



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 10 April 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	38 - <i>Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Luke 6:17-36
Hymn	TP 27:1-5
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 1:12-26
Hymn	39 - <i>This Is My Father's World</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Living Tenaciously for Christ"
*Closing Hymn	438 - <i>Footsteps of 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

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

When We Encounter Sudden Loss or Calamity

We don't go through life expecting calamity. We may be going through a most peaceful patch in life; but calamity strikes! The Sea of Galilee and the terrible storms that pop up illustrate this truth.

The Sea of Galilee is a beautiful lake in the north of Israel. It is surrounded by hills and is well-known for its beauty. But it was also known for its dangers.

The sea was 209 meters below sea level. The cool air descending from the hills would mix with the warm air from the Mediterranean. These produced great storms.

This is where Jesus had the bulk of his ministry. Most of his miracles took place here. And this is where he taught.

He would often use the sea itself as an illustration in his teachings. This was especially true one day.

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus took a break from the crowds after he had taught. He took a boat out to the Sea of Galilee with his disciples where he promptly fell asleep.

Suddenly there was a great storm. As mentioned, this was not unusual.

The disciples were terrified. They thought they would die. The storm didn't bother Jesus.

But he did wake up and respond to the despair of his students. He rebuked the winds and they ceased. His disciples were amazed.

The lessons from this short account can be applied to ourselves, especially when we are confronted with the sudden loss, such as the loss of a loved one, or any calamity.

Sudden Calamity Comes to the Christian

Jesus was in the boat with his disciples. But this didn't mean that calamity, or

despair wouldn't come on them. They did. There was a great storm.

A person may love the Lord; but this does not mean he is protected from life's troubles.

We are never guaranteed riches, health, or a successful legacy. This is the lie of the prosperity gospel heresy.

Many of the men and women of Scripture experienced times of despair. Joseph was thrown into prison. Job lost everything. Jeremiah was dropped into a septic tank. Paul had a life-long thorn in his side.

All the original disciples except one were martyred for their faith. Even John, who was not martyred, was exiled for his faith.

Jesus never promised a life without calamity or loss - he did promise that he would be with us (Matthew 28:20). Dealing with calamity is tough enough, imagine dealing with it without Jesus.

Christ Works in His Own Time

Christ was asleep in the vessel. The disciples were in disarray when calamity struck. He didn't seem to respond to their cries at first.

Sudden loss comes. Sudden calamity comes. We can't stop them. Why do they happen, we wonder. But we have no answer from God.

Some things in life are never explained. God may seem to be silent. We may never be told why.

Helmut Thielicke, an evangelical German theologian, once said, "sometimes God's silence is God's highest thought."

Perhaps like his disciples, we too wonder why God doesn't act. He will act in his own time. We will one day know the reason for all things (1 John 3:2).

We Can Respond with Faith Instead of Fear and Dismay.

In times of calamity or loss, we can respond with faith rather than fear or dismay.

When the disciples encountered calamity, they feared. Jesus heard their cries of help. He rebuked the winds and the waves. And he asked his disciples a sharp question - "Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"

There are 3 words used in the Greek New Testament for "fear." The word that is used here is *deilos* and it is always used in a bad sense - timidity. Jesus rebuked them for being timid instead of having faith in him.

In the midst of calamity and sudden death, do we lose our faith? Remember that "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

When calamities come, Jesus is looking for us to look to him. We can respond in faith and patience. We may not understand, but in our grief, we can still have faith.

Assurances for Us

So we know, when we go through calamities or sudden loss, Jesus hears us. On the boat, he who didn't hear the winds and the waves, heard his disciples' cries!

Isaiah 59:1 says, "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot

save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear."

Also, calamities turn our attention to Christ. When the disciples were in dismay, they turned to Jesus and asked - "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" They took the trouble to seek him out. They went to the back of the boat to look for him.

And we learn that calamities only last for a time. The storms in the Sea of Galilee start suddenly and end quickly. Jesus calmed the storm. It didn't last forever.

Calamities Remind Us that Christ Is in Control

The disciples were overwhelmed. But when Christ calmed the storm, they were filled with a new fear. It was not the timidity they once had, but this fear was *phobos* - a deep reverential awe.

They had seen Christ, with only a rebuke, calm the winds and waves. They were reminded that he was in charge.

Whatever calamity or sudden loss we are experiencing, it too shall pass. Jesus is in control of all things.

While we may not have the answer from him, while he may not resolve all things now, yet he is in control of things.

Are you experiencing dismay because of some calamity or sudden loss? Jesus is in that boat with you. It too shall pass.

With Christ in the vessel, we can smile at the storm. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 56. How is Christ to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world?

A. Christ is to be exalted in his coming again to judge the world, in that he, who was unjustly judged and condemned by wicked men, shall come again at the last day in great power, and in the full manifestation of his own glory, and of his Father's, with all his holy angels, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, to judge the world in righteousness.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (10.4.16)	Next Week (17.4.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Terence Lee	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Elizabeth Huang
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Josephine Austin & Cheryl Nannup
Offering Stewards	Steven Lim*, Ken Chong*, David Pang, Kim Leow	Paul Butler*, David Ong* Rex Sriharan, David Lim
Usher	Jesslyn Leow, Jerome Ng	Eva Chiu, Merilyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Jemima Ng*, Sally Tan Cheryl Nannup, Victor Poon	August Ng*, Lydia Orchard Grace Wang
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>15 April 2016</i>	<i>22 April 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	No Prayer Meeting
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. Next week's message: "Unity in Christ" (Philippians 1:27-2:11).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Troubled Relationships" (Genesis 16:1-16). Speaker - LH Chua.
4. Church Anniversary Catered Lunch on Sunday 24 April 2016. Offerings to defray the cost are welcomed.
5. Young People's Group is on recess this month.
6. Ladies' Bible Study is postponed until 30 April 2016.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
FRI 7:45 am CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<i>General Fund - \$3,689.95. Missions Fund - \$410.00. Building Fund - \$410.00 (#355 - \$110.00, #356 - \$100.00, #357 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,509.95. Attendance - 154.</i>

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$73,365.60	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$13,774.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$410.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$87,549.60	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$430,000.00</i>	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.

Living Tenaciously for Christ

Philippians 1:12-26

It's easy to live for Christ when everything's going your way - when you get what you want. But when tragedy or adversities hinder our pursuits, how do we respond? Will we be bitter or will we live for Christ in this life?

1. Understand that Adversities Are God's Sovereign Means for the Furtherance of the Gospel
 - a. Paul's attitude to adversity
 - b. Paul's situation
 - c. The Gospel went forth
2. Rejoice that God is Working in Others
 - a. God was blessing others
 - b. Paul's gratefulness
3. Be Completely Surrendered to Christ
 - a. Paul was surrendered
 - b. Paul was willing to live or die

Questions for Reflection:

1. We often forget that the Christian life here on earth is by necessity a battle. Certainly Paul knew that reality, yet he also knew the battle was worth the cost. Do you agree that life is a battle? How much do we fight to win? Why might we give in so easily?
2. The world does not know how to be happy in the midst of trial and adversity. To them, happiness is understood to be a result of mood, possessions, or place - but not a confidence that rests completely on Jesus. How can Christians have more of that happiness?
3. It is natural to be jealous of other people's accomplishments. How can a Christian learn to rejoice in other people's accomplishments even if he has adversity and failures in his own life?