



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 26 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	46 - <i>O Worship the King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Hymn	TP 119:97-112
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 17:1-21
Hymn	580 - <i>Go, Labor On</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Responses to the Word"
*Closing Hymn	462 - <i>Be Thou My Vision</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

Another Prayer Meeting Testimony and a Report of the Proto-Presbytery Meeting in Melbourne

Prayer Meeting

I had started coming to the Friday night prayer meetings about two years ago.

At the beginning I had found it very hard to come to church on Friday nights for prayer meetings.

I had made several excuses for not doing so and said to myself all-knowing God knows my circumstances.

However, I had been challenged by the teachings of Pastor Mark and decided to come.

At Friday nights we pray for various needs including Sunday Worship Service, teaching ministries, session members, young and old, those who are sick, missions and needs of other like-minded churches. Also, we pray for one another's burden and their needs.

Before we begin to pray, we worship God and watch Ligonier ministries videos presented by various pastors and preachers on various interesting topics.

This has been wonderful. Currently, we are watching videos on church history – especially looking at the challenges and difficulties the early church experienced.

It is fascinating to learn the history of the church. When I started watching the series of videos done by Dr Robert Godfrey I began to appreciate the challenges the early church had during the first 4 centuries.

Dr Godfrey described the struggles and the difficulties the early church faced - such as the heresies - Gnosticism and Montanism - and how the early church developed its understanding of saints,

the original meaning and role of the office of bishop, and Constantine's conversion.

He also recounted how the church wrestled about the doctrine of the person of Christ and the relationship of his deity to his humanity.

We also learned about the theology of Augustine as recorded in many of his works, and how he greatly affected Western Christianity.

One area where I was corrected was about heretical movements. I had always viewed that heretical movements only originated in the 20th century.

But the video lectures corrected my misunderstanding of those movements. In fact they came into existence as early as the 2nd century.

These videos are helping me to understand the providence of God.

Thank God through his grace and providence the church has been preserved over the centuries for his glory.

I encourage everyone to come and watch the Ligonier ministries videos. I am sure you will benefit from these courses.

And of course, the Bible reminds us of the importance of corporate prayer. There are many examples given in the Bible where saints came together and prayed. For instance, "The believers continued steadfastly...in prayer" (Acts 2:42).

It is said that the corporate prayer meeting is the barometer for the health of the church. I encourage every

worshipper to join in Friday night prayer meetings.

~ *Rex Sriharan*

Proto-Presbytery

Last week, I went to Melbourne where 3 pastors, including me, continued our talks to form a Presbytery in Australia.

This is the third time we have met and possibly the most fruitful. The first two preliminary meetings (October 2016 and May 2017) were helpful to build up a friendship and to establish our common goals.

This third one was more technical - to determine specifically how to move ahead and what concrete plans to take - particularly in the documents which would constitute us as a denomination.

It was a very fruitful time of discussion - albeit laborious - as we all poured over the Constitution of the Bible Presbyterian Church (USA), focusing on the doctrinal documents - such as the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Westminster Larger Catechism, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism, along with the Declaratory Statement adopted at the First General Synod of the Bible Presbyterian Church.

There were certain doctrinal issues and practices that were raised. These were issues peculiar to the Singaporean Bible-Presbyterian Churches.

Thank God that we were like-minded on how we would handle these issues

and were unanimous in our adoption of the doctrinal standards.

The more difficult task we had was looking at the Form of Government and modifying it to suit our Bible-Presbyterian Churches in Australia.

Any changes we proposed were not substantive but only circumstantial. We also discussed the by-laws that each church would have pertinent to the rules of incorporation in their state.

We also discussed theological education and how the proposed Presbytery would approve certain agencies or courses that would prepare potential men for the ministry.

Ebenezer Bible-Presbyterian Church was very hospitable. They put the guest ministers up in a wonderful house. We were fed very well.

We had wonderful fellowship with the saints on Friday night where Pastor Timothy Ki ministered the Word, on Saturday night where the church gathered for a Creation Ministries talk, and on Sunday, where I ministered the Word at the pulpit and at the Young Adults Fellowship.

It was a very good trip and very good fellowship with one another. I thank God for the likemindedness we had and the ability to work with one another with respect and submission.

~ *Pastor*



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 179. Are we to pray unto God only?

A. God only being able to search the hearts, hear the requests, pardon the sins, and fulfill the desires of all; and only to be believed in, and worshiped with religious worship; prayer, which is a special part thereof, is to be made by all to him alone, and to none other.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (26.11.17)	Next Week (3.12.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Elizabeth Huang	Evelyn Lee
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Jacob & Merylyn Woo
Offering Stewards	Terence Lee*, Kim Leow* Lye Heng Chua, Ken Hong	Micah Chiang*, Ken Hong* Terence Lee, Rex Sriharan
Ushers	Wendy Gong, Rebecca Lee	Rebecca Lee, Dolphin Wai
Kitchen Duties	Peggy Woo*, Sarah Siew Julian Poon	Merylyn Woo*, Sandy Chua Jenni Budiman, Vincent Chiu
PA Duty	Joel Chua	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>1 December 2017</i>	<i>8 December 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jerome Ng

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: "Too Smart for Our Own Good" (Acts 17:22-34).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "What Is Faith?" (Hebrews 11:1-7). Speaker: John Tan.
4. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 28 November 2017, 10am. Message by Pastor Mark: "Dying Well - How Do You Know You Can End Well?" Potluck lunch after meeting.
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

TUE	10:00 am	Retirees' Bible Study
WED	10:00 am	Craft Group
FRI	7:30 pm	CBI & Prayer Meeting
SAT	4:30 pm	JF & TF
SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,436.40 (*DD - \$200.00, #758 - \$13.00, #759 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$180.00. Building Fund - \$800.00 (*DD- \$300.00, #568 - \$500.00).
Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,416.40.
Attendance - 143.

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details

Available Building Fund	\$87,301.82	General Fund:	
Last Week's Collection	\$800.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316942
Total	\$88,101.82	Missions Fund:	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$390,000.00</i>	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316950
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$301,898.18</i>	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.

Responses to the Word

Acts 17:1-21

WLC 160 - Q "What is required of those that hear the Word preached?" A "It is required of those that hear the Word preached, that they attend upon it with diligence, preparation, and prayer, examine what they hear by the Scriptures; receive the truth with faith, love, meekness, and readiness of mind, as the Word of God; meditate, and confer of it; hide it in their hearts, and bring forth the fruit of it in their lives."

1. Mixed Responses to the Word
 - a. Of faith
 - b. Of opposition
2. Enthusiastic Responses to the Word
 - a. Of nobility
 - b. Of hostility
3. Ignoble Responses to the Word
 - a. Of the "intellectual"
 - b. Of the idolatrous

Who is noble? Those who submit to the gospel and search the Scriptures; letting it change their character and heart. It is not a zealous regard for self. Some may love certain ideas, but we ought to love God, people, and holiness. And when we respond rightly to the ideas of the Scriptures, the family, the church, and the world will be turned upside down, one heart at a time.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you regard yourself as spiritual, serving God, but do not read or study the Bible for yourself, apart from what you have to do for the church? How can you be spiritual and noble if you do not have a love for God's Word?
2. If spirituality and true wisdom is accompanied by purity, peaceableness, gentleness, openness to reason, mercy, fruitfulness, a lack of prejudice, and sincerity; how wise and spiritual are you?

Bible Study Tour of Israel and Jordan

(organized by Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church)

Contact: Pastor Mark Chen (pastor@covenantbpc.org.au / 0415932373)

- Dates: 9 - 21 December 2018
(Sunday night - Friday evening)
- Cost: AUD 3,700 LAND TOUR ONLY
(twin sharing, **estimated** based on 40 participants)
- Included: 11 days of touring in a luxury aircon bus
10 nights stay at good touring class hotels
All entrance fees, meals, and tips
- Airline: Emirates (proposed)
Cost - please inquire

Highlights:

- Visit Mount Nebo where Moses saw the view of the Promised Land and go to Bethany Beyond Jordan, where Jesus was likely baptized.
- Visit Galilee, where Jesus had the bulk of his ministry - Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, Caesarea Philippi, Nazareth, and Cana.
- Visit Megiddo (Armageddon), Mount Carmel (Elijah and the Baal prophets), and Caesarea Maritima and Joppa (where Jonah sailed from, and Peter met Simon the Tanner and Cornelius).
- Visit Jerusalem, where you will see the Gethsemane, the Mount of Olives, Golgotha and the proposed tomb of Jesus, the Temple Mount and the Wailing Wall, and participate in an archeological sifting project. We will also walk through the tunnel dug by Hezekiah.
- Visit the Temple Institute to learn more about the temple and the various museums. Walk the path Jesus took to the cross.
- Explore the Judean wilderness - where David hid from Saul - and take a dip in the Dead Sea. Spend the night in a Bedouin-style tent hotel and enjoy camel rides and star-gazing.
- Visit a life-size replica of the Tabernacle in the wilderness and see what it was like for the priests to offer sacrifices.
- Visit Petra, the Red-rose city, mentioned in the Bible as Sela, the trade city of the Edomites - the descendants of Esau.
- Worship with the Messianic Jews on Saturday night at the Voice of the Wilderness Reformed Baptist Church and the Palestinian Christians on Sunday morning in Baraka Bible-Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem.