



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 31 January 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	13 - <i>Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Lamentations 3:22-42
Hymn	TP 107:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Jonah 1:1-17
Hymn	262 - <i>Trusting Jesus</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The Prodigal Prophet"
*Closing Hymn	233 - <i>Depth of Mercy</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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## **Time Is Short, Our Children's Lives Are Unpredictable**

Last week, I wrote that time is short and Steven gave his written testimony of his near encounter with death.

In 1 Corinthians 7:29, Paul says, "But this I say, brethren, the time is short." Psalm 89:47 says "Remember how short my time is." Psalm 39:5 says "Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth."

### *Very Sad and Sudden News*

This week, we heard that one of the boys living in Mingalar Children's Home, the orphanage we support in Myanmar, had gone home to be with the Lord.

He had died from brain cancer.

This was very sad for those of us who had gone recently. A few of us wept at his passing.

Emanuel was in year 7 at school. He came from a village far from Yangon. His mother, either because she was unable or unwilling to care for him, had sent him to the orphanage.

On Wednesday morning, Emanuel went to school to take his exams. He had finished one paper, and was taking a second when he had severe headaches.

He vomited blood and was taken to the hospital around noon. A CT scan showed a 7 centimeter tumor on his left brain. The doctors decided to perform surgery on him and scheduled it for the next day.

One of the orphanage workers, Tebawihi, stayed with him at night; but at 1 am, early Thursday morning, Myanmar time, he passed away.

The doctors were shocked, as no one expected him to die so soon.

The church is much saddened, the orphanage children are much saddened. I can't imagine how devastated his friends are - they parted for school in

the morning, and never had the chance to say goodbye.

Pastor Kima and his wife Mawite, brought Emanuel's body back to his village and to his mother, to be buried. The journey takes a day and night. What a pastor he is!

We were told by Ma Biaki, one of the Sunday School teachers, that he was a godly young boy. And that he was a good boy in the Sunday School. He feared God and had fruit in his outward life.

Now that the friends in Myanmar have social media, they have set it ablaze with their sorrow. But yet, they do not grieve as those who have no hope, because Emanuel is with his savior.

### *Our Children's Lives Are Unpredictable*

Our time on earth is short and unpredictable. It is the same for our children. Who can tell when they will die? Some of our children may even predecease us.

Knowing how short and unpredictable their lives are, it should cause us to think about their pursuits, their repentance, and their love for God.

Firstly, but not in order of priority, they must pursue their calling. As we must pursue ours, theirs is to be children.

If they are to study, they must pursue their studies with all their might, according to their talents from God.

Some of our children are very intelligent and they will do exceptionally well in their studies.

Some of our children are not as intelligent but they will do exceptionally well according to their abilities.

If they are to play sports or music or other pursuits, they are to do so with all their might.

Our Lord grew in wisdom and stature. Our children must as well.

Secondly, they must pursue the Lord Jesus Christ and his church. The chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.

Jesus Christ is the most important pursuit. His salvation and his Lordship are paramount. We seek him through his Word, through prayer, through worship. We learn to lean on him.

He is not a crutch for our lives, but he is the reason for our lives. There is no life without Christ.

In the words of Johannes Tauler, the 14th century Dominican monk:

As the bridegroom to his chosen,  
As the king unto his realm,  
As keep unto the castle,  
As the pilot to the helm,  
So, Lord, art Thou to me.  
As the sunshine in the heavens,  
As the image in the glass,  
As the fruits upon the fig tree,  
As the dew upon the grass,  
So, Lord, art Thou to me.

And it goes without saying, that if we love Jesus, we would love his body, which is his church. And we would want our children to love the church and his people.

Thirdly, they must be ready to meet God at any time. Our children grow up in church.

We believe that they are children of the covenant. They have the privilege of calling God, Father, not so for the heathen; their prayers are heard by

God, not so for unbelievers; they have the privilege of hearing the gospel, not so for all unbelievers; they are special in the eyes of God, not everyone is.

And yet, they have to trust in Jesus. They have to exercise faith in Christ and come to him for salvation.

And given the unpredictability of life and the fact that our children may predecease us, they are robbed of salvation and a preparedness to meet their maker, when they are not urged to pursue Christ, and when they have no appetite for the things of Christ and his people.

They may have brain cancer. They may die tomorrow. Emanuel had no symptoms. It was acute. It was fast. And so it may be for your child.

#### *Stirring Up an Appetite for God*

May we stir up an appetite in our children for their studies and for their other pursuits. But let us stir up an appetite in them for spiritual things and for the church.

In the coming weeks, there will be a change in the church's ministry to children. We desire to give them a solid hour of Sunday School for all ages, to teach them to worship God, and to encourage them to have fellowship with one another.

We pray that you would consider these as important means to stirring up the appetite of your children for God, and for God's people.

~ Pastor



### **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 39. Why was it requisite that the Mediator should be man?

A. It was requisite that the Mediator should be man, that he might advance our nature, perform obedience to the law, suffer and make intercession for us in our nature, have a fellow-feeling of our infirmities; that we might receive the adoption of sons, and have comfort and access with boldness unto the throne of grace.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (31.1.16)	Next Week (7.2.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Cheryl Nannup	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	David Pang*, Vincent Chiu*, Micah Chiang, Ken Hong	David Lim*, Jansen Ng*, Yen Fye Yap, Rex Sriharan
Usher	Marilyn Woo	Joyce Ng, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Sandy Chua*, Eva Chiu, Jemima Ng	August Ng*, Lydia Orchard, Julian Poon, Grace Wang
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>5 February 2016</i>	<i>12 February 2016</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	David Pang	LH Chua
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Evelyn Lee

## 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 Defiance of Man" (Jonah 1:1-3).
3. We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship lunch. Reminder - first time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
4. Sunday School teachers for the month of February are Sandy Chua, Eileen Tay, Stephanie Lim, Jenni Budiman, Aliza Chiu, Lisa Lim; Evelyn Lee, Carmel Sriharan, Dorcas Pang; Chris Budiman; Christine Butler; David Ong; and Jacob & Marilyn Woo. Singspiration Leader: Ian Tay, Pianist: Jacob Woo.
5. Bible Conference. Speaker: Mathews Abraham. Theme: What Would Jesus Say About Your Church? Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort, Busselton.
6. Friday, 5 February 2016, 7:45 pm. Myanmar Mission Trip Presentation.
7. Sunday, 14 February 2016, after church. Discussion for JF and TF parents.
8. Membership Covenant in March. Those wishing to be baptized, transfer their membership, or reaffirm their faith, please approach an elder.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>FRI 7:45 pm Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Adult Bible Class</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship &amp; Sunday School</p>	<p><i>General Fund</i> - \$3,397.65 (#526 - \$140.00).  <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$480.00 (#527 - \$100.00).  <i>Building Fund</i> - \$205.00 (#331 - \$100.00, #332 - \$105.00). <i>Total Tithes &amp; Offering</i> - \$4,082.65.                      Attendance - 155.</p>

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$58,185.47
Outstanding Pledges	\$22,700.00
Last Week's Collection	\$605.00
Total	\$81,490.47
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$348,509.53
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. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

## The Prodigal Prophet

Jonah 1:1-4, 12, 17, 2:1, 10, 3:3-5, 10, 4:1, 5-9

Jonah never wanted to preach to the Ninevites because he hated them. He ran from God, but God brought him back to preach. When the Ninevites repented, Jonah became angry. He was prodigal (excessive) in his dissatisfaction and anger.

1. Dissatisfaction Results When We Reject God's Sovereignty.
  - a. Jonah was bigoted
  - b. Jonah was angry because he rejected God's sovereignty
  - c. Jonah was angry because God didn't act in a manner that met his approval
  - d. Calamities and good things come from God
2. The Sovereign God's Heart for the Lost and the Hypocrisy of Christians.
  - a. Jonah is divided into 2 parts.
  - b. Jonah defies God, was shown mercy, and rejoiced
  - c. The Ninevites defied God, were shown mercy, and Jonah was angry
  - d. God saved sovereignly despite man's hypocrisy
3. Jonah Reveals Christ.
  - a. Prefigures Christ
  - b. Came from Galilee
  - c. Reveals Christ by his failure

Jonah tells of the greatest missionary endeavor in the Old Testament, by a God who loves the world, but a prophet who didn't. Jesus is the greater Jonah.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. How prodigal are you in your dissatisfaction with God? How can you tell?
2. Are there those to whom you will not share the gospel? Why?
3. In what way are we and Jonah alike in our failures and our dissatisfaction?