



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 18 December 2016

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

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	93 - <i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Romans 12:1-21
Hymn	TP 37:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 18:21-35
Hymn	376 - <i>Take Time to Be Holy</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The Healing Power of Forgiveness"
*Closing Hymn	249 - <i>Just as I Am</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

How and What A Church Sings Matters (Part I)

The Christian Is Inclined to Praise God

Singing to God doesn't come naturally to the sinner. Sinners do not want to praise God. They hate God.

But the Christian should be inclined to praise, since he has been redeemed from his sins. He desires to sing.

After all, if God has rescued us from hell, self, and from his wrath, we would want to sing to him out of gratitude.

Ephesians 5:17-20 says that when we are filled with the Spirit, we would sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, making melody to God.

Still, the Christian has to be taught to sing and also what to sing.

Singing Must Be Taught

In Isaiah's vision of Christ on the throne, he saw the angels worshiping Jesus. When God spoke to Job, he told Job that the angels were already singing praises at the dawn of creation.

At the birth of Jesus, the angels - thousands of them - were praising God for what he had done. The angels do not need to be taught to worship and sing.

However, Christians need to be taught. That is why the Bible is full of commands and examples of believers praising God.

1 Chronicles 16:9 commands us to praise God for what he has done. Psalm 98:1 commands praise for his salvation. Zephaniah 3:14 commands praise from God's people. Psalm 81:1 instructs us to sing to God with joy. Psalm 95:1 instructs us to sing loudly to God.

Colossians 3:16 instructs us to sing psalms to him. Revelation 5:12 pictures the saints in heaven singing praises to Christ in New Testament language.

1 Corinthians 14:15 commands that we are also to sing with the understanding - in other words, the head must be engaged - not just the heart.

Because of these commandments, a church must sing with joy, a church must sing loudly, a church must sing the biblical praises of God and understand what they sing.

This is how a church must sing.

What Does God Expect Us to Sing?

Knowing how we ought to sing, we turn our attention to what we are to sing.

We've already seen that the head must be engaged. Can we sing anything that we do not agree with? Absolutely not.

Can we sing anything that is not biblically sound? Of course we can't.

The Bible has revealed what we are to sing. Colossians 3 speaks of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs - these are the Greek titles of the Book of Psalms. Hence, the church is to sing psalms. They were God's inspired hymnal for his people.

This is what the church has sung down the ages. Christ sang the psalms, so did the OT saints, the early church, the reformation church, and historic Presbyterianism.

But only the psalms? No. We are to sing in explicitly New Testament language, just as the saints do in heaven.

If God's inspired hymnal was the psalms, then human composed hymns should resemble the psalms. In fact, many early hymns were imitations of the psalms in New Testament language.

Singing Should Be Didactic

Biblical scholar Gordon Fee says, "Show me a church's songs, and I'll show you their theology." If that's true, then we

should be horrified at the sorts of songs many churches use.

The songs we sing must inform, enrich, and build up our faith. If they do not do this, then they are not worth singing.

Bad worship leads to bad theology. Bad theology leads to a weakened church. If we are what we sing, then we should sing songs rich in doctrine.

If that's the case, it is vital to sing perfect theology in the psalms because they are theologically perfect.

It is also important to sing the wealth of uninspired hymnody that has *endured*.

The Importance of a Hymnal

Because it is important to sing good theology, a good hymnal is important.

Hymnals are a theological textbook. While there aren't any perfect hymnals around, well-crafted ones become reliable sources of theological information.

The Christian world is inundated with theologically inferior hymns. In fact, many hymns are Pelagian in their theology.

A good hymnal weeds out the theologically spurious, edits the doctrinally dubious, and adds in the scripturally sound hymns.

A good hymnal is also a source of continuity. While much of the Christian world sings choruses which are en

vogue this year and not the next year, good hymnals make songs less disposable.

While it's not hard to dispose of a song - yet a printed song is more permanent than a text on a screen. Hymnals are symbols of consistency. And much of what are in hymnals have stood the test of time and theological scrutiny.

The presence of a good hymnal glosses over less appropriate hymns. There are some popular but horrible new songs.

Hymnals also confront us with "new" songs. We tend to go back to our old favorite songs too often. But a good hymnal has hymns that aren't popular.

It's not that these hymns have issues, but congregations often need to be stretched to sing them - and song leaders need to choose them; as it's from these less familiar hymns that we find new and great sources of encouragement.

And a good hymnal gives validity to new hymns. Hymnals introduce us to newer songs. They have been edited and incorporated.

Not everything new is bad. Similarly, not everything old is good. But the fact that these new songs are sung along side of the old sound hymns give them validity.

Does it matter to God how and what we sing? Absolutely. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 114. What reasons are annexed to the third commandment?

A. The reasons annexed to the third commandment, in these words, "The Lord thy God," and "For the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain," are, because he is the Lord and our God, therefore his name is not to be profaned, or any way abused by us; especially because he will be so far from acquitting and sparing the transgressors of this commandment, as that he will not suffer them to escape his righteous judgment, albeit many such escape the censures and punishments of men.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (18.12.16)	Next Week (25.12.16)
Speaker	Glen Lock	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Ken Chong	Mark Chen
Pianist	Merilyn Woo	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Ian Read*, David Lim* Vincent Chiu, Chris Budiman	Ken Hong*, Ken Chong* Steven Lim, Paul Butler
Usher	Jesslyn Leow	Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Peggy Woo*, Lisa Lim Sarah Siew	Helen Wong*, Grace Wang Jenni Budiman
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>23 December 2016</i>	<i>30 December 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Prayer Meeting in Recess
Pianist	Mark Chen	

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: "Christ Came for Sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). The gospel will be preached. Please invite your family and friends.
3. Junior Worship is in recess until 15 January 2017. Parents, please prepare your children to worship in the main service.
4. Adult Sunday School. Next week's study will be on "Determining the Birthday of Jesus from the Bible."
5. Christmas Potluck Lunch. Sunday, 25 December 2016. Please contact Merilyn Woo at 0411 219 250 to inform her of what you will contribute.
6. Watch Night Service. Saturday, 31 December 2015, 7:45 pm. Please come prepared to give your testimony in word and song.
7. 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
<p>FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p><i>General Fund</i> - \$4,032.15 (#646 - \$200.00, #647 - \$1,160.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$220.00. <i>Building Fund</i> - \$105.00 (#504 - \$105.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,357.15 <i>Attendance</i> - 138.</p>

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$79,988.93
Last Week's Collection	\$105.00
Total	\$80,093.93
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$416,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$335,906.07</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.