



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 5 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	TP 103:1-13
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Luke 9:23-36
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	392 - <i>O Jesus I Have Promised</i>
Hymn	395 - <i>Only One Life</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Timothy 2:2
Hymn	163 - <i>Open My Eyes, That I May See</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The People of Discipleship"
*Closing Hymn	TP 78:1-8
*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

Power in the Church

We often think that a church would be more effective and stronger in its ministries if she was richer; with a greater profile and visibility. But we forget that effectiveness is God-given.

Christ, who was poor and abandoned by many disciples, was the most effective in his ministry.

Thomas Aquinas once visited Pope Innocent II. The pope had a large sum of money in front of him. The pope said smugly - "the church is no longer in that age when she had to say, "Silver and gold have I none." Aquinas observed - "Alas, neither can she any longer say to the lame - "rise up and walk.""

The measure of success for a church is not its size, wealth, or attendance; but whether it has the power of God.

We Are Powerless Without Faith

When Jesus took his 3 disciples up to the Mount of Transfiguration, the other 9 disciples stayed below.

These 9 had been accosted by the Pharisees. They were ridiculed by the crowd. They had failed in ministry.

One of the scribes brought his demon possessed son to be healed by the disciples. But the disciples could not cast it out (Mark 9:18). Because they could not, the scribes questioned them.

When Jesus heard about it, he replied - "*O faithless generation! how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.*"

Jesus was addressing everyone, but especially his disciples, who had seen his power first hand, but didn't have faith. The scribes didn't have faith. The crowd didn't have faith. But the disciples should have had faith!

The demon possessed boy was in a very sad state. He would have violent fits, foam at the mouth, clench his teeth and become rigid.

But sadder still was the powerlessness of the disciples. They had seen miracles, performed miracles, but now they could not.

Churches today have money; they have people; they have activities. But do we have faith?

Christ's Power Is Manifested in Faith

Where the disciples failed, Christ was able. After he heard the father's story, he commanded that the boy be brought to him.

Jesus questioned the father how long the boy had been like this. The father told Jesus that the boy had been like this since little. The demon had attacked the boy and it tried to kill him.

Because the disciples were unable to heal the boy, the father doubted Jesus. Our lack of faith brings shame to Christ.

Because the disciples lacked faith, they lacked power; and so they had tarnished Jesus' reputation. The father assumed Christ lacked power. When we are without faith, Jesus' reputation suffers.

Jesus then told the father - "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." This was a powerful lesson for the man and for the disciples. If you have faith, all things are possible.

The father then said - "*Lord I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*" I believe in you! But my faith is weak, help my faith! Jesus commanded the spirit to leave the boy and it did.

Jesus can work in the absence of faith. His power is not limited. But Jesus often demonstrates his power when we demonstrate faith.

Hence, weak faith is better than no faith. The father doubted - but there was a mustard grain worth of faith. Doubts are not as bad as unbelief. Unbelief often cuts us off from God's power.

Matthew 17:20, "And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you."

God's Power Is Harnessed By Prayer

When the episode was over, the 9 disciples who had failed to cast out the demon asked Jesus why they failed.

Jesus told them that this kind of demon could not come out except by prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29). The disciples hadn't prayed. They failed because they lacked prayer. If they believed and had faith, they would have come to God in prayer.

Their efforts of casting out the demon showed self-sufficiency. Their faith was not in God, but in the method. Their faith was in themselves.

These men failed because they were not leaning on the Lord Jesus Christ for the power they needed.

In Acts 19, Sceva and his 7 sons were trying to cast out a demon in Jesus'

name. They had the name right, they had the formula right, but they had no power from God. The demons over came them.

We are nobodies without faith and prayer. We cannot accomplish anything without them. While Jesus does not need our faith and prayers - but he works through these means.

AC Dixon said, "*When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely upon education, we get what education can do; when we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. And so on. But when we rely upon prayer, we get what God can do.*"

Where does our power come from? Jesus - by our faith and prayer. How much power do we have in our church in ministry? What is the value that we place on the prayer meeting of the church? What would Jesus say about your church? ~ Pastor

Morning devotion preached at Bible Conference 2016.



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 71. How is justification an act of God's free grace?

A. Although Christ, by his obedience and death, did make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in the behalf of them that are justified; yet in as much as God accepteth the satisfaction from a surety, which he might have demanded of them, and did provide this surety, his own only Son, imputing his righteousness to them, and requiring nothing of them for their justification but faith, which also is his gift, their justification is to them of free grace.

Q. 72. What is justifying faith?

A. Justifying faith is a saving grace, wrought in the heart of a sinner by the Spirit and Word of God, whereby he, being convinced of his sin and misery, and of the disability in himself and all other creatures to recover him out of his lost condition, not only assenteth to the truth of the promise of the gospel, but receiveth and resteth upon Christ and his righteousness, therein held forth, for pardon of sin, and for the accepting and accounting of his person righteous in the sight of God for salvation.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (5.6.16)	Next Week (12.6.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Keith Morris
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Valerie Ong	Marilyn Woo
Welcomers	John & Adeline Ng	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Yen Fye Yap*, Steven Lim* Jacob Woo, Rex Sriharan	Ian Read*, Vincent Chiu* Jansen Ng, Kim Leow
Usher	Jemima Ng, Angela Yap	Jesslyn Leow, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Helen Wong*, Nancy Lim Chris Budiman, Jemima Ng	Sally Tan*, Jenni Budiman Sandy Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>10 June 2016</i>	<i>17 June 2016</i>
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Ian Tay

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 messenger is Keith Morris. Keith is a retired minister, who formerly pastored St Columba's Presbyterian Church in Peppermint Grove.
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "He Didn't Fulfill His Vow" (2 Kings 20:1-21; Isaiah 38:9-22). Speaker - Evelyn Lee.
5. Adult Bible Class will be on recess next Sunday.
6. Pastor will be overseas from 10-17 June for ministry. Those requiring pastoral care can contact our elder, Jimmy Orchard, at 0413 274 407.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	<i>General Fund - \$3,425.10. Missions Fund - \$430.00 (#572 - \$150.00). Building Fund - \$120.00 (#373 - \$120.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,075.10. Attendance - 152.</i>
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship	

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$79,720.47
Outstanding Pledges	\$7,865.00
Last Week's Collection	\$120.00
Total	\$87,705.47
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$430,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$342,294.53</i>
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 People of Discipleship

2 Timothy 2:2

A disciple of Jesus follows Jesus. But how does God take sinful men, and transform them to be holy? By teaching them. By using disciples to teach other disciples.

1. Who Were Chosen to Be Disciples?
 - a. Paul
 - b. The Disciples
2. Teachers and Students
 - a. Parents and Children
 - b. Church Officers and Church Members
 - c. Older to Younger, Younger to Older
 - d. Peers to Peers
3. Process of Discipleship
 - a. Life-long
 - b. Right Sequence and Priority

We will not always make it, but God is working in us to produce maturity. While the requirements of discipleship are rigorous, Christ is gentle and gracious in that life long process of discipleship.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What sorts of relationships exist in your church? Do you have the freedom to minister to others and do you give freedom to others to minister to you? What are some things that hinder a freer mutual ministry?
2. The world tends to look for those who are skilled and academically qualified to be teachers. What is right or wrong about this attitude, and what harm can it potentially lead to?
3. What is hard about letting the younger "disciple" the older? Do you think younger ones dare to do this? Is there a cultural element that may need to be set aside?