



COVENANT Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 13 September 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	10 - <i>O God Our Help in Ages Past</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 40
Hymn	TP 40:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 10:1-18
Hymn	290 - <i>Be Still, My Soul</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Sanctified through Sacrifice"
*Closing Hymn	125 - <i>Jesus Paid It All</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

Email: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Refugees and Loving the Stranger

Refugees

The world has been inundated in recent weeks, months, and years with news on the plight of the refugees leaving the Middle East.

They come from all over, but specially from Iraq and Syria. There were the Kurds, there were the Sunni Muslims, there were the Shiite Muslims, and there were the traditional Christians.

Which refugees there are is determined by the political climate - when the Shiite Muslims were in power, the Sunnis were persecuted.

When the Sunnis were in control, the Shiites and the Kurds were persecuted. When ISIS was in power, all were persecuted, especially the Christians.

Europe has found itself in a quandary - what should they do with all of these refugees?

The world was shocked when the body of Aylan Kurdi, a young boy of 10 from Syria, was found washed up on the shores of Turkey, after perishing en route to Greece.

Whatever the issues - true or false - surrounding his death and circumstances, it was a great tragedy.

They are running away to Europe and they are also running away to Australia.

Australia has been a safe haven and destination for many refugees. Of late, it has been a destination of the Rohingyas, the Afghans, the Syrians and Iraqis.

There are those in Australia who are in favor of taking no refugees, those who are in favor of taking some refugees, and others who are in favor of taking many refugees.

Some say that it would be irresponsible government spending - because the cost to process each refugee is astronomical.

Others say that it would be the end of liberty and safety in Australia because the Muslim refugees would certainly bring in their ideology. As they have done in Europe, they will set up their enclaves here - potential kernels of radicalism.

Others say that it would be immoral not to take them and to grant them a home due to the suffering they endure back in their home countries. To send them back would be to sign their death sentence.

And yet others take a middle ground.

Recently, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher, suggested that Australia should prioritize persecuted Christian refugees over other groups fleeing the Syrian conflict.

Loving the Stranger

Without getting involved in the politics and fiscal policies of the nation regarding refugees, what is the Biblical perspective toward refugees?

Whatever the policy of the Australian government on this, and without the church lobbying for such changes, how should we respond as Christians to the refugee crisis if it does come to our shores?

With Openness and Compassion

Leviticus 19:34 says, "*But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.*"

The Israelites were commanded by God to take in the stranger - the wanderer - into their country and to treat them like one of their own.

This has always been the heart of God. Spiritually, we were all strangers to the commonwealth of God. But God took us in and made us one of his children.

Historically, as many "Covenanters" are migrants to the country, we have received benefits here that we never had back in our home countries - be that freedom, education, generosity, etc. Let not our affluence and our comfort or our desires to retain them, be reasons to deny others of them.

Without Fear

Why should Christians be given a greater priority over non-Christians? Some may answer, because we do good to all men, but especially to the household of faith (Gal 6:10). While that is not incorrect, why should only Christians be given refuge?

I believe that fear sometimes motivates us. Many Christians are fearful that the Muslims would enter and bring their

ideologies. Or perhaps Muslims in Christian guise.

Muslims are no different than any other person. They desire stability, they desire freedom, they desire a second chance. Very few of them are radicals.

But the reason why we as Christians ought not to fear, is because there is something more powerful than their Islam. It is the gospel.

Paul said in Romans 1:16 - *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

If this is the case, would it not be an exciting opportunity if they were to come to this country? They, who have never heard the gospel, would find open, compassionate, and fearless Christians reaching out to them with the gospel.

Whatever the government policy is, the Christian can look upon the issue with less fear and less selfishness.

~ Pastor

Westminster Larger Catechism



Q. 6. What do the Scriptures make known of God?

A. The Scriptures make known what God is, the persons in the Godhead, his decrees, and the execution of his decrees.

Q. 7. What is God?

A. God is a Spirit, in and of himself infinite in being, glory, blessedness, and perfection; all-sufficient, eternal, unchangeable, incomprehensible, every where present, almighty, knowing all things, most wise, most holy, most just, most merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.

Q. 8. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 9. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There be three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one true, eternal God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory; although distinguished by their personal properties.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (13.9.15)	Next Week (20.9.15)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Raymond Woo	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Edward Lim	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Micah & Hannah Chiang
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler, Jansen Ng	LH Chua, Ian Read
Usher	Angela Yap	Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Jenni Budiman*, Hannah Chiang, Victor Poon	Peggy Woo*, Sally Tan, Julian Poon
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>18 September 2015</i>	<i>25 September 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Jansen Ng	Eugene Lim
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Nancy Lim

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: "Drawing Near to God" (Hebrews 10:19-25).
3. VBS 2015 - "Jesus: Our Prophet, Priest, and King" (5-7 Oct, 0900-1215). Registration forms are available at the foyer and <http://www.covenantbpc.org.au/ministries/vacation-bible-school/>. Deadline for registration - 20 Sep. Volunteers needed. Contact Valerie at 0422 407 338.
4. **Notice of the 6th Annual General Meeting.** Date: Sunday, 27 September 2015. Time: 4:30 pm sharp. Venue: 47 Davis Road, Attadale, WA 6156. Please collect your AGM papers from Terence Lee or Ken Chong.

Appointments for the Week			Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance	
FRI	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting and JF	<i>General Fund - \$2,907.50 (#488 - \$20.00). Missions Fund - \$330.00. Building Fund - \$1,301.00 (#290 - \$296.00, #291 - \$1,005.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,538.50. Attendance - 130.</i>	
SAT	4:30 pm	Young People's Group		
SUN	2:00 pm	Adult Bible Class		
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School		

Building Fund to Date		
Starting Fund	\$54,185.68	Building Fund Account:
Pledges Collected	\$254,095.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Non-Pledged Gifts	\$272,742.36	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
Loans Received	\$430,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Subtotal Building Fund</i>	<i>\$1,011,023.04</i>	SWIFT: WPACAU25
<i>Outstanding Pledges</i>	<i>\$37,625.00</i>	
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>\$1,048,648.04</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.