



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 20 November 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 | 40 - <i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i> |
| *Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i> | |
| Scripture Reading | Matthew 25:31-46 |
| Hymn | TP 84 |
| Tithes & Offering | |
| **† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer | |
| Scripture Reading | Acts 2:42-47 |
| Hymn | 260 - <i>Is My Name Written There</i> |
| Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer | |
| Sermon | "The Spirit-Controlled Church Eats" |
| *Closing Hymn | 186 - <i>The Church's One Foundation</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

5 Reasons Congregational Singing Is Important

I believe the Bible gives the answer to the anemic, lifeless congregational singing we find in some churches.

In Psalm 35:18, David declared: *"I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people."*

Luther said he gave the German people the Bible and the hymn book in their own tongue, *"So that God might speak directly to them in His Word, and that they might directly answer Him in their songs."* In a day when Gregorian chant was prevalent, Luther encouraged congregational singing of hymns.

Let's look at several reasons why congregational singing is so important in the life of a church that wants to glorify the Lord.

1. It Unifies the Congregation

At the dedication of the second temple as recorded in 2 Chronicles 5:13, the Bible tells us, *"The trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound."*

Even Robert Shaw, the greatest choral conductor of the twentieth century, said, *"That's the point of a choir or a congregation, doing the same thing together at the same time."*

Churches today have people coming from different backgrounds and from distractions and complications of living in the twenty-first century.

When the congregation meets, the best way to get everyone thinking together and preparing their hearts to hear the Word of God is congregational singing that is heartfelt and vibrant. It can also a way of reinforcing the gospel message to unsaved visitors.

2. It Is a Great Way to Praise the Lord

2 Chronicles 5:13 goes on to say, *"To be heard in praising and thanking the Lord."*

This is a recurring theme in the Bible. When people are right with God, they always seek to praise Him, and one of the best ways for a congregation to do this is by singing heartily together.

Jesus said, *"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh,"* (Matthew 12:34). Because Paul and Silas were right with God and doing His will, they could sing *"praises to God,"* even after they had been beaten and were in the Philippian jail (Acts 16:23-25).

Proverbs 29:6 unequivocally says, *"The righteous doth sing and rejoice."* Does not that principle seem to imply that a congregation whose hearts are right with the Lord will produce music that is characterized by heart-felt singing that glorifies their Savior?

3. It Is a Wonderful Way to Pray Together

Ephesians 5:19 tells us some of the activities that Spirit-filled Christians engage in, *"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."*

Think of the marvelous blessing that can come to a congregation as the people with one voice sing a song like *"Nearer, Still Nearer," "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart,"* or even *"The Lord's Prayer"* itself. Any good hymn book will have many songs that can unite a congregation in prayer.

4. It Solidifies and Teaches Spiritual Truth

Colossians 3:16 says, *"Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms*

and hymns and spiritual songs," and "singing with grace in your hearts," will help the "word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."

To quote Robert Shaw again, *"The basic premise of music is communication...expressible best by music or possibly even only by music."* This is also the main reason we should be certain our congregational songs are doctrinally correct.

5. It Can Aid in Revival

Psalm 85 is titled *"To the chief Musician,"* and verse 6 says, *"Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"*

A study of revivals in the Bible and great revivals of the past reveals that they have always been characterized by live, vital, and fervent congregational singing.

Henry Halley's Bible Handbook admonishes its readers: *"Under proper leadership, the hymns of a vast congregation could be made to rise like the swell of an ocean's roar, and cause angels in Heaven to lean over and listen."*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 109. What are the sins forbidden in the second commandment?

A. The sins forbidden in the second commandment are, all devising, counseling, commanding, using, and any wise approving, any religious worship not instituted by God himself; tolerating a false religion; the making any representation of God, of all, or of any of the three Persons, either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly in any kind of image or likeness of any creature whatsoever; all worshiping of it, or God in it or by it; the making of any representation of feigned deities, and all worship of them, or service belonging to them; all superstitious devices, corrupting the worship of God, adding to it, or taking from it, whether invented and taken up of ourselves, or received by tradition from others, though under the title of antiquity, custom, devotion, good intent, or any other pretense whatsoever; simony; sacrilege; all neglect, contempt, hindering, and opposing the worship and ordinances which God hath appointed.

In the book of Nehemiah, (which emphasizes the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and the national revival that accompanied it) music and singing play such a large part in the revival that it is mentioned more than twenty times.

In Nehemiah 8 we find many of the elements that are necessary for revival: the reading of the Word of God (verses 5-8), the people bowing their heads and worshipping the Lord with their faces to the ground (verse 6), the people weeping over their sin as they heard the Word of God (verse 9), and finally, the glorious result of true revival as the Lord works in hearts, *"For the joy of the Lord is your strength"* (verse 10). The singers then sang, *"Songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God"* (12:46).

Let's pray that God would revive churches today with a resurgence of congregational singing that exalts Him!

~ Dr Frank Garlock, Founder and President of Majesty Music, former professor of the Music Theory Department at Bob Jones University, and editor of the Majesty Hymnal.

Worship Service Roster

| Service | This Week (20.11.16) | Next Week (27.11.16) |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Speaker | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Worship Leader | Mark Chen | Jacob Woo |
| Pianist | Ian Tay | Edward Lim |
| Welcomers | Josephine Austin, Wendy Gong | John & Adeline Ng |
| Offering Stewards | Paul Butler*, Ken Hong* Jansen Ng, Yen Fye Yap | David Pang*, LH Chua* Vincent Chiu, Ian Read |
| Usher | Jerome Ng, August Ng | Jesslyn Leow, Jemima Ng |
| Kitchen Duties | Florence Orchard*, Victor Poon Rosemary Fitzpatrick | May Poon*, Marilyn Woo Ken Hong |
| <i>Prayer Meeting</i> | <i>25 November 2016</i> | <i>2 December 2016</i> |
| Facilitator | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Pianist | Nancy Lim | Ian Tay |

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: "The Spirit-Controlled Church Prays" (Acts 2:42-47).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Rebellious Parents and Kids" (Colossians 3.20-21). Speaker - Micah Chiang.
4. Ladies' Bible Study. Saturday 26 November 2016, 7:30 pm at the residence of Mary-Anne Chan. For more information, please contact Evelyn Lee at 0403 504 186.
5. Bible Conference 2017. Dates: 18-21 April 2017. Speaker: Dr Bob Jones III. Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort. Please register with Ken and Jackie Hong.

| 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> - \$3,603.15. <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$602.00 (#638 - \$110.00, #639 - \$100.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$505.00 (#501 - \$505.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,710.15. <i>Attendance</i> - 155. |

| Building Fund to Date | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Available Building Fund | \$79,373.93 |
| Last Week's Collection | \$505.00 |
| Total | \$79,878.93 |
| <i>Outstanding Loan</i> | <i>- \$416,000.00</i> |
| <i>Amount Still Needed</i> | <i>\$336,121.07</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-Controlled Church Eats

Acts 2:42-47

The solution of loneliness is not marriage. Jesus wasn't married and we won't be married in heaven - but neither was he nor will we be lonely. The solution is Christian community. Christians promote that community by eating.

1. They Remembered Christ as a Forgiven and Forgiving Community
 - a. The Lord's Supper
 - b. They were forgiven
 - c. They were forgiving
2. They Fed on Food as They Showed Hospitality
 - a. The love feast
 - b. Private meetings
 - c. Hospitality
 - d. Daily simple meals
3. The Result of a Full Stomach and Full Spirit on the Inner Man
 - a. Gladness
 - b. Sincerity
 - c. Praise

The Spirit-controlled church forgives and is forgiving. She eat lots and shows hospitality. She is happy in community. She is not fake. It is not good that man should be alone.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Does hospitality need to be a big event? Do we frequently make it a big event? If so, why?
2. Do you have the time to meet frequently with people in Christian fellowship? Why or why not? If why not, are your reasons legitimate?
3. Are you fake?