



C O V E N A N T

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 26 March 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	23 - <i>Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Genesis 37:1-36
Hymn	TP 41:7-13
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology & Offertory Prayer</i>	
Scripture Reading	Acts 7:9-16
Hymn	501 - <i>God Leads Us Along</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Joseph and God the Deliverer"
*Closing Hymn	128 - <i>Hallelujah! What a Saviour!</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

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Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

The Interruption of Cancer into Our Lives

Cancer Is Never Expected

While cancer is something not unexpected, it is also never expected. Many people fall sick with cancer each day but we don't expect it to strike us.

But when it does strike, the church community can be quite unnerved. We at Covenant Church are on seat's edge because two worshipers have been recently diagnosed with cancer.

Initial Response to Cancer News

Christians and their families receiving this diagnosis may feel disoriented, overwhelmed, and anxious.

Our faith will be tested. "*What does this cancer mean for me and my life?*" "*What does it mean for my family?*"

There will be questions on mortality, treatment options, and even theology. Questions of varying shades may be asked.

Like Job, they may ask why they were born only to suffer like this (Job 10:18). Or like Paul, they may ask why the suffering is so prolonged (2 Corinthians 12:8).

The Word Meets Us There

David Powlison is Director of the Christian Counseling and Education Foundation and a four time cancer survivor.

In his booklet, "When Cancer Interrupts," he writes that it is in these times where Christ and his Word meet the sufferers at their need.

His Word, his call to them is found in Psalm 46:1-2 - "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.*"

Those who suffer can look to God and find him a strength and a help. Fear and anxiety can dissipate.

But Powlison writes that "*those are not just words in a book. When you take them to heart, you find them true.*"

While hard to take them to heart, they are true. It is particularly in times such as cancer that we will find them true. Powlison says, "*Cancer is not an exception to the rule. It is where the rule comes true.*"

Promises to Remember

What helps us to find those words true? It is when we meditate on God's promises and presence.

God promises that we are secure in him - "*My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand*" (John 10:29).

God promises that he knows us intimately and cares for us by pruning us - "*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman*" (John 15:1).

God promises that he is also our shepherd. "*The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want*" (Psalm 23:1).

In other words, God has designed our cancer to teach us to trust him more and remember our eternal security. Such a design is more valuable and significant than a cure.

When we surrender ourselves to this greater design, we will find it true that God is our refuge in time of trouble.

This surrender is not easy - not for sufferers, their family, and their church brethren, especially when treatment is ineffective and health declines.

Fruits to Bear

But if God is the great husbandman who trims the vines to bear forth more fruit, the cancer must have a deeper spiritual application.

It helps us to bear forth fruit of patience (for relief), love (for God and others), trust (in God), hope (in eternity), and contentment (in living or dying).

There are other fruit to bear. Firstly, bear forth the fruit of sobriety. We may not beat cancer. Medical intervention may not save us.

Secondly, bear forth the fruit of contentment. If we have Jesus, we have all - he is God with us. Contentment affects every area of life.

Thirdly, bear forth the fruit of pugnacious tenacity. The Psalmist in Psalm 46 welcomed the destruction of the earth and the leveling of the mountains. We are to look death in the eye and rejoice that its sting is removed (1 Corinthians 15:57,58).

Fourthly, bear forth fruit of patient hope for deliverance. The treatment may prolong life. Thank God for medical science! There is always hope in God of deliverance (1 Timothy 3:14). There are many who die from old age despite their on going cancer.

Fifthly, bear forth the fruit of service. Why does God bring us through trouble if not that we may serve others? Christ went through suffering that he might help those who suffer (2 Corinthians 1:4).

Sixthly, bear forth fruit of humility. It will be difficult if the body deteriorates. Despite this, we can praise God in our state, to rejoice in and admit our infirmities (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Westminster Larger Catechism



Q. 134. Which is the sixth commandment?

A. The sixth commandment is, Thou shalt not kill.

Q. 135. What are the duties required in the sixth commandment?

A. The duties required in the sixth commandment are, all careful studies, and lawful endeavors, to preserve the life of ourselves and others, resisting all thoughts and purposes, subduing all passions, and avoiding all occasions, temptations, and practices, which tend to the unjust taking away the life of any; by just defence thereof against violence; patient bearing of the hand of God, quietness of mind, cheerfulness of spirit; a sober use of meat, drink, physic, sleep, labor, and recreation; by charitable thoughts, love, compassion, meekness, gentleness, kindness; peaceable; mild and courteous speeches and behavior; forbearing, readiness to be reconciled, patient bearing and forgiving of injuries, and requiting good for evil; comforting and succoring the distressed, and protecting and defending the innocent.

The Church's Ministry

How do we walk alongside those who suffer from cancer? How do we help their families?

We love them and avail ourselves to pray and minister to them. Powlison writes, "*Cancer creates opportunities for more profound intimacy with those around you.*"

It is an opportunity also to mourn with those who mourn and rejoice with those who rejoice (Romans 12:15). We are a body of believers and when one part hurts, we all hurt.

We are also to grow in Christ. As they are confronted with their mortality, we must also be as well. And we take the grace given opportunity to grow in confidence of our security in Christ.

Powlison writes, "*Because of Christ, we are forgiven. Because of Christ, we stand. Because of Christ, we hope. With Christ, even though we die, we live forever.*"

Conclusion

What did God bring this about in our congregation? 2 worshipers and their families have to go through suffering. Others who continue in their cancer treatment? It is to reveal to us that he is our refuge and a very present help in trouble. ~ Pastor

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (26.3.17)	Next Week (2.4.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Edward Lim	Valerie Ong
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Vincent Chiu*, David Lim* LH Chua, Kim Leow	Steven Lim*, Lye Heng Chua* Terence Lee, Ian Read
Ushers	Wendy Gong, Jesslyn Leow	Joyce Ng, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Sandy Chua*, Sally Tan Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Jesslyn Leow*, Florence Orchard Aliza Chiu, Josephine Austin
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo
Prayer Meeting	31 March 2017	7 April 2017
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene 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 will be celebrating Lord's Supper next Lord's Day. Please bring a dish to share at the fellowship lunch.
3. Next week's message: "The Real Story of Moses" (Acts 7:17-43).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "What Makes a Good Church?" (Philippians 1:1-11). Speaker: John E Tan.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 28 March 2017, 10am. Message by Pastor Mark: "Judgement of God". Fellowship lunch after meeting - bring a dish to share.
6. Gospel Service. Good Friday, 14 April 2017, 10am. Speaker: Ron Nugent.
7. Bible Conference 2017. Dates: 18-21 April 2017. Theme: "Love One Another Fervently". Speaker: Dr Bob Jones III. Venue: Bayview Geographe Resort.
8. Men's & Ladies' Seminar. Saturday, 22 April 2017, 4.30 pm. Speakers: Dr Bob Jones and Mrs Beneth Jones.
9. Church Anniversary Dinner. Saturday, 22 April 2017, 7pm. Registration and payment commences today.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>TUE 10:00 am Retirees' Bible Study</p> <p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$3,201.40 (#684 - \$130.00). Missions Fund - \$875.00 (#682 - \$205.00, #683 - \$500.00). Building Fund - \$100.00 (#520 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,176.40. Attendance - 161.</p>

Building Fund to Date

Available Building Fund	\$83,233.93	Building Fund Account:
Last Week's Collection	\$100.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church (Westpac Bank, Applecross)
Total	\$83,333.93	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
Outstanding Loan	-\$416,000.00	SWIFT: WPACAU2S
Amount Still Needed	\$332,666.07	

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.

Joseph and God the Deliverer

Acts 7:9-16

Jealousy is a great motivator to do harm. Religious people hated and were jealous of Jesus. He shone a light on their righteousness to show they were not. That's what the gospel does - it breaks down our righteousness to reveal our true nature. But we can react to the gospel with gratitude or with jealousy.

1. The Rejection of Israel's Savior

- a. They rejected him because of his righteousness
- b. They rejected him because of his position
- c. They rejected him because of God's revelation
- d. They rejected him by getting rid of him

2. The Exaltation of Israel's Savior

- a. The progression of his exaltation
- b. God was with him

3. The Salvation of Those Who Rejected Their Savior

- a. The dire situation
- b. God's intervention
 - i. It was unexpected
 - ii. It was paradoxical

The one who was rejected, would be the one to save those who rejected him, by that very rejection. Joseph pointed to Jesus. He has delivered us from our sins and also from our rejection of him and the gospel to love each other. That in lowliness of heart we would esteem one another better than ourselves.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Why does God always delight in using the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Cor 1:27)? Like a crucified savior, Gideon's foolish war plan, David against Goliath, etc. In what ways should the foolishness of the gospel practically break down your own righteousness?
2. If Christ is the savior of his brethren, you are part of a family of believers. How much do you love your brethren and would you give your life for them?



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Bible-Presbyterian Church

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Message Forecast for April - June 2017*

"What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Lord's Day Worship Service:

APR	Title and Text	Speaker
2**	The Real Story of Moses (Acts 7:17-43)	MC
9	The Shortness of Life (Psalm 90)	J Orchard
14	Good Friday Gospel Message	R Nugent
16	Love One Another As I Have Loved You (John 15:9-17)	MC
23	Does Covenant Still Look Good to Christ After 7 Years?	B Jones
30	TBA	G Lock
MAY		
7**	The Real Story of the Temple (Acts 7:44-53)	MC
14	The First Christian Martyr (Acts 7:54-8:4)	MC
21	Simony (Acts 8:4-25)	MC
28	One on One Bible Study (Acts 8:26-40)	MC
JUN		
4**	We Are Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:1-9)	MC
11	An Amazing Testimony (Acts 9:10-31)	MC
18	Jesus Christ Maketh Thee Whole (Acts 9:32-43)	MC
25	Eat Bacon, Peter (Acts 10:1-23)	MC

* Subject to change

** Lord's Supper

Adult Bible Class:

"Bible Survey" (cont.)