



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 3 July 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	58 - <i>Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 8:1-17
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	222 - <i>There Is a Fountain</i>
Hymn	308 - <i>Higher Ground</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Nehemiah 1:1-3
Hymn	TP 84:1-3,10-11
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Why Nehemiah?"
*Closing Hymn	188 - <i>I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord!</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

Praying for the Government

The Bible clearly calls Christians to honor, obey, and pray for those in authority over us, such as the government (Jeremiah 29:7, Romans 13, 1 Pet. 2:13-17, Titus 3:1).

Why? It is because God has ordained government.

WCF XXIII:1 - *"God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates, to be, under Him, over the people, for His own glory, and the public good: and, to this end, hath armed them with the power of the sword, for the defense and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil doers."*

The civil magistrate is for public good. The government is invested with power to run a nation, to defend it, to reward good citizens, and to punish criminals.

Because it has been invested with such power and duty, it is important for Christian peoples to pray for their government (and should the option be available, to choose a suitable government to do this).

WCF XXIII:4 - *"It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute or other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience' sake."*

It is not always easy to pray for the government. This is because the government may not always be honorable.

The government may be corrupt. And the government may be of a different religion.

But these are the very reasons why we ought to pray for the government. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 says, *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all,*

supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

We ought to pray for them so that they would not be corrupt, that they would be honorable; even if they be of a different religion.

This is so that Christians might receive the benefit of such a government - that they may be able to live a life of quiet and peace.

Paul wrote 1 Timothy on the heels of the Nerodian persecution. Nero was a wicked ruler. He did not let Christians lead a quiet and peaceable life.

But the Christians were to pray for it. And they were also to submit themselves to it.

Even if the civil magistrate was wicked, Christians were to subject themselves to it as long as obedience did not cause them to compromise their faith.

Peter urged his readers to submit to the king though they are at that time being oppressed by the Roman government (cf. 1 Pet 2:13-20).

Although it's not always easy to do, God's people have been doing it for a long, long time!

One ancient example is found in 1 Clement, a letter written to Christians in Rome somewhere between 80 and 100 AD.

Here's the excerpt of a prayer for civil government, found in 1 Clement 60:4-61:3:

"[O God] Give unity and peace both to us and to all that dwell upon the earth, as thou gavest to our fathers when

they called upon thee with faith and truth, so that we should become obedient to thy all-powerful and most excellent name, and to those who rule and govern us upon the earth.

"Thou, Lord, hast given the authority of the kingdom to them through thy almighty and unspeakable power, so that we, knowing the estimation and honour given to them by thee, might submit ourselves to them, in no way opposing thy will; to whom give, O Lord, health, peace, concord, stability, so that they may discharge the rule given unto them by thee without offence;

"For thou, heavenly Lord, everlasting King, givest to the sons of men glory and honour and authority over the things that are upon the earth. Do thou, Lord, direct their counsel according to what is good and pleasing before thee, that, fulfilling with peace and meekness and piety the authority given unto them by thee, they may obtain mercy from thee.

"Thou who alone art able to do these and greater good things among us, to thee do we give thanks through the high priest and protector of our souls, Jesus Christ, through whom to thee be the glory and majesty, now and to all generations, world without end. Amen."

This nation has gone to the polls. Whatever the outcome, the duty of the Christian is to pray for the government.

We pray that God would give the nation a government that would promote good, punish evil, give preference to the Christian church, and give liberty to Christians to worship God and practice their faith according to the Word and conscience.

And we pray for a government that would allow the Christian to fulfill his duty with ease in submitting to the government in things agreeable to the Word of God.

May the Lord be gracious to this nation and to her churches. ~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 78. Whence ariseth the imperfection of sanctification in believers?

A. The imperfection of sanctification in believers ariseth from the remnants of sin abiding in every part of them, and the perpetual lustings of the flesh against the spirit; whereby they are often foiled with temptations, and fall into many sins, are hindered in all their spiritual services, and their best works are imperfect and defiled in the sight of God.

Q. 79. May not true believers, by reason of their imperfections, and the many temptations and sins they are overtaken with, fall away from the state of grace?

A. True believers, by reason of the unchangeable love of God, and his decree and covenant to give them perseverance, their inseparable union with Christ, his continual intercession for them, and the Spirit and seed of God abiding in them, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (3.7.16)	Next Week (10.7.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Elizabeth Huang	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Jacob & Marilyn Woo	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Ken Chong*, Rex Sriharan* John E Tan, Ian Read	Kim Leow*, Jacob Woo* Steven Lim, Vincent Chiu
Usher	Eva Chiu, Angela Yap	Merilyn Woo, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	May Poon*, Merilyn Woo Rosemary Fitzpatrick, Ken Hong	Adeline Ng*, Cheryl Nannup Vincent Chiu
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>8 July 2016</i>	<i>15 July 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: "Why Nehemiah?" (Nehemiah 1:1-3).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "When a Proud Man Picks a Fight With a Vindictive Man (Esther 3.1-6). Speaker - Eugene Lim.
5. Men's Bible Study. 7:30 pm, Saturday 9 July 2016 at the residence of Ken Hong. For more information, please contact Vincent Chiu at 0417 929 149.
6. Creation Ministries International. Have you wondered why your witnessing falls flat and people fail to respond? Many comment that science has disproved the Bible and therefore it is not relevant to today's modern world. But what's the answer? Can the majority of scientists really be wrong? Dr Don Batten will speak on *Creation: A Key to the Gospel* at 7.30pm 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	<i>General Fund</i> - \$3,642.70 (#582 - \$70.00). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$410.00. <i>Building Fund</i> - \$105.00 (#380 - \$105.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,157.70. <i>Attendance</i> - 162.
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
7:30 pm Men's Bible Study	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$67,810.47	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$5,790.00	
Last Week's Collection	\$105.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total	\$73,705.47	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	- \$416,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$342,294.53</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.

Why Nehemiah?
Nehemiah 1:1-3

Lessons for the church are not limited to the New Testament. They also come from the Old Testament teachings about the kingdom of Israel.

1. Introduction - the Old Testament Church
 - a. The church in the wilderness
 - b. The multitude of people
 - c. The witness of the OT church
2. The Sovereignty of God Concerning the Church
 - a. History of Israel
 - b. God used the pagans to purify, re-establish, preserve, strengthen
3. The Anguish and Burden We Have for the Church
 - a. The state of God's people
 - b. Anguish and pray
 - c. The consequences of sin

Building and re-building of a church is always difficult. Without prayer, without anguish, the walls remain down. How do you anguish?

Questions:

1. Why might a worshiper in a church not anguish or mourn or pray for his church?
2. How can you be comforted by knowing God's sovereignty concerning every stage the church is in? Can one be comforted and not do anything? Does comfort lead to action or inaction?