



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 27 March 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	135 - <i>The Day of Resurrection</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Acts 2:22-39
Hymn	TP 16:8-11
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Jonah 4:1-11
Hymn	132 - <i>He Lives</i>
Membership Covenant	
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	The Prodigal God
*Closing Hymn	475 - <i>Redeemed</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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Contact: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## The Importance of Christian Fellowship Among Our Young People

In the bulletin article of 14 February, I had stressed the importance of Christian fellowship.

I made the following points:

Christians who are serious about spiritual growth are serious about the Body of Christ.

And Christian growth is always pictured as a community pursuit.

Christians need one another (1 Cor 12:21).

Christians need one another's gifts (1 Cor 12:7,14).

As such, if we need one another and the gifts of one another to grow as Christians, we must meet together often (Hebrews 10:24-25).

This serves to encourage one another toward good works. If we fail to have fellowship when we assemble, we miss out on spiritual growth.

Christian fellowship grows the church. You see this in the early church (Acts 2:42,44,46-47).

Christian fellowship pleases God (1 Cor 12:18).

Therefore we should cultivate friendship and fellowship in Christ by meeting together frequently.

### *The Need of Our Young People to Meet*

If Christian fellowship is important for all Christians, it is especially needful for our young people to meet with other Christians.

It is important because the voices of the world are calling out to them. The teenage years are a time of huge change, and many decisions and pressures are faced during these years.

Establishing our teens in the Word and also in meeting one another and loving the church are means of helping them grow in Christ.

According to many scholars and experts on the life of Christ, somewhere around half of His original disciples were teenagers when He began His discipling ministry to them. His was the original "youth group."

The Apostle Paul gives us a good picture of this kind of effective discipleship ministry in 2 Timothy 2:2, when he told Timothy to entrust what he had learned to other men who would teach others.

### *Family Fellowship*

But we must never forget that the Bible makes it very clear that fellowship begins at home.

Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Philip had 4 daughters and they served the Lord together.

In Deuteronomy 12, Moses commanded the parents to bring whole families to come and worship and sacrifice.

It is important for parents to disciple their children personally.

### *Intergenerational Fellowship*

Additionally, the Bible encourages spiritual maturity that is gained from observing more mature Christians.

Fellowship must be inter- or trans-generational. Titus 2:1-6 speak about an interaction between the older men and women with the younger men and women.

It takes a village to raise a kid - Sunday School, ladies' group, men's

group, fellowship groups where older people teach the younger.

Such means of fellowship must occur in the church, whether formally structured that way, or informally.

How well do we know each other? How well do we know each other's kids? How well do we know each other's parents?

The older women need to teach the young ladies modesty; and young ladies can teach the older women all about modern fashion.

The older men need to teach the young men about financial stability and sobriety; and the young men can teach the older men all about computer gaming.

#### *Peer Fellowship and Discipleship*

The Bible speaks of the importance of friendship. David and Jonathan had a close friendship where they encouraged one another in the Lord.

Colossians 3:16 instructs us to teach one another in all wisdom. Our young people need to know how to encourage one another in the Lord. This can only be done if they interact with one another *in the Lord*.

#### *Junior and Teens Fellowship*

Given the need for such fellowship, our Junior and Teens fellowships will move to Saturdays. This gives time for interaction.

And it also gives the opportunity to parents and other adults to interact with the young people.

It is a place where parents can also encourage one another as they themselves navigate through the dicey teenage years of their children.

It is a place where parents can also be involved in teaching their own children and other children.

It is a place where trans-generational fellowship can occur.

The Junior Fellowship will be learning the Life of Christ, taught by parents and the young adults.

The Teens Fellowship will focus on grounding the teens in doctrine - there will be doctrinal messages on the existence of God and the reliability of the Bible.

But there will also be practical messages and workshops - on issues of communication, gossip, modesty, friendship, etc.

We do pray that parents would be happy to bring their children, and other adults would be happy to come and help out. This is a worthwhile pursuit.

May the Lord increase our fellowship with one another, and may the hearts of our young people be gripped by the love of God, as they fellowship at home with their parents and at church with their peers and other generations.

~ Pastor



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 54. How is Christ exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God?

A. Christ is exalted in his sitting at the right hand of God, in that as God-man he is advanced to the highest favor with God the Father, with all fulness of joy, glory, and power over all things in heaven and earth; and does gather and defend his church, and subdue their enemies; furnisheth his ministers and people with gifts and graces, and maketh intercession for them.

# Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (27.3.16)</i>	<i>Next Week (3.4.16)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Ken Chong	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Ken Hong*, David Lim*, David Ong, Chris Budiman	John E Tan*, Ian Read*, Vincent Chiu, Yen Fye Yap
Usher	Eva Chiu, Josephine Austin	Joyce Ng, Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	Carmel Sriharan*, Nancy Lim Lisa Lim	Sandy Chua*, Jenni Budiman Jackie Hong, Val Withnell, Eva Chiu
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>1 April 2016</i>	<i>8 April 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jerome Ng

## 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: "Boldness in Christ" (Philippians 1:1-11).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "A Man of Contrasts" (Judges 16:23-31). Speaker - Marilyn Woo.
5. Retirees' Bible Study on Tuesday 29 March 2016 at 10 am at church. Topic: "The Bible's Perspective on Refugees." For more information, please contact Yen Fye Yap at 0419 915 874.
6. Junior Fellowship and Teens Fellowship will shift to Saturdays at 4:30 pm from this week onwards. All children and teens are welcome.

<b>Appointments for the Week</b>	<b>Last Lord's Day Tithes &amp; Offering, &amp; Attendance</b>
TUE 10:00 am Retirees' Bible Study	<i>General Fund</i> - \$3,932.30 (#546 - \$14.00, #547 - \$578.00, #548 - \$210.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$440.00. <i>Building Fund</i> - \$1,700.00 (#351 - \$200.00, #352 - \$1,500.00). <i>Total Tithes &amp; Offering</i> - \$6,072.30. Attendance - 159.
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	
FRI 7:45 am CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship	

<b>Building Fund to Date</b>		
Available Building Fund	\$71,565.60	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$14,284.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$1,700.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$87,549.60	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$342,450.40</i>	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 God Jonah 4:1-11

The Jews did not like the Gentiles. Jonah hated them and would not show mercy to them. The Jews in Jesus' time also hated the Gentiles and hated him because he loved them.

1. Jonah's Crazy and Ugly Anger
  - a. Crazy anger
    - i. He was very angry
    - ii. What and who was he angry with?
  - b. Ugly anger
    - i. Manipulative tantrum
    - ii. Accusation against God
    - iii. Hypocrisy
2. God's Prodigal Mercy
  - a. Remedial mercy
  - b. Instructional mercy

Jesus came to earth to show mercy to the Gentiles - to all sinners. When he resurrected, he commissioned his disciples to preach to all the world.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. How have we, as Christians, thrown manipulative tantrums?
2. Do we show mercy on others when we do not urge them to repentance? How do we deceive ourselves to believe that we are being merciful to them?
3. How bold are we to reach out to those who are different from we are? Why does showing mercy require boldness?