



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 9 July 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	19 - <i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Acts 2:22-36
Hymn	TP 16:8-11
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 2:37-41
Hymn	264 - <i>I Will Sing of My Redeemer</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Gospel Conversions"
*Closing Hymn	267 - <i>There Is a Fountain</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

When Kids Go Astray

The birth of a child is one of God's greatest gifts to Christian parents. To encourage their godliness, we have family devotions, pray with them for their needs, help them to memorize the catechism and Scripture, and try to live a godly life before them.

Over the years, we hope and dream and pray and worry for them.

But sometimes our beloved children go down a different path. Sometimes our kids go astray. What happens when our children stop going to church?

Perhaps they became pregnant out of wedlock, struggle with homosexuality or other sexual sins, marry an unbeliever, have financial or legal problems, land in jail, or simply withdraw, melting into the sidelines of life.

But what can we do now, when they no longer live under our roof?

Are they backsliding believers who may not have counted the cost of discipleship when they made an early profession of faith?

Or have they never known God's redeeming grace personally? We grieve and pray. We ask others to pray.

For pastors who have wayward children, grieving includes concern about whether the father-minister should step away from his calling.

"Bring Them unto Me"

Charles Spurgeon's Morning and Evening devotions on Mark 9:19 offer the parent direction:

When (children) are grown up they may wallow in sin and foam with enmity against God; then when our hearts are

breaking we should remember the great Physician's words, 'Bring them unto me.' Never must we cease to pray until they cease to breathe. No case is hopeless while Jesus lives.

Ungodly children, when they show us our own powerlessness against the depravity of their hearts, drive us to flee to the Strong One for strength, and this is a great blessing to us.

Grieving, you read Scripture for comfort and wisdom. You pray, pleading for your child's repentance and salvation. You ask forgiveness for the impact of your sins on your child's life.

Slowly God assures your heart that your child's struggles are not just your fault. Eventually you reflect on what you did right by God's grace and consider less emotionally what you could have done better.

We long for a magic formula to raise godly children. We sometimes mistake a proverb, such as Proverbs 22:6, for a law-like promise that depends on our performance.

We must remember that believers come from Christian and non-Christian families. Likewise, unbelievers come from Christian and non-Christian families. It is all God's work - not ours - in which we must rest our hope.

Coupled with prayer is the need to constantly surrender your child to the Lord. Without that, the parent may try to bury the unpleasant and pretend that all is fine.

Rather than being content to plant the seeds of faith in our children and leave the harvest to God, we may try

to grab control out of God's hands, making a mess of things.

Ultimately we give them up to the Lord and ask him to draw them back. Ultimately he is the only one who can.

Time is a great healer. The older we get and the more difficulties we encounter, the stronger we become because we learn with every problem that comes, to trust in him more.

He has been faithful in so much; we know he will be faithful in this too.

Trusting God for Their Salvation

Jeremiah 31:16–17 reflects on how God called his errant child, Israel, back to himself. *"Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border."*

If we sought to raise our child faithfully, and that child early on demonstrated a love for God, but later strayed from the faith, the Bible reminds us that our work is not in vain.

Hebrews 6:10 - *"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have*

ministered to the saints, and do minister."

Psalm 46:10 reminds parents, *"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."*

Despite what our eyes see and our ears hear, the Holy Spirit may be working a dramatic change in our wayward child.

Perhaps he has undergone church discipline, but evidenced significant repentance, which led to restoration into full fellowship with his church.

The child may continue to struggle in the years ahead, but by God's grace, he endeavors once again to walk with Christ.

What an opportunity that provides to thank God daily for his sweet and abundant grace in our child's life - and our own.

While we wait, we must remember that our covenant children have heard the Word. They have heard our prayers for them. They have seen our example. They have seen God's work in others.

Look to him to work through his Word in their lives - and be thankful!

~ Adapted from an article by Patricia E. Clawson in New Horizons, January 2017. She is the editorial assistant for New Horizons, a periodical published by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 156. Is the Word of God to be read by all?

A. Although all are not permitted to read the Word publicly to the congregation, yet all sorts of people are bound to read it apart by themselves, and with their families: to which end, the holy Scriptures are to be translated out of the original into vulgar languages.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (9.7.17)	Next Week (16.7.17)
Speaker	Keith Morris	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Jansen & Eva Ng	Putri Harapan & Dolphin Wai
Offering Stewards	Micah Chiang*, David Lim* Kim Leow, Yen Fye Yap	Vincent Chiu*, Paul Butler* Chris Budiman, Jacob Woo
Ushers	Jemima Ng, Josephine Austin	Jerome Ng, Eva Ng
Kitchen Duties	Adeline Ng*, Sarah Siew Victor Poon	Marilyn Woo*, Helen Wong Julian Poon
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>14 July 2017</i>	<i>21 July 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jerome Ng

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Outraged Men Appealed to Glorify God" (Acts 11:1-18).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Jesus Came So That We May Be the Children of God" (Hebrews 2:10-18). Speaker: Jansen Ng.
4. Combined Church Youth Camp. Briefing after worship service today in the sanctuary for all campers and their parents.
5. Ministry reports for ACM 2017. Please submit by 31 August 2017 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo@gmail.com).
6. Presentation by Creation Ministries International on 4 August 2017, Friday at 7.30pm. Speaker: Dr Ron Neller. Topic: "From Evolutionist to Creationist!"

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI & 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 - \$3,164.60.</p> <p>Missions Fund - \$170.00.</p> <p>Building Fund - \$5,700.00 (#544 - \$100.00, #545 - \$5,000.00, #546- \$600.00).</p> <p>Total Tithes & Offering - \$9,034.60.</p> <p>Attendance - 149.</p>

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$65,337.89
Last Week's Collection	\$5,700.00
Total	\$71,037.89
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$402,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$330,962.11</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: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682.
Jacob Woo 0421 212 206.