



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 12 November 2017

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	243 - <i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Mark 8:22-38
Hymn	TP 27:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 16:25-40
Hymn	488 - <i>Take the Name of Jesus with You</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Appealing to God and Man"
*Closing Hymn	522 - <i>'Tis So Sweet to Trust in 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

If You Knew that God Would Take You Soon...

Dear Covenanters,

Last Lord's Day, I shared about Min's close friend who would soon meet the Lord.

If you, like her, knew that God would take you in two months, what would your highest spiritual priorities be?

Those months would be a challenge - they would be a new responsibility. Life would not be the same. Not only would there be a time limit, but there would be responsibilities to fulfill.

As I have thought about it - for myself - I believe I would need to focus on 3 things.

Firstly, I think I would need to have my faith strengthened.

When Moses died, God gave Joshua the added responsibility of leading the nation of Israel. How would he cope? The nation was over 2 million strong!

But God supplied him with these words - *"As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee"* (Joshua 1:5).

Whatever the experience ahead, all Joshua needed to know was that God would not forsake him. He needed to have faith in that.

It's not hard to think that Joshua had it easy. He was the last survivor of the first generation of Israelites who came out of Egypt.

He had seen God work in the plagues and the Red Sea; he had seen the provision of quail, and water from the rock; he had witnessed the dazzling displays of God.

But then I remember that his peers from that generation all perished because of unbelief even though they witnessed the very same miracles!

So it's no surprise that Joshua needed that kind of reassurance from God. If his

faith was weak, mine must be weaker. And just like Joshua, I need my faith to be strengthened.

But the promise of God was reassuring - God would be with Joshua in both life and death. *"As I was with Moses"* - in death; *"so I will be with thee"* - in life.

What is required of me then, is to hold on to my faith tenaciously - that Jesus has saved a wretch like me and nothing can separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

I would need to assure myself of my standing with Christ - to remember that *"He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

God helping me, I can be courageous to dismiss all doubts that seek to turn me aside.

But if I am slack in exercising my faith now, it would be a lot harder in those 2 months to strengthen my faith.

Secondly, I think I would need to look forward to heaven.

Life on earth can be sweet. I think about my families, friends, and future, and I would lament that I have so little time.

This is why I must labor - not to tick off my bucket list - but to yearn for rest in heaven. Heaven is better than earth.

Philippians 3:21 says, *"...The Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."*

What I have now is a vile body - physically, mentally, and emotionally. It is sinful, dysfunctional, & troublesome.

I think about all the trouble I have caused to people, all the mental anguish I have, all the sinfulness in me - I am vile.

Yes, I may not be as vile as I once was, and if the Lord carries and if I live, I will be less vile - but until I get to heaven, I am only a sinner saved by grace.

When I die, not only will I be freed from myself, but the folks on earth will also be delivered from me.

Yes, to some - like family - to abide in the flesh is more needful (Philippians 1:24), but imagine the probable anguish I would save them from by my departure.

Heaven is a wonderful place. And I will be delivered from myself and perfected, leaving behind my sins and sinfulness.

God would be gracious if he were to take any of us home. What glory that would be, to see Jesus face to face, to be in his presence, perfect and without blemish.

As the hymn writer says:

Then we shall be where we would be;
Then we shall be what we should be;
Things which are not now, nor could be,
Then shall be our own.

But it would be a lot harder for me to yearn for heaven in those 2 months, if I don't yearn for heaven now.

While life is sweet on earth, life is far better in heaven. I must believe that.

Thirdly, I would need to put away regret. David said at the end of his life - *"Although my house be not so with God; yet He hath made with me an*

everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and sure" (2 Samuel 23:5).

David had many regrets - and so do I. We all do. But despite these things, the Lord has greatly blessed us. And our standing before him is not based on our performance (but on Christ's performance).

Nobody knows our regrets better than we do. But we do well to name them as we prepare for death.

There will be those which are like scars - they have no pain, but they leave their marks. We can't do much about them, but they never healed well. But there are those which still hurt - because they are fresh - or we have kept them fresh.

Those that I can't do anything about, I need to hand them over to the Lord - acknowledging my failures, but knowing that he permitted them. And those that I can rectify, I must and I should.

For how can I meet my Savior without putting right a wrong? While I am in right standing with him, have I pleased him?

And why should I wait until I'm at death's door to do this?

We are journeying to see King Jesus and we will soon be there.

Perhaps it's good for us to think about what we should do as if the Lord will take us back in 2 months.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 177. Wherein do the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ?

A. The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper differ, in that Baptism is to be administered but once, with water, to be a sign and seal of our regeneration and ingrafting into Christ, and that even to infants; whereas the Lord's Supper is to be administered often, in the elements of bread and wine, to represent and exhibit Christ as spiritual nourishment to the soul, and to confirm our continuance and growth in him, and that only to such as are of years and ability to examine themselves.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (12.11.17)	Next Week (19.11.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Ken Chong	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Wendy Gong & Putri Harapan	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Micah Chiang*, Vincent Chiu* Rex Sriharan, David Lim	David Pang*, Paul Butler* John Tan, Johnny Orchard
Ushers	Joyce Ng, Jesslyn Leow	Putri Harapan, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Angela Yap*, Debbie Blake Victor Poon	May Poon*, Dina Portillo Lydia Orchard
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>17 November 2017</i>	<i>24 November 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Eugene 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: "Responses to the Word" (Acts 17:1-21).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "The Danger of Not Believing" (Hebrews 10:26-31). Speaker: John Tan.
4. Trinitarian Bible Society talk. "The Centrality of Scripture in the Reformation" by Rev Chris Tuck. Saturday, 25 Nov 2017 (9:30 am-3 pm) at Perth Free Presbyterian Church.
5. Reformation 500 Conference. Speaker: Charles Scott-Pearson (General-Secretary of the Protestant Alliance, UK). "The Life of Martin Luther" on Friday, 1 Dec 2017 at 7:30 pm. "Two Boys Who Reformed Their Nations" and "Does the Church Today Reflect the Benefits and Blessings of the Reformation?" on Saturday, 2 Dec 2017 at 4:30 pm.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$3,052.25 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$260.00 (#756 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$500.00 (*DD- \$300.00, #566 - \$200.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,812.25. Attendance - 143. <i>*DD: direct deposit</i>
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	
4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$86,401.82
Last Week's Collection	\$500.00
Total	\$86,901.82
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$390,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$303,098.18</i>
	General Fund:
	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
	Missions Fund:
	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
	Building Fund:
	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.

Appealing to God and Man
Acts 16:25-40

What would you do if your rights are violated? How quick are you to take offense? How quick are you to fight for your rights? Are you frenzied and tumultuous? Or are we calm - like Jesus on the boat, who was in control? What is our attitude when our plans are disrupted, knowing that we have a savior who controls all things?

1. Their Appeal to a Sovereign God
 - a. Their surrendered and joyful attitude
 - b. God's swift and miraculous answer
2. Their Appeal to a Fearful man
 - a. A merciful appeal to a fearful man
 - b. A fearful appeal to merciful men
 - c. The appeal of a changed man
3. Their Appeal to Authorized Men
 - a. A rightful appeal to the law
 - b. The sheepish appeal of guilty men
 - c. The bold appearance of innocent men

We often fail in the smallest ways to learn joy and surrender when our rights are violated. We become vengeful and frenzied. But through the gospel Christ rescues us from ourselves - from our sin, sinfulness, from that easily angered sinner in us - it causes us to put Christ first - that in the midst of adversity, we can praise Christ.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How has the gospel transformed your life in that you find yourself willing to rejoice and calmly respond to adversities such as a violation of your rights? Or do you find yourself frequently angry and up in arms about little things?
2. How can you distinguish when an appeal to man for a violated right is in service to the gospel and Christ and when it is selfish?



Lorraine & Anil Francis

MUKTI AUSTRALIA invites you to enjoy a

TASTE OF INDIA

**Come & meet Lorraine & Anil Francis,
Leaders of Mukti Mission India**

Saturday 25 November 2017

6:00pm for 6.30 seated



Where? Nollamara Church of Christ
Cnr Carcoola St & Apana Way, Nollamara WA

How much? \$25 per head
Children 4-11yrs: \$10 0-3yrs Free



Enjoy a delightful 3 course dinner and experience the tantalizing flavours of India. Cooked to a high standard by the popular **Mela Indian Restaurant** in Northbridge.

Be inspired as Lorraine & Anil share about the wonderful work being done in India to rescue, educate and empower women & girls through a comprehensive range of projects.

The cost of the meal has been kept to a minimum to give you the opportunity of enjoying top quality Indian food and meeting a dedicated couple with a fascinating heartwarming story to tell about hundreds of otherwise destitute women and children in India are being rescued, educated and empowered.



There will be opportunity to buy craft items made by the women and girls at Mukti and by local WA volunteers - PLUS a SILENT AUCTION.

And there will be a no-obligation presentation on how you can help further by giving, praying, or volunteering.

THE MENU

ENTRÉE:

Mini Vegetarian Samosa (rich pastry-encased parcel filled with potatoes, peas and roasted spices)

Lamb Seekh Kebab Bites (Minced lamb, marinated with Mela spices and cooked in Tandoori oven)

MAIN: (Vegetarian alternative may be requested when booking)

Madras Chicken Curry (A mild curry full of flavor and taste, without burning your mouth!)

Yellow Dahl Saag (spinach and dhal)

Hyderbadi Vegetable Biryani (rice, cooked with fresh vegetables and aromatic spices)

Plain Raita (a delightful cucumber-based paste)

Paratha (Indian flat bread)

Papadums, Chutneys, Pickles

DESSERT:

Fruit Platter

Mixed Indian Sweets

TEA or COFFEE with after-dinner mint

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/SQES

(if you have difficulty booking online, please send email to peter@mukti.org.au or call 08 9497 3000)

Lorraine and Anil will also be speaking at various churches and groups in Perth and the south of WA, 26 November to 12 December. For more information, contact Peter Warren or Mukti Australia office on 03 9890 0211



a ministry to India's women and children

Mukti Australia is the partner agency of Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission in India, which has been rescuing and transforming the lives of women & children in India since 1889. It's a good news story!

