



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 4 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	68 - <i>O Day of Rest and Gladness</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Peter 1:1-12
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	67 - <i>How Can It Be?</i>
Hymn	TP 126:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 3:1-11
Hymn	326 - <i>More About Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"From Lame to Upright"
*Closing Hymn	381 - <i>Is Your All on the Altar?</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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## Are You Too Busy to Love Christ?

### We Are Busy

We live in a time where many things compete for our attention. There's work, school, house work, and home work.

We have our work issues - office politics? We have family issues - that rebellious son. We have health issues - cancer? We have financial struggles - we have pay off that mortgage. It's a wonder how we can focus on spiritual things.

Friends, have you ever thought about your love for Christ, especially during these busy times? How are you growing in Christ? Are you loving him more? Are you victorious? Or are you just busy?

### Our Redeemed Lives Must Be Abundant

It is not enough to survive - we must thrive. Jesus didn't come to give us eternal life only, he came to give abundant lives now.

John 10:10 says, *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

Some think that it's impossible to experience this abundant spiritual life when we're so busy. But it's not impossible.

There have been people in the past who have been so overwhelmed that they suffered greatly.

Have you experienced that before - many things call for your attention till you're at breaking point?

### Abundance in the Midst of Trials

Peter wrote to Christians like that. They lived in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia - and they had manifold temptations (1 Peter 1:6).

They were going through *manifold* trials; literally "multi-colored." As many colors as there are, so were the trials of these Christians.

Like us, they had their work and health issues, their deadlines and duties. But unlike us, they experienced extreme persecution for their faith. They were in great distress because of it. We may have it bad, they had it far, far worse.

But one thing we know. Despite their trouble, they were able to rejoice.

1 Peter 1:8 - *"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see [him] not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."*

They focused on Christ. They loved Christ. They believed in Christ. They rejoiced with an unspeakable joy.

### Those Who Sought Christ in Busyness

Dear Christian, are you so busy that you are joyless and in a sorry state? Have you strived to love Christ?

Now, this great love for Christ was not limited to them. When Christ was born, there were 4 groups of people who sought after him - people who were busy in life and from every social stratum.

Firstly, the shepherds sought Christ. When the angels appeared unto them, we learn that they were firstly afraid, but after the good news had been delivered unto them, they ran with haste to where Jesus was. And after they had seen Christ, they proclaimed him to all.

The shepherds were poor, and with poverty comes a host of problems as well. But yet in their poverty and their suffering, they proclaimed the Savior in whom they had found hope.

Secondly, the wise men also sought Christ. When they came to Judah, they said they were searching for the King of the Jews.

And when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy;

falling down and worshiping Christ when they found him.

The wise men were rich, bringing along with them extravagant gifts. They had traveled many miles from the east, driven by affection and love for the Savior, just to see him and worship him.

Thirdly, we have the example of Simeon who waited a long time to see Christ, and who when seeing Christ, exclaimed in Luke 2, *"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people."*

We are told that Simeon was old and he had waited a long time. But in his frailty, he held Jesus tenderly in his arms and praised God.

He was one who had lived life and was indubitably tired, yearning for his eternal rest.

Fourthly, we have the example of Anna the Prophetess, who when she saw Christ, instantly gave thanks to God, and spoke about God's redemption to all those around.

She was a widow and at the age of 84, had been serving God faithfully and tirelessly ever since her husband died. She was a very busy person.

In these four groups of people, the shepherds, the wise men, Simeon, and

Anna; you see the poor, the rich, the old, and the hardworking.

They had all experienced the trials of life, but upon hearing of and seeing Christ, great love and joy were expressed. They loved Christ.

Do We Love Christ or Are We Just Busy?

And that really behooves us to ask the question – "What is our love for the Lord like?" Do we love him? Or are we just busy with our lives?

To let the busyness of the world draw us away from Christ is very wrong - it is ingratitude.

Let us remember that our redemption was not achieved cheaply – our lives weren't purchased with cheap silver or useless gold, but our salvation was accomplished by the precious blood of Christ.

Christ shed his blood that we may experience a Gospel-infused life of unspeakable joy, of knowledge that surpasses understanding, and of fierce affection; experiencing all the abundance and victory that Christ promises.

Are we too busy to pursue that? At the very least, we owe Christ that. Take the time this season, in your busyness in travel and leisure, to stir your heart for Christ yet again. ~ *Pastor*



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 111. Which is the third commandment?

A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Q. 112. What is required in the third commandment?

A. The third commandment requires, that the name of God, his titles, attributes, ordinances, the word, sacraments, prayer, oaths, vows, lots, his works, and whatsoever else there is whereby he makes himself known, be holily and reverently used in thought, meditation, word, and writing; by an holy profession, and answerable conversation, to the glory of God, and the good of ourselves, and others.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (4.12.16)	Next Week (11.12.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	John MacRae
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	Jansen & Eva Ng	Jacob & Marilyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Rex Sriharan*, Yen Fye Yap* David Pang, Terence Lee	Micah Chiang*, Kim Leow* LH Chua, John Tan
Usher	August Ng, Wendy Gong	Eva Ng, Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu*, Mary-Anne Chan Julian Poon	Adeline Ng*, Eileen Tay Vincent Chiu
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>9 December 2016</i>	<i>16 December 2016</i>
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	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. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Messenger for next Lord's Day is Dr John MacRae. Pastor MacRae is a minister at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Maida Vale. He will speak on "The Lord Is with You" (Luke 1:26-37).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Our Attitude to Work" (Colossians 3:22-4:1). Speaker - John Tan.
5. Junior Worship is in recess from 18 December 2016 to 15 January 2017. Parents, please prepare your children to worship in the main service.
6. Adult Sunday School is in recess on 11 and 18 December 2016. 25 December 2016's study will be on "Determining the Birthday of Jesus from the Bible."
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
WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	<i>General Fund - \$2,748.50. Missions Fund - \$5,150.00 (#643 - \$5,000.00). Building Fund - \$5.00 (#503 - \$5.00). Total Tithes &amp; Offering - \$7,903.50.                      Attendance - 140.</i>

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$79,983.93
Last Week's Collection	\$5.00
Total	\$79,988.93
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$416,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$336,011.07</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.

## From Lame to Upright

Acts 3:1-10

We are saved by Christ alone - we confess we can't save ourselves. There's surrender. But when it comes to our lives, careers, children, studies, relationships - we conveniently forget surrender to the gospel. Christ embodied the gospel - he humbled himself to die on the cross, that we might be saved.

1. The Lame Man Trusted in Himself
  - a. His pitiful condition
  - b. His man-centered solution
  - c. His faulty mindset
2. The Grace of Christ upon the Lame
  - a. The grace was unexpected
  - b. It was Christ who healed
  - c. The response to grace
  - d. The response to him

How do we embody the gospel in our lives? Can others tell that we, who were once lame, have been made upright?

### Questions for Reflection:

1. Why are we not surrendered in all areas of our lives, when we are so willing to surrender to Christ in the area of salvation?
2. The lame man was a resourceful person, but he had a faulty mindset - in that he saw his bodily needs as being more important than his spiritual needs. In what ways are we like this man?
3. Can others around us tell that we, who were once lame, have been made upright?