On 26 June 2015, the Supreme Court of the United States of America ruled that same sex marriage was a fundamental right and protected by the laws of the land. It was ratified by a slim majority - 5 to 4.

This ruling requires all states to issue marriage licenses to all people of the same sex and of marriageable age who choose to marry.

Already, many are celebrating. Social media photos are springing up shaded with the ubiquitous gay pride rainbow colors.

If it were left up to a populist vote, as in Ireland, instead of the Supreme Court, the results may not have been much different. Eventually.

The fallout from this vote will no doubt be huge, impacting negatively those who oppose same sex marriage.

One of the judges accepted that people who oppose same sex marriage on religious grounds could still advocate their views.

Yet another judge warned that this ruling would be used to vilify critics.

Organizations like churches would have their tax exempt status revoked because they refuse to recognize or perform same sex marriages.

There are already calls for this to happen.

Individuals are already being marginalized- bakers, florists, etc who will not support same sex marriages.

Those who have supported traditional marriages have been forced out of their jobs.

Australia and Same Sex Marriage

Since that landmark decision by the American Supreme Court, many in Australia are calling for the legalization of same sex marriages in Australia.

There is no telling if and when such a decision will be made. At the risk of sounding like a harbinger of doom, I believe that it will happen.

Some say that it is not inevitable. I will jump the gun, perhaps foolishly, to say that it is inevitable. It may be a year, or several years, but it will come to our shores. I hope I'm wrong.

Once this happens, inevitably religious people and churches will be affected. Somehow. Either greatly or moderately, but there will still be an impact.

The Church's Response

The Church's response is as it has always been. To preach the gospel of God and to call people to repentance.

The New Testament church existed in pagan lands where homosexuality was the norm. The Greeks and Romans practiced it extensively. It was not frowned upon.

But when the Church came on the scene, and pagans started to be converted to Christ, they were told to repent and put away their homosexuality.

One needs to understand however that the Church was not a dominant force of morality in those days. In fact, it was in the minority, fighting against the tide of paganism and sensuality.

For the past few centuries, the Church in the western world has been the dominant force of morality. And so

many Christians may feel the potential loss and reversal all the more.

But let's face it, the Church is not currently the dominant force of morality in the West - it hasn't been for a while in the last few decades.

In fact, what the Church has been often known for is her disapproval of that which is not traditional rather than that which is sinful.

The Church's response is therefore the same as it has always been. It is to preach the gospel of God and to call people to repentance.

It is not to be swayed by popular opinion. Our children will be tempted to sway and it is our duty to instruct them. It is to instruct them why same sex marriage is wrong.

But to do so without showing the compassion of Christ may push our children further from Christ and his Church.

The Church's response is therefore the same as in the beginning. We are to love those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. We are to befriend them, interact with them, and allow them to see the Christ who is in us.

Jesus showed compassion on all manner of people without condoning their sin; in fact he told them to sin no more. Likewise, this is also our calling.

The woman at the well had sinful relationships and marriages. But Jesus met with her. He reached out to her.

We need to prepare for people like that, as we already should be. Sinful relationships and problematic marriages are not limited to same sex ones.

And the Church is not to panic. What is happening in the world is not a snag in God's Providence - rather, it is willed by him! This is all in his plan!

And while there will be opposition, God is still on his throne. He laughs at the heathen because their attempts are insufficient to overthrow his plans.

And while there may be great opposition, and the Church is opposed, we are still an army marching forwards, the gates of hell not withstanding.

This thing will pass. Christ's kingdom will march forward. Nothing has changed. It may not be in our lifetime that we find reprieve. We may experience trials and tribulation. Nothing has changed. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Confession of Faith XXX - Of Church Censures

1. The Lord Jesus, as king and head of His Church, has therein appointed a government, in the hand of Church officers, distinct from the civil magistrate.¹
2. To these officers the keys of the kingdom of heaven are committed; by virtue whereof, they have power, respectively, to retain, and remit sins; to shut that kingdom against the impenitent, both by the Word, and censures; and to open it unto penitent sinners, by the ministry of the Gospel; and by absolution from censures, as occasion shall require.²

1. Isaiah 9:6-7; 1 Timothy 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Acts 20:17-18; Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Matthew 28:18-20.

2. Matthew 16:19; 18:17-18; John 20:21-23; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (5.7.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (12.7.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Ken Chong
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Jacob & Merilyn Woo	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Jacob Woo, Micah Chiang	David Lim, Ken Hong
Usher	Hannah Chiang	Jesslyn Leow
Kitchen Duties	Peggy Woo*, Hannah Chiang, Jenni Budiman, Victor Poon	Jackie Hong*, Julian Poon, Sarah Siew
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>10 July 2015</i>	<i>17 July 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Raymond Woo	Terence Lee
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Wendy Gong

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: "Jesus, a Better High Priest " (Hebrews 5:1-10).
3. Sunday School teachers for the month of June are: Eileen Tay, Sandy Chua, Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman; Evelyn Lee, Carmel Sriharan; Joyce Ng; Sandra Tan; Valerie Ong; Elizabeth Huang; John Tan. Singspiration Leader: Jacob Woo. Pianist: Wendy Gong.
4. Perth Free Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School. Theme: "Rescue Mission Bible Club" Ages: *Kindy to Year 7*. Date: *13 - 15 July (Mon-Wed)*. Time: *10 am - 12 pm*. Venue: *10 Alexander Road, Padbury*. Contact: *Philip Gardiner - pcgardiner@hotmail.com, 0459 693 339*.
5. JF will be on recess until 24 July 2015. Friday prayer meetings commence on this Friday. Children are welcome to join.
6. Mukti Charity Collectibles Fair: Friday 10 July (11am-5pm) & Saturday 11 July (9am-4pm) at South Perth Community Hall. Please see Merrill Read for information.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting	<i>General Fund - \$2,453.40. Missions Fund - \$280.00. Building Fund - \$17,865.00 (#250 - \$10,000.00, #251 - \$1,000.00, #252 - \$1,705.00, #253 - \$5,000.00, #254 - \$160.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$20,598.40. Attendance - 133.</i>
SAT 8:00 pm Men's Bible Study	
SUN 2:00 pm Adult Bible Class/Catechism	
3:00 pm Worship & Sunday School	

Building Fund to Date		
Starting Fund	\$54,185.68	Building Fund Account:
Pledges Collected	\$257,120.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$96,465.26	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Subtotal Building Fund</i>	<i>\$407,770.94</i>	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Outstanding Pledges</i>	<i>\$114,600.00</i>	SWIFT: WPACAU2S
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>\$522,370.94</i>	

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.