



C O V E N A N T

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 25 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	99 - <i>Angels, from the Realms of Glory</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Romans 5:1-11
Hymn	TP 22:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology & Offertory Prayer</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Timothy 1:15
Hymn	101 - <i>Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Christ Came to Save Sinners"
*Closing Hymn	84 - <i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</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

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How and What A Church Sings Matters (Part II)

In last week's bulletin, we saw the importance of singing to God and what God expects us to sing should matter to us.

It is clear that the Bible instructs us to sing the psalms. We may have many sentimental or subjective reasons against singing the psalms but Scripture is undeniably clear we must. Historical Christianity has been obedient to that.

But it is important to sing the hymns composed by uninspired men. And we can't sing just any hymns. That is why a good hymnal is important.

Why Isn't Singing the Psalms Enough?

If the Psalms were good enough for Christ, his apostles, David and the OT saints, why aren't they enough for us?

It is because they do not speak explicitly of Christ. While the gospel can be found in the OT (Gen 3:15), it is clearer in the NT (John 3:16).

We not only need the OT, but we need the NT. Hence, we not only need the psalms, we need songs in NT language.

Christian praise cannot be confined to language of less light and privilege.

Biblical Hymns Were Born in Heaven

Songs that were not Psalms were already sung in heaven, long before the first human hymns were written.

Revelation 5:9 records the praise of the 24 elders. They sang a new song in words which were not the Psalms.

If it is right to sing such new songs in heaven, how can it be wrong to sing them on earth?

Hymns in the Early Church

Thomas Manton was a Presbyterian theologian who wrote the preface to the Westminster Confession of Faith.

In writing to defend hymnody, he said, "*I confess we do not forbid other songs, if grave and pious, after good advice they may be received into the Church.*

Tertullian, in his Apology, sheweth that in the primitive times they used this liberty, either to sing scripture psalms or such as were of private composure."

Many of these early hymns were paraphrases of scripture.

Pliny the Younger recorded that benedictions, prayers, and doxologies (particularly Rom 11:33-36, and those in Rev 4 and 5) were sung in the early church.

One of the oldest Christian hymns was the "Gloria" which was modeled after the angels' song in at Jesus' birth.

Hymn singing was promoted by Ambrose of Milan (AD 340-397). This led to the proliferation of various Latin and Saxon hymns. This lasted for centuries until singing was somehow restricted to the Roman Catholic priesthood.

Hymns in the Reformation Church

During the Reformation, the people were allowed to sing once again. Martin Luther versified the psalms and composed hymns based on the psalms.

Calvin himself published a songbook in 1539. It contained the psalms and versifications of Simeon's Song, the 10 commandments, and the Apostles' Creed. Even one hymn found in his songbook - "I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art" - is attributed to Calvin.

English Hymnody

Although German Lutherans had been singing hymns for over a hundred years, Calvinists had not. This was particularly true for the English churches.

The first modern English hymn was introduced in 1673 by Benjamin Keach, a Particular Baptist. This practice caused much controversy in England as most sang only the Psalms.

Hymn singing was also proliferated by Isaac Watts. Many of his hymns were paraphrases of the psalms in New Testament language.

More hymn-writers followed during the 18th century, but none more prominent than Charles Wesley.

How They Wrote Their Hymns

The hymn-writers of this age were mindful to compose their hymns following certain standards:

The hymns were psalm-like. They reflected the example and method of the psalms. The topics found in the psalms were also found in these hymns.

The hymns were also edifying - that is, like the psalms, the hymns taught the Word.

They had the capacity to throw light on scriptural truth to encourage a spiritual response. Since hymns were sung to God, and God is an intelligent God, these hymns were chock full of doctrine.

The hymns were also doctrinally clear. Just as the psalms were clear on certain truths (no one can miss the meaning of the imprecatory psalms), these hymns were clear on the truths it taught.

If a hymn is so unclear that it can be universally accepted, it misses the point.

The hymns were a balance of objectivity and subjectivity. Objective hymns sing about God, his person, his truth, his way

with us, and even sing to God. Subjective hymns sing about us, our moods, our feelings, our aspirations, our response.

Often many modern hymns are very subjective - that's why they are so popular. Who doesn't love singing sentimental songs?

But it takes work to sing and understand the songs of old! They are very objective. But make no mistake, they also deal with dark emotions many modern hymns seek to avoid.

As time passes, certain things may change. The style may change - whether it is presented as prose or as poetry. Even the style of versification and rhyme may change.

And as time passes, even the musical genre may change. We don't expect hymns to be sung only to the tunes of time past.

And this is historical - many of the hymns we sing today have many tunes associated with them, from different times and regions.

But one thing that should never change in hymns are the content, the subject, and the gravity. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 115. Which is the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment is, Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

Q. 116. What is required in the fourth commandment?

A. The fourth commandment requireth of all men the sanctifying or keeping holy to God such set times as he hath appointed in his Word, expressly one whole day in seven; which was the seventh from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, and the first day of the week ever since, and so to continue to the end of the world; which is the Christian Sabbath, and in the New Testament called The Lord's Day.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (25.12.16)	Next Week (1.1.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Jacob & Merilyn Woo	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Ken Hong*, Ken Chong* Steven Lim, Paul Butler	Chris Budiman*, David Pang* Micah Chiang, David Lim
Usher	Josephine Austin	Merilyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Helen Wong*, Grace Wang Jenni Budiman	Nancy Lim*, Val Withnell Jesslyn Leow, Florence Orchard
Prayer Meeting	30 December 2016	6 January 2017
Facilitator	Prayer Meeting in Recess	Mark Chen
Pianist		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. We will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship lunch.
3. Next week's message: "Opposition Is Bound to Happen" (Acts 4:1-12).
4. Junior Worship is in recess until 15 January 2017. Parents, please prepare your children to worship in the main service.
5. Watch Night Service. Saturday, 31 December 2015, 7:45 pm. Please come prepared to give your testimony in word and song.
6. 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
SAT	7:45 pm	Watch Night Service
SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$80,093.93	Building Fund Account:
Last Week's Collection	\$105.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$80,198.93	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
Outstanding Loan	-\$416,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
Amount Still Needed	\$335,801.07	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.



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Message Forecast for January - March 2017*

"What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Lord's Day Worship Service:

JAN	Title and Text	Speaker
1**	Imprisonment Was Bound to Happen (Acts 4:1-12)	MC
8	TBA	P Chng
15	TBA	J Gibbon
22	Their Mouths Were Stopped (Acts 4:13-31)	MC
29	Early Church Unity (Acts 4:32-47)	MC
FEB		
5**	The Fiery Holiness of God (Acts 5:1-11)	MC
12	The Power of God through Man (Acts 5:12-16)	MC
19	Obey God Rather than Man (Acts 5:17-33)	MC
26	If It Be of God, Ye Cannot Overthrow It (Acts 5:33-42)	MC
MAR		
5**	How Deacons Intensify Gospel Work (Acts 6:1-7)	MC
12	Putting His Life on the Line (Acts 6:8-7:1)	MC
19	The God of Glory (Acts 7:2-8)	MC
26	But God (Acts 7:9-16)	MC

* Subject to change

** Lord's Supper

Adult Bible Class:

"Westminster Confession of Faith" (cont.)

Christ Came to Save Sinners

1 Timothy 1:15

At Christmas time, children all around the world are told one particular lie - that they would be rewarded for being good. We can't expect children to be good. They can't be good! Neither are we. But because of Christ, we can be sanctified and made good. Christ came to take away our sins. We cannot be good without him.

1. There Is a Savior
 - a. He was chosen for this work
 - b. His motivation is love
2. He Came to Save
 - a. He came to give eternal life
 - b. He came to give victorious life
3. He Came to Save Sinners
 - a. He came to save all sorts of sinners
 - b. He came to save even the worst of sinners
4. It Is True He Will Save You If You Believe
 - a. It is a faithful saying
 - b. One day we will be perfect

The glorious promise is that Christ will save us - he will perfect us. Victory takes hard work - it cost Christ his life; and it will cost us our life.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How sinful are you? Do you see yourself as the chief of sinners?
2. How often do you find yourself despising others? Why is this contrary to the spirit of Christ and to your forgiveness? How often do you find yourself in despair? Why is this contrary to the victory you have been given?
3. What areas of your life do you need to surrender in order to have the victory that Christ gives?