



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 16 October 2016

Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

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|--|---|
| Prelude | <i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i> |
| Call to Worship | |
| *Opening Hymn | 63 - <i>Take the Name of Jesus with You</i> |
| *Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i> | |
| Scripture Reading | Ezekiel 37:1-14 |
| Hymn | TP 87 |
| Tithes & Offering | |
| **† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer | |
| Scripture Reading | Acts 2:1-13 |
| Hymn | 161 - <i>The Comforter Has Come</i> |
| Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer | |
| Sermon | "The Spirit Comes" |
| *Closing Hymn | 160 - <i>Channels Only</i> |
| *Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i> | |
| Silent Prayer & Postlude | |
| 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 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Her Recovery Is Indeed a Miracle - We Cannot Ask for More

Nahum 1:7 - *"The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him."*

It Was Stressful for Everyone

On Sunday, 18 September 2016, at 7:00 am, we received a message from Dominic our eldest son about his wife Charis.

"Charis fell and hit her head last night. She's in ICU and under observation."

We called Dominic and he was distressed. Thank God for giving us the strength to be able to pray with him.

It was stressful for everyone. Johnson reminded the family that nothing happens by chance. Everything is for His Glory - "Man's chief end is to glorify God."

This happened on the Lord's Day and we were getting ready to go to church. Yes, we went to church but our hearts were very heavy.

Johnson was rostered to speak at Junior Worship, and I was the pianist for the main worship service.

Both Eugene and David had their own different commitments. After worship service, we stayed for the usual choir practice.

At 1.30 pm that day, Charis went into surgery. We were told that the next 48 hours would be critical.

They Were In Every Way Exhausted

Both Johnson and I flew to Singapore the next day, Monday, 19 September. God provided friends who fetched us to the airport. The plane landed at 9.35 pm.

We were reminded that not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without our Heavenly Father knowing it (Matthew 10:29). Nothing is too big or too small for God. We thank God that He's in the big and small things of our life - in fact, He's involved in all things.

By God's grace and providence, we managed to arrive at Singapore General Hospital all within less than 2 hours of arriving there.

Our arrival on Monday night was timely and very much appreciated by Charis' parents & Dominic. They were in every way exhausted. We stayed the night at the hospital.

Is She Out of Danger?

The next morning (close to the end of the 48 hour period), one thought consumed us - "Is she out of danger?"

It was then that the doctors told us she had caught an infection and was running a fever! However, thank God that the strong antibiotics prescribed worked.

On the morning of Thursday, 22 September, the doctors removed her breathing apparatus.

We were told to expect the worst. But she was able to breathe on her own! We were so thankful.

That evening itself, she became more alert. She was able to recognise people and remember things - much to the surprise of the doctors.

God Has Given Us His Best

It was her mother's birthday on Saturday, 24 September. Charis wished her, "Happy Birthday, Mum!" Imagine the immense joy it gave her mother. We were grateful and thankful to God for her progress.

Indeed, God has given us His best - *"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?"* (Romans 8:32).

We thank God for how He watched over our daughter-in-law, but also for how He took care of us in every way.

God's Comforting Presence

That Sunday, we went to Zion Serangoon Bible-Presbyterian Church. The Lord's

Day's message was very meaningful to us - it was entitled "*God's Comforting Presence.*"

The Lord's presence with us in times of challenge enables us to experience His favour and His kindness.

When there is so much uncertainty - especially when your loved one is in ICU - it is very difficult. It is easier to hear or talk about the faith - but it is not easy to walk the talk.

While we were there, Pastor kept in touch regularly. We are thankful for his love, care, and concern. We are grateful for God's provision of strength and grace.

Stronger Than We Imagined

Charis moved out of ICU to the wards on Monday, 26 September.

Since coming back to Perth, we have been able to communicate with her by phone. And thank God she is able to correspond by texting. This ability to do "simple" small things, which we often take for granted, is a gift from God.

Last week, doctors removed the bandage from Charis' head. Until the doctors replace the missing piece of skull in November, she will have a dent in her head.

Pena (the family's domestic helper of 23 years) was afraid she would be shocked to see the dent and tried to prevent her from looking into the mirror. But Charis told her she was fine and thankful to God for preserving her life. By God's grace, she is stronger than we imagined.

Continued Prayers for Her Full Recovery

Charis still feels the pain in her head and her neck. She only sleeps on one side.

But we believe with time, the pain will reduce.

Charis knows her brain cannot work as fast as before but this will improve with time. When she looks at financial figures on the TV, it takes her a longer time to process the numbers.

But her recovery is indeed a miracle - we cannot ask for more. A few days ago, she walked to ICU to give a cake to the doctors and nurses. They were shocked at the speed of her recovery.

She was discharged on Friday, 14 October. But please do continue to keep her in prayer as she will need to undergo another operation on 22 November to fix back the missing piece of skull.

Charis desires to continue to stay close to God and does appreciate your continued prayers for her full recovery.

To God be all glory, honour, and praise. He is able to do all things. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone here at Covenant B-P church for your fervent prayer.

~ Johnson and Nancy Lim

Testimony from Merrill Read

A friend was given this verse from the Lord when I was very ill:

Psalm 118:17 - "*[She] shall not die, but [she will] live, and declare the works of the LORD.*"

Praise God for healing me from bilateral pneumonia and renal failure.

~ Merrill Read



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 102. What is the sum of the four commandments which contain our duty to God?

A. The sum of the four commandments containing our duty to God, is, to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our strength, and with all our mind.

Worship Service Roster

| Service | This Week (16.10.16) | Next Week (23.10.16) |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Speaker | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Worship Leader | Mark Chen | Chris Budiman |
| Pianist | Jabez Huang | Elizabeth Huang |
| Welcomers | Jacob & Marilyn Woo | Danny & Susie Tan |
| Offering Stewards | Ken Hong*, Jacob Woo* Paul Butler, Yen Fye Yap | Ian Read*, Jansen Ng* Terence Lee, Kim Leow |
| Usher | Josephine Austin, Jerome Ng | Jemima Ng, Jesslyn Leow |
| Kitchen Duties | Sarah Siew*, Jesslyn Leow, Mary Loh | Nancy Lim*, Carmel Sriharan, Sally Tan |
| <i>Prayer Meeting</i> | <i>21 October 2016</i> | <i>28 October 2016</i> |
| Facilitator | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Pianist | Nancy Lim | 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: "The Spirit Preaches" (Acts 2:14-36).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Will-Worship" (Colossians 2:20-23).
Speaker - Jimmy Orchard.
4. Ladies' Bible Study. Saturday 22 October 2016, 7:30 pm at the residence of Grace Lee. For more information, please contact Evelyn Lee at 0403 504 186.
5. Combined Youth Camp. "Living as Christians in a Non-Christian World." 1-3 December at Serpentine Camping Centre. Speaker: Pastor Ron Nugent. Fee: \$55. For more information, see Eugene Lim or Jerome Ng.
6. Reformation Day Meeting. Wednesday, 26 October 2016, 7:00 pm. Speaker: Rev David Silversides, Pastor of Loughbrickland Reformed Presbyterian Church, and Director of the Trinitarian Bible Society (Australia).

| Appointments for the Week | Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance |
|---|--|
| WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF 7:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service | <i>General Fund</i> - \$3,320.05 (#627 - \$200.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$470.00 (#628 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$3,790.05. Attendance - 138. |

| Building Fund to Date | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Available Building Fund | \$70,915.39 |
| Outstanding Pledges | \$750.00 |
| Last Week's Collection | \$0.00 |
| Total | \$71,660.39 |
| <i>Outstanding Loan</i> | <i>- \$416,000.00</i> |
| <i>Amount Still Needed</i> | <i>\$344,339.61</i> |
| Building Fund Account: | |
| Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross) | |
| BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969 | |
| SWIFT: WPACAU2S | |

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

The Spirit Comes

Acts 2:1-13

Spiritual power is something that every church desires for. We want power - power to be holy, to grow spiritually, to pray, and to do great and mighty things. But the Scripture tells us that we already have that power.

1. The Significance of Pentecost
 - a. Fulfillment of Pentecost
 - b. Harvest
 - c. Law
2. The Significance of the Accompanying Signs
 - a. Sound
 - b. Fire
3. The Significance of that Pentecost
 - a. All OT believers were regenerated by the Spirit
 - b. Some OT believers were filled with the Spirit
 - c. All NT believers are filled with the Spirit
4. The Significance of the Preaching
 - a. They preached fearlessly
 - b. Those who will hear the gospel, will hear the gospel
 - c. Preaching was used to build the kingdom

God has promised to restore his people and to build his kingdom. The means that he will do this is by the witness and ministry of his people, whom he will empower with his Spirit to do the work. The Spirit will change us, give us power over sin and self, and empower us to be witnesses and channels of blessings.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What are some evidences that the Spirit has empowered you and is working in you? See Galatians 5:22-23 and Acts 1:8. What does it mean if you are not growing in spiritual fruit or spiritual witness?
2. Do you think that Christians frequently look for the accompanying signs of "sound" and "fire" to do the work of witnessing, instead of merely doing it? Why do we want to be jolted out of slumber to do it rather than just doing it?
3. How much do you fear that people will mock you for being a witness?