



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

**Order of Worship – 24 December 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	92 - <i>Joy to the World!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Colossians 1:9-20
Hymn	TP 89:17-27
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Luke 2:8-14
Hymn	89 - <i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Giving God Glory"
*Closing Hymn	93 - <i>Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne</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](http://www.covenantbpc.org.au)

Contact: [pastor@covenantbpc.org.au](mailto:pastor@covenantbpc.org.au)

## Why Was Jesus Christ Born?

All over the world, people are celebrating Christmas. Many Christians are also celebrating Christmas.

The department stores and malls are filled with shoppers buying gifts. The grocery stores have been stocked with hams and roasts. People have been decorating real or plastic trees.

But more than just Christmas trees, Father Christmas, and stockings stuffed with chocolate, Christmas is a time where people traditionally remember the birth of Christ.

However, the celebrations of his birth have not always taken place. Obviously, before he was born, no one celebrated his birth.

But what is interesting is that people looked forward to his birth even before he was born.

This was because his birth was foretold. People knew that Christ was to be born.

700 years before he was born, the prophet Isaiah wrote - "*Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel (meaning, God with us)*" (Isaiah 7:14).

The town in which he was to be born was also prophesied 700 years prior.

Another prophet wrote - "*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*" (Micah 5:2).

When the time came, God sent Christ to be born on earth. He was born of Mary - who was a virgin. He was also born in Bethlehem.

Galatians 4:4 says, "*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman.*"

But why was Jesus Christ born? Why was his birth prophesied? Why did God come from heaven to earth to be born into this world?

The reason for this was so that sinful man could be saved from his sin and from God's anger against him.

The Bible says that "*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23).

God doesn't take man's sins lightly. this is why the reward for man's sins is eternal spiritual death - "*For the wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23a).

This is why Christ was sent into the world - so that sinners who deserve hell may be saved from God's anger and punishment.

1 Timothy 1:15 says, "*Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*"

And part of what he had to do was suffer. Although he was rich and glorious in heaven, the Bible tells us that he came to be born humbly and to live a humble life.

2 Corinthians 8:9 says that "*though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*"

But more than just suffering poverty, Christ suffered great physical torture and death on the cross. And this was for the purpose of saving the souls of sinners.

Isaiah 53:4-5 prophesied, "*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*"

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."*

Why would his suffering and death on the cross save the souls of sinners?

The reason for this is because God accepts a substitute. We should face the penalties of our sins but God accepts the suffering and death of another in our place.

1 Peter 3:18 says, *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh..."*

God sent Christ into the world to do this. But it was also Christ who volunteered to do this.

In John 10:17-18, Jesus said that he laid down his life of his own initiative. No one could force him, he alone offered his life.

And the motive for him coming to earth to die for sinners was love.

Romans 5:8 says *"God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

But the only ones who have Christ as their substitute are those who believe in him.

John 3:16 tells us *"that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

But what about those who do not believe in him? Does Christ save everyone? Is he a substitute for those who do not believe in him? No.

John 3:18 says, *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

What is the duty of everyone? 1 John 3:23 - *"And this is his [God's] commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ."*

This is why Jesus Christ came. He came to suffer for the sins of sinners - to be their substitute - facing the penalties of sin - to satisfy God's anger against sinners.

The Bible tells us that because Jesus himself did no wrong, he was not forever condemned. He rose from the dead.

Christ was born and came to earth the first time to die for sinners - that all who believe in him should not perish but escape God's wrath and have everlasting life.

This is why he was born.

Whether or not you celebrate Christmas, know that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Would you be saved by him? Then ask him to save you.

~ Pastor



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 183. For whom are we to pray?

A. We are to pray for the whole Church of Christ upon earth; for magistrates, and ministers; for ourselves, our brethren, yea, our enemies; and for all sorts of men living, or that shall live hereafter; but not for the dead, nor for those that are known to have sinned the sin unto death.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (24.12.17)	Next Week (31.12.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	David Lim David Pang	Jansen Ng Ian Read
Ushers	-	-
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Lisa Lim Mary-Anne Chan	Florence Orchard*, Jemima Ng Rosemary Fitzpatrick
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>29 December 2017</i>	<i>5 January 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	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: "Jesus Really Matters" (Acts 19:1-20).
3. Junior Worship will be in recess next Sunday.
4. Bible Conference 2018. Dates: 23-26 April 2018. Speaker: Pastor Allen Beardmore. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Please register with Ken Chong or Ken Hong.
5. Bible Study Tour of Israel and Jordan. Dates: 9-21 December 2018. Please contact Pastor Mark if you are interested.
6. Retirees' Bible Study is in recess in the month of December and will resume in January.
7. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (January-March) are available in the foyer.
8. Hardcopies of the updated church directory can be collected from Valerie. Please indicate to her if you would like a soft copy instead.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI &amp; Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$3,888.95 (*DD - \$600.00). Missions Fund - \$180.00. Building Fund - \$300.00 (*DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes &amp; Offering - \$4,368.95. Attendance - 141.</p> <p><i>*DD: direct deposit</i></p>

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$92,801.82
Last Week's Collection	\$300.00
Total	\$93,101.82
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$390,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$296,898.18</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.

## Glory to God

Luke 2:8-14

Birth announcements of a king are often accompanied with great fanfare. They are published abroad and fellow royalty in neighboring countries are told about it. But the birth of Christ was a lowly and very private event - only a handful of lowly persons knew about it. But the lowliness of the birth event mirrored the lowly death he would have - but one in the sight of God, gave Him glory.

1. The Ordinariness of an Extraordinary Event
  - a. The great news given to poor shepherds
  - b. The lowly birth of the highest king
2. The Immense Mercy of a Dreadful God
  - a. The peaceful words of a terrifying army
  - b. The glorious hope given to sinful men

As you live your life, how do you give glory to God? Is yours a life that has been redeemed by God? Do you have peace with God? And if so, how do you see yourself? As a redeemed sinner full of gladness for the peace you have with God and therefore obligated to love others? How glorious is your life in reflecting the truths of the gospel?

### Questions for Reflection:

1. If the lowly Christ bids you come and follow him, how does the lowliness of mind in you give glory to God? How has God subdued your heart for his glory?
2. If peace in the world is an impossibility until the Prince of Peace comes again, how about peace among God's children? Is it merely a possibility or an obligation? Or also an impossibility?