



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 12 June 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	23 - <i>Come, We That Love the Lord</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 42:1-13
Hymn	TP 9:7-14
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	John 16:1-11
Hymn	162 - <i>Fill Me Now</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The Primary Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the World"
*Closing Hymn	224 - <i>I Know Whom I Have Believed</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

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Influence in the Church

The church of Jesus Christ is not man's playground. It's not a place to gain influence. Unfortunately, people try.

Office bearers can throw their weight around and maneuver things for their benefit. Church members, by cleverly crafted words, can seek to sway a decision.

But in Christ's kingdom - the church, - influence and greatness is achieved by a completely different and radical means - servanthood.

In Mark 9, the disciples were vying with each other over who would be greatest. That the disciples who had witnessed the servanthood of Christ could still argue about this shows that rivalry can exist in the church.

An Unholy Spirit Exists Among God's People

The disciples had been arguing who would be the greatest in the kingdom. They were always arguing on this point.

Before Jesus uttered these words to them, he had taken John, James, and Peter to the Mount of Transfiguration. There, they saw Jesus in his glory, speaking to Moses and Elijah. They were feeling pretty good.

The rest of the disciples were down below. They had failed to heal a demon possessed boy. The Pharisees and scribes were mocking them. They were feeling pretty low.

So when they disciples were reunited and traveling together, they were arguing about who among them would be the greatest.

Why would they argue about this? Here we use some sanctified imagination.

The three disciples who were with Jesus were probably filled with joy. When asked about their joy, the three could not answer because they had been

forbidden by Christ. "Wow, that was a great experience! But we can't tell you!"

Peter could've reminded them that at Caesarea, he declared Christ to be the son of God. Andrew could've reminded Peter that if he had not introduced him to Jesus, Peter wouldn't have been a disciple. John and James may have said that they were Jesus' first disciples. And Judas may have asserted his position as treasurer.

It was inconceivable that they would be arguing like this when Jesus had just shown his glory.

But we do the same. We desire to have more influence than another. That's the spirit of Diotrefes. In 3 John, it was revealed that Diotrefes loved to have the preeminence - he wanted control, he wanted to have influence.

Cultivate a Servant Spirit

In response to this, Jesus sat down and told them to cultivate a servant spirit. *"If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all."*

When a rabbi sat down to teach, he was assuming a place of authority. They knew they needed to listen to him.

His teaching was a paradox - the way to be influential was through service. The word "servant" is literally the word "deacon" - those who waited tables.

True greatness is through humble service. That's counterintuitive. Man thinks that position entitles them to greatness; but those who serve are great.

Jesus illustrated this spirit by taking a young child on his knees and instructing them that those who served a child in his name, they would be serving Jesus and God.

Why did Jesus use this child as a prop? It was to be a very visual lesson to

them. Children were at the bottom of the social ladder. They were to be seen and not heard.

Children also could not do anything that would further the cause of an adult. A child could not enhance an adult's position in society.

People would jump at the chance to be the servant of a king - like Nehemiah or Joseph - but who would want to be a servant to a child?

Far too often, we only serve those who can serve us back. Jesus wanted his disciples to know what kind of spirit they needed.

And Jesus was always serving people. He served people that could not give him anything. He helped the daughter of Jairus. He healed the woman with the issue of blood. He healed the demon possessed man of the Gadarenes.

He forgave the thief on the cross. Even Judas who would betray him, Jesus served him bread. Even Peter who denied him, Jesus served him breakfast. That is greatness. Worthy is the lamb that was slain.

The Importance of a Generous Spirit in Church

When John heard what Jesus said, he brought up an incident that had occurred earlier.

There was a man casting out demons in Jesus' name, but he was not part of the twelve. So they rebuked him and prohibited him from doing so.

It could be that he wasn't doing it like they were. Or they felt that they were the ones who were allowed to do it, not him.

Jesus' response was not only very generous but it revealed their petty spirit. Jesus said, *"Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. For he that is not against us is on our part."*

The man was not against Christ. Though he was not part of the twelve, he was better than they. While they were arguing about greatness, he was demonstrating greatness by serving.

"For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."

We all need a generous spirit in church. People don't have to do things the same way we do things. Leave them alone - they are doing it for Christ. God uses people who do things differently.

What kind of spirit do you have? If you want to be a godly influence, there must be a servant spirit and a generous spirit.

A church is always judged by the kind of people it produces - if a ministry produces worldly people who strive and contend with one another - it's a worldly ministry. But if it produces godly people, it is a tool used by God. What would Jesus say about your church? ~ Pastor

Morning devotion preached at Bible Conference 2016.



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 73. How doth faith justify a sinner in the sight of God?

A. Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which do always accompany it, or of good works that are the fruits of it, nor as if the grace of faith, or any act thereof, were imputed to him for his justification; but only as it is an instrument by which he receiveth and applieth Christ and his righteousness.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (12.6.16)	Next Week (19.6.16)
Speaker	Keith Morris	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Merilyn Woo	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Jansen Ng & Eva Chiu
Offering Stewards	Ian Read*, Vincent Chiu* Jansen Ng, Kim Leow	David Lim*, Chris Budiman* Micah Chiang, John E Tan
Usher	Jesslyn Leow, Josephine Austin	Jerome Ng, August Ng
Kitchen Duties	Sally Tan*, Jenni Budiman Sandy Chua	Jackie Hong*, Eva Chiu Victor Poon
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>17 June 2016</i>	<i>24 June 2016</i>
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Nancy Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "The Method of Discipleship" (Philippians 4:9).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Haughty Husband, Willful Wife" (Esther 1.1-22). Speaker - Johnson Lim.
4. Young People's Group. Saturday, 18 June 2016, 4:30 pm, at the residence Eva Chiu. Topic: "The Bible and Cultural Practices." Speaker: Benjamin Szumskyj. For more information please contact Jansen Ng at 0411 394 815.
5. Creation Ministries International. Evidence for design abounds. Even some ardent atheists acknowledge this, but they deny the need for a Designer, attributing it to 'evolution.' Modern science reveals design that 'shouts out' that God created, as the Bible says. Dr Don Batten will present some of this faith-affirming evidence that will astound you in *Creation: A Key to the Gospel* at 7.30 pm on Friday 29 July 2016 at Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church. Please keep the date free.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group THU 9:30 am Attadale Friendship Group FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm YPG SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<i>General Fund</i> - \$4,560.40 (#573 - \$10000, #574 - \$20.00, #576 - \$381.80). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$610.00 (#575 - \$100.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$1,755.00 (#374 - \$955.00, #375 - \$500.00, #376 - \$200.00, #377 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$6,925.40. <i>Attendance</i> - 175.

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$79,840.47
Outstanding Pledges	\$6,110.00
Last Week's Collection	\$1,755.00
Total	\$87,705.47
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$430,000.00
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	\$342,294.53
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.