



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 5 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	Luke 23:27-35
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	230 - <i>Amidst Us Our Beloved Stands</i>
Hymn	127 - <i>The Saviour of the World</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 6:1-7
Hymn	TP 68:1-8
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"How Deacons Intensify Gospel Work"
*Closing Hymn	556 - <i>Only One Life</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

Deacons - the Compassionate Waiters of the Church

The office of the deacon is often misunderstood and undervalued, by member and deacon alike. But it is a noble office because it exemplifies the mercy of God.

The Meaning of "Deacon"

The word "deacon" refers to a particular office of the church (Phil 1:1, 1 Tim 3:8-13). However, the word "deacon" existed long before the New Testament church.

The word "deacon" is from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means "servant."

Waiter

In classical Greek, *diakonos* was used to refer to a waiter; one who waits on tables. This word then came to be used of a household servant.

And subsequently, this word was used to describe someone who served others in a more general capacity. But primarily, the *diakonos* was a waiter.

Spiritual Service

This word was subsequently used in the New Testament in a spiritual sense.

Christ used the word "deacon" in Mark 10:44-45, where He said, "*And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*"

The words "servant" and "minister" are *diakonos*. So in this sense, the Christian is to follow Christ's example to minister and serve others.

But while it was used of spiritual service, the sense of "waiter" was never lost.

Christ exemplified this at the Last Supper - Luke 22:27 - "*For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at*

meat? But I am among you as he that serveth."

The Jobs of the First Deacons

In the early church, some Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. They began to complain.

So 7 men of good reputation were chosen by the church members to take over this work from the apostles.

Hence, the job of the first deacons was to distribute food and to tend to the physical needs of the Christians.

This work was difficult. These were complaining widows. And these were people who perceived racism.

But to say that the first deacons were only waiters would be to miss the entire point.

They were far more than that. The "daily ministrations" also refers to daily financial aid.

Members of the early church brought money to the apostles to be distributed to the needy (Acts 4:35).

The deacons took over from the apostles. They were to "serve tables" - not just the dinner table, but the banker's table.

They became the bankers and treasurers of the church.

And they did it especially in view of meeting the needs of the poor in the church.

Key Points in Understanding the Diaconal Office

The diaconal office is an ordained office for the practical administration of the church, with particular emphasis on mercy.

1. An Ordained Office: In Acts 6:6, the 7 men were appointed with the laying of hands to the office of deacon.

The other ordained office in the church is the elder, of which there are two - the teaching elder (pastor) and the ruling elder.

Why ordained? It is to show that these officers have derived authority from God.

Just as the prophet (OT equivalent of the pastor) and the king (OT equivalent of the king) were ordained to preach and rule, the priest (OT equivalent of the deacon) were anointed to show mercy (2 Chron 31:14).

2. A Merciful Office: The deacon would be looking out for the material needs of members. This was their first appointment and first duty.

This would require a good knowledge of and acquaintance with the worshipers.

So while an elder might ask "How are you doing spiritually?" the deacon would ask "How are you doing physically?"

3. An Administrative Office: Administration was performed by the apostles at the start. But since this took time from their labor in the Word,

deacons were chosen to take these administrative works away.

The main task of the deacon was to serve, and to assist the under-shepherds of the church by taking on the burden of managing the church's resources.

Conclusion

Just how much do we understand the diaconal function in the church? Just how much do we appreciate our deacons? And how much do we pray for them?

The apostles gave the church the responsibility of choosing their deacons. This means that the church nominated the men who were to be deacons.

Please do not wait for the session to nominate men to serve as deacons. Start praying that the Lord would call godly men into this ministry.

Be concerned enough for the church to encourage men to serve God in this office. Encourage your present deacons to press on in this ministry. The church needs your involvement and prayer.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 129. What is required of superiors towards their inferiors?

A. It is required of superiors, according to that power they receive from God, and that relation wherein they stand, to love, pray for, and bless their inferiors; to instruct, counsel, and admonish them; countenancing, commending, and rewarding such as do well; and discountenancing, reproving, and chastising such as do ill; protecting, and providing for them all things necessary for soul and body: and by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honor to themselves and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.

Q. 130. What are the sins of superiors?

A. The sins of superiors are, besides the neglect of the duties required of them, an inordinate seeking of themselves, their own glory, ease, profit, or pleasure; commanding things unlawful, or not in the power of inferiors to perform; counseling, encouraging, or favoring them in that which is evil; dissuading, discouraging, or discountenancing them in that which is good; correcting them unduly; careless exposing, or leaving them to wrong, temptation, and danger; provoking them to wrath; or any way dishonoring themselves, or lessening their authority, by an unjust, indiscreet, rigorous, or remiss behavior.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (5.3.17)	Next Week (12.3.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Jansen & Eva Ng	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Steven Lim*, Chris Budiman* Ian Read, David Pang	Jacob Woo*, Micah Chiang* Jansen Ng, Rex Sriharan
Ushers	August Ng, Josephine Austin	Jemima Ng, Merylyn Woo
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Helen Wong Jenni Budiman, Vincent Chiu	Grace Wang*, Nancy Lim Val Withnell
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>10 March 2017</i>	<i>17 March 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	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. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's message: "Putting His Life on the Line" (Acts 6:8-7:1).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "You Can Tell When Repentance is Real" (Jonah 3:5-8). Speaker - Dolphin Wai.
5. Sunday School Promotion today - refer to notice board for new classes and venues.
6. Presentation by Creation Ministries International: "The Heavens Declare - Astronomy and the Bible". 17 March 2017, Friday, 7.30pm. Speaker: Dr Mark Harwood.
7. Men's & Ladies' Seminar. 22 April 2017, Saturday, 4.30pm. Speakers: Dr Bob Jones and Mrs Beneth Jones.
8. Lyrics and music to the Hymns of Grace and Glory can be found at www.sermonaudio.com/hymnlist.asp and www.lifebpc.com/resources/hymns-of-grace-glory.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	<i>General Fund</i> - \$4,243.50 (#673 - \$1,000.00, #674 - \$120.00, #676 - \$24.70). <i>Missions Fund</i> - \$250.00 (#675 - \$20.00). <i>Building Fund</i> - \$100.00 (#517 - \$100.00). <i>Total Tithes & Offering</i> - \$4,593.50. Attendance - 152.

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund \$82,433.93	Building Fund Account:
Last Week's Collection \$100.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Total \$82,533.93	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
<i>Outstanding Loan</i> - \$416,000.00	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Amount Still Needed</i> \$333,466.07	SWIFT: WPACAU2S

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.

How Deacons Intensify Gospel Work

Acts 6:1-7

The Church of Christ is a messy place. When the gospel is preached and the church grows, there are problems. When there are problems, when people are hotheaded, tensions run high and nerves are frayed. What we need are cool-heads. We need wise, spirit-filled, and calm men whose ministry would intensify the gospel.

1. The Problem of Frayed Nerves
 - a. Dissatisfaction
 - b. Lapse in administration
 - c. Suspicions
2. The Selection of Spiritual Servants
 - a. Principle of priority
 - b. Responsibility of the church
 - c. Qualification of the deacons
3. The Intensification of the Gospel
 - a. Distraction
 - b. Word spread
 - c. People and priests saved

Deacons intensified gospel work by taking away secondary work from the apostles so the apostles could perform their primary duties. But who were the ones who chose? Who cared enough about the church to choose? As a Christian, do you care enough to be involved in this work?

Questions for Reflection:

1. When there are or you have frayed nerves, how quickly do you subdue your flesh in obedience to the gospel to address the issue calmly? Why is this important?
2. If distraction is so perilous to a church - with many legitimate pursuits - how much more perilous is it to one's spiritual life and pursuit of the kingdom? Are you serving? How?

Hear the good news that the biblical account of origins is not only historically accurate, but makes better sense of the evidence.



International speaker and satellite designer
Dr Mark Harwood

DOES GOD EXIST
WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION
DARWIN RIGHT HOW CAN A LOVING GOD
ALLOW SUFFERING AND DEATH
WHAT ABOUT THE
AGE OF THE EARTH
DATING METHODS
HOW OLD IS THE EARTH
MILLIONS OF YEARS
OLD
WHAT WAS CAIN'S
HOW DID NOAH FIT ALL THE ANIMALS ON THE ARK
WAS IT REALLY A WORLD WIDE FLOOD
DOES ANY REAL SCIENCE
BELIEVE IN CREATION
ARE THERE REALLY MILLIONS OF
LINKS CAN TODAY MEAN SELECTION
WHAT ABOUT STABILISATION
WHAT ABOUT REAL DID CREATION
EVOLUTION WHAT THE SIMILARITIES
MONKEY AND HUMAN
WHAT ABOUT THE ICE AGE
ADAM AND EVE REAL PEOPLE
WHO CARES WHO I BELIEVE
ABOUT ORIGINS
DON'T FOSSILS TAKE MANY
MILLIONS OF YEARS
TO FORM
WHAT ABOUT DINOSAURS

Question Evolution! ARE YOU READY FOR ANSWERS?



Don't miss out!

Friday 17 March at 7.30pm

The Heavens Declare—Astronomy and the Bible

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
47 Davis Rd, Attadale

Enquiries: Phone Ps Mark Chen on 0415 932 373

Admission free - donations accepted. Creation resources available.



CREATION.com

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