



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 3 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	61 - <i>O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 34:1-22
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	TP 68:1-6, 9-12, 18-19
Hymn	477 - <i>At Calvary</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Philippians 1:1-11
Hymn	299 - <i>Day By Day</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"A Hopeful Confidence in Christ for the Church"
*Closing Hymn	296 - <i>All the Way My Savior Leads Me</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

God Put the Wiggle in Our Children. And That's Okay.

It's been a month since we've split the Sunday School from the Worship hour. We've also introduced the Junior Worship.

After the praise part of the worship, some of our school-going children (year 1 to year 6) leave to another room to listen to an expository message.

How has it been so far?

No doubt, some of the kids have struggled to understand everything, especially the younger ones.

That is okay. We don't always understand everything immediately. The Bible speaks of learning in stages.

Isaiah 28:9-10 says, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

Those that are weaned - even little children - can learn. They may not understand everything; but they'll get there. They are being trained.

And what about these little kids in the worship service? It is the same. They are being trained.

Children Have Been Worshiping with Adults for Millennia

We see in Scripture, the presumption that children were present in the meeting of the church, where the worship was conducted and the Word preached.

In Nehemiah's time, men and women and all those who could hear with understanding gathered to hear Ezra the scribe read the Law (Nehemiah 8:1-3, Ezra 10:1).

At the reading of the Law, Moses certainly anticipated the literal 'children' of Israel to be present (Deuteronomy 31:12-13).

There were even nursing babies in the se assemblies. A solemn assembly was

called in Joel 2:15-16, where the people were gathered - the elders, the children, and even the nursing children.

Paul's letters, intended to be read to the churches, assume the intelligent presence of children (Ephesians 6.1-4; Colossians 3.20), and children were present when the Lord Jesus taught (Matthew 18.1-5; 19.13-15).

In the meeting of the early church, a young boy was present - Eutychus. And the meeting went so late and so long, that he fell asleep and fell out the window!

Worship Services Are Not Hurt By Children's Noises

If children were in the public meetings of the Old and New Testament churches, what were the meetings like?

There was noise! Children in all ages, of all ages, are not the most quiet. They fidget! God put the wiggle in our children! And that's okay.

The children of the past had no special ability to be more quiet than the children of today.

We must remember that God is not hurt by children's noises. And therefore, we should not be hurt by them.

And therefore, parents should not be ashamed that their children make noise during the worship service.

We remember that the children's noises in the worship service do not determine the reverence of the worship. Worship is in spirit and in truth.

We ought to remember however, that the way we welcome children into the service affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Practical Tips for Parents

While the children are by nature fidgety, wiggly, and emit noises, it is important to train them. This also goes for the children in the junior worship. We would

ask the parents to train their children to sit and listen.

Here are some practical ways:

1. Teach them that worship is giving to God praise, honor, prayer, thanksgiving and our ears. They should be taught that worship is work and requires participation. You can teach them how to say "Amen", how to sing the Gloria Patri and Doxology.
2. If they can read, they should sing from the hymnal and read from the Bible. You must do these things well before your children will do them at all.
3. Teach them to sing with gusto. Worship is not hurt by bad singing. Worship is weakened by the refusal to sing.
4. Give your children some rules - for example - they need to learn quietness, and if they need to talk to you, that they should whisper.
5. In training them to worship, and to learn quietness, you may need to help them to settle into worship (drink water or go pee before the service).
6. If they need to be taken out for a short while to be spoken to or to be disciplined, do so - we even have a cry room behind the pulpit. But bring them back when they have settled down.
7. Don't be impatient with them. Remember also that taking them out without discipline or instruction will not work long term. Remember, this too will pass.
8. Do not be concerned about what others may think when you find it necessary to leave the service because of a distressed child. And don't be overly anxious in shushing every little noise. Most pastors and mature believers delight in knowing that proper biblical instruction and training is taking place.
9. Don't be too anxious if they don't get it right. They may hold the hymnal upside down or say "Amen" at the wrong place. They are learning how to worship!
10. Encourage them to listen to the message. They won't understand everything. Help them to take down sermon notes. If they can't, then ask them to draw what they hear. You may want to bring Bible coloring books for the very young.
11. You can practice these things at home when you have your family worship. Teach them to listen when the Bible is read and to sing praises.
12. When you return home, discuss the message with your children. This goes also for those whose children are in the Junior Worship.
13. Remember to delight in worship yourself. Find pleasure in the fact that you are training your children to worship. It's a journey. But children can feel the difference between duty and delight. You can't impart what you don't possess.

May the Lord help us all in welcoming the children to worship and to encourage the parents as they train their children.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 55. How doth Christ make intercession?

A. Christ maketh intercession, by his appearing in our nature continually before the Father in heaven, in the merit of his obedience and sacrifice on earth, declaring his will to have it applied to all believers; answering all accusations against them, and procuring for them quiet of conscience, notwithstanding daily failings, access with boldness to the throne of grace, and acceptance of their persons and services.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (3.4.16)	Next Week (10.4.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Terence Lee
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Ian & Merrill Read	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	John E Tan*, Ian Read*, Vincent Chiu, Yen Fye Yap	Steven Lim*, Ken Chong*, David Pang, Kim Leow
Usher	Joyce Ng, Angela Yap	Jaclyn Leow, Jerome Ng
Kitchen Duties	Sandy Chua*, Jenni Budiman Jackie Hong, Val Withnell, Eva Chiu	Jemima Ng*, Sally Tan Cheryl Nannup, Victor Poon
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>8 April 2016</i>	<i>15 April 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	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 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. Next week's message: "Life in Christ" (Philippians 1:12-26)
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "A Poisonous Disposition" (Esther 1:10-12; 3:1-6). Speaker - Chris Budiman.
5. Church Anniversary Catered Lunch on Sunday 24 April 2016. Offerings to defray the cost are welcomed.
6. Men's Bible Study is in recess this month.

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</i> - \$3,353.10 (#549 - \$400.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$568.45 (#550 - \$188.45). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$100.00 (#354 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,021.55. <i>Attendance</i> - 156.

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$73,265.60
Outstanding Pledges	\$14,184.00
Last Week's Collection	\$100.00
Total	\$87,549.60
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$342,450.40
Building Fund Account:	
Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)	
BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969	
SWIFT: WPCA02S	

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.

A Hopeful Confidence in Christ for the Church
Philippians 1:1-11

What would you say about our church? There's the response of the bitter cynic, the dissatisfied innovator, the image oriented consultant, the strategic organizer, the placid happy church goer, and the hopeful realist.

1. We Must Be a Christ Established Church
 - a. Comprised of believers
 - b. Comprised of different people
 - c. Biblically governed church
2. We Must Be a Gospel Centered Church
 - a. They partnered with the gospel
 - i. They supported missions
 - ii. They were changed by the gospel
 - b. They suffered for the gospel
3. We Must Be a Hopeful Church
 - a. We must be hopeful because Christ is at work
 - b. We will increase in fruit
 - c. We will be patient

John Newton - "I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am."

Questions for Reflection:

1. What fears keep you from proclaiming Christ as you should? How can you overcome them?
2. Do you agree we look to machinery more than to the power of God in us? Why is this so?
3. Are you frustrated with the lack of spiritual growth in others? What does that impatience tell you about your spiritual growth?