



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 23 August 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	51 - <i>Praise the Savior</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 123
Hymn	TP 123
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 8:1-13
Membership Covenant	
Hymn	150 - <i>When He Cometh</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Mediator of a Better Covenant"
*Closing Hymn	323 - <i>More Love to Thee</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

†Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be:  
World without end. Amen.

††Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

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)

## Leading Our Children to Christ

### *A Walk of Faith*

Leading our children to Christ is a walk of faith. God gives directions from his Word to help us as we do our best.

Yet very often, we lose faith and become fearful - we try to save our children ourselves.

### *Dangers of Accepting Mere Profession and Giving Full Assurance*

Instead of trusting the Spirit to save them and grow them in faith, fear may lead us to force them to make a decision for Christ or to assure them of a salvation that they do not possess.

While they may make a profession of faith early in life, it doesn't mean they truly believe. A profession of faith does not mean a possession of faith.

Let us not be too quick to celebrate an early affirmation of the gospel. This can cause confusion in the life of a teen who isn't living for God but thinks he's a Christian just because he made a profession.

You can't thwart a true conversion by responding cautiously, but you can hinder true conversion by giving a child false assurance. Who will truly believe and repent when they think they have truly believed and repented?

Indeed, I made professions of faith over and over again. This is not unique - all church kids go through this. God often draws our children to him multiple times before their conversion.

### *Our Calling Is to Live and Preach the Gospel*

Yet, we don't want to be complacent. We are to take our calling to be parents seriously to preach the gospel to our children.

You don't need to be a pastor or specially trained to share the gospel effectively with your children.

Charles Spurgeon said, "The things that are essential to salvation are so exceedingly simple that no child need sit

down in despair of understanding the things which make for his peace. Christ crucified is not a riddle for sages, but a plain truth for plain people. True, it is meat for men, but it is also milk for babes."

Additional to preaching the gospel to them, we are to show them gospel saturated lives. Christ is to be a very real part of our lives.

The effectiveness of the gospel is confirmed in their minds when they see it operating in our lives.

When they see us living for Christ, confessing our sins to them and God when we fail; God will use our example to draw them to Christ.

And when they see us changing into wiser, gentler, kinder, and more patient people (especially toward them!), they receive more hope that the faith is real and that God can change them too.

### *Showing the Gospel to Our Children*

#### Admit Your Sinfulness

Sin is not hard to explain - it's more than the bad things we do; it's when we want to go our own way (Isa 53:6).

Helping our children see their sin in contrast to God's holiness helps them see their problem before God.

And using ourselves as examples helps them to see our faith. Children learn they are sinners, but when they hear us confess our sins, they get a fuller picture of sinfulness.

Each time we sin, we have an opportunity to use our restoration as a way to demonstrate the promise God extends to them too.

#### Confess Your Faith in Jesus

Jesus said, "Whoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

Your faith needs to be real. Their faith needs to be lived. You need to talk about

your faith and what God is doing in your life.

Rather than press them for profession of faith, ask questions about God's activity in their lives.

What do you think God is doing in your life? Is there something in your life that God would want you to change? What has God done in your life that you are thankful for.

### Show the Fruits of Repentance

The gospel always produces fruit in the lives of those who believe. Jesus said that we are slaves in our sin, but that those whom Christ sets free are free indeed (John 8:36).

Those whom he called will bear fruit (John 15:16). Christianity is validated by observable repentance.

Thomas Watson said, "True repentance, like nitric acid, eats asunder the iron chain of sin."

Expressing the knowledge of our sin, confessing our faith in Christ and our praise of God, and changing to be more Christlike are all ways of preaching to our children.

And they are also ways to assure ourselves that we are Christians. Assurance comes to us, and those watching us, through the obedience we demonstrate to Jesus Christ.

After all, Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

It's difficult to be a parent. When my sons do things which are wrong, I react often in sinful anger.

But when I do that, I don't show forth the gospel to them. But when I react in grief but in forgiveness, they see the power of God in me.

We need God to fill us with his Spirit that we may live transformed lives. A life of repentance and growth are testimonies to our children.

Only when we live the gospel can we communicate it effectively to them.

Our children need the Spirit to work in them. While we should lead them to Christ, we can't push them to Christ.

A holy life lived for Christ can powerfully lead your children to Christ. ~ *Pastor*

*For more reading, refer to "Leading Your Child to Christ" by Marty Machowski.*



## **Westminster Confession of Faith XXXIII - Of the Last Things**

2. The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.<sup>1</sup>
3. As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin; and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity:<sup>2</sup> so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.<sup>3</sup>

1. Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2:5-6; Romans 9:22-23; Matthew 25:21; Acts 3:19; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10.

2. 2 Peter 3:11, 14; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7; Luke 21:7, 28; Romans 8:23-25.

3. Matthew 24:36, 42-44; Mark 13:35-37; Luke 12:35-36; Revelation 22:20.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (23.8.15)	Next Week (30.8.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Ken Chong
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Jansen Ng, Micah Chiang	Kim Leow, Ken Hong
Usher	Jerome Ng	Jesslyn Leow
Kitchen Duties	Nancy Lim*, May Poon, Aliza Chiu	August Ng*, Merylyn Woo, Lisa Lim
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>28 August 2015</i>	<i>4 September 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Ken Hong	LH Chua
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Jerome Ng

## 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: "What It Takes to Be Clean" (Hebrews 9:1-14).
3. Ministry leaders are reminded to submit their reports for the papers for the upcoming Annual General Meeting to Terence Lee by 30 August 2015.
4. **Extraordinary Congregational Meeting.** Today after the service. All communicant members are required to attend.
5. Volunteers for VBS 2015 (5-7 October) are needed. Please contact Valerie Ong at 0422 407 338.
6. VBS 2015 - "Jesus: Our Prophet, Priest, and King" (5-7 October). Registration forms are available at the foyer and online at <http://www.covenantbpc.org.au/ministries/vacation-bible-school/>.

### Appointments for the Week

TUE 10:30 am	Retirees' Bible Study
FRI 7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting and JF
SUN 2:00 pm	Adult Bible & Catechism Class
3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

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

*General Fund - \$2,568.50. Missions Fund - \$330.00 (#485 - \$40.00). Building Fund - \$2,285.00 (#282 - \$585.00, #283 - \$1,500.00, #284 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,183.50. Attendance - 131.*

### Building Fund to Date

Starting Fund	\$54,185.68
Pledges Collected	\$248,330.00
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$158,239.82
Loans Received	\$380,000.00
<i>Subtotal Building Fund</i>	<i>\$840,755.50</i>
<i>Outstanding Pledges</i>	<i>\$43,390.00</i>
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>\$884,145.50</i>

Building Fund Account:

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church  
(Westpac Bank, Applecross)  
BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969  
SWIFT: WPACAU25

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.