



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 4 March 2018

**Theme for the Year: "King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)**

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	84 - <i>Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Ephesians 2:14-22
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	236 - <i>Thy Broken Body, Gracious Lord</i>
Hymn	243 - <i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 21:30-22:30
Hymn	TP 63:1-4
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Where Is Your Citizenship?"
*Closing Hymn	492 - <i>I Love Jesus, Hallelujah!</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)

## **In Difficult Times, Think**

In the past few weeks, our church family has said goodbye to loved ones who have gone home to glory. This was difficult.

Some of us have job difficulties - taking on extra duties and facing work stress. Others fear job losses.

Some struggle because of illness. Others because they care for the sick.

Some struggle because of loneliness and others because of sheer busyness.

Some struggle because of their sins and others because of the sins of others.

We all have difficult times. By God's grace, he often does remove our burdens. But sometimes he does not. We feel we can't take it anymore. Being under a great burden can be burdensome.

But in these times, what can we do as Christians?

*We Remember We Are Made Alive and Victorious by a Living and Victorious God*

The Christian is a person not without hope. When we remember our position before God, it should bring us much comfort.

Firstly, we remember that we have a living God. Jesus said in Revelation 1:18 - *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."*

The one we serve is living - even though he was dead. And he is not merely living, but he lives forevermore.

The fact that he was dead tells us that he had gone through suffering and difficulties but was victorious. In fact, no one has gone through more anguish than the Lord Jesus Christ.

But he is alive now. And he has his best interests for us at his heart.

Secondly, we remember that believers have been made alive. Ephesians 2:5 says that God *"hath quickened us*

*together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"*

God has made us alive. This speaks about the newness of life that we have. We are not dead in our sins; we don't have to live in hopelessness; we don't have to be overcome by our struggles.

We have been resurrected together with Christ - the Bible calls us conquerors.

Paul described the great struggles that he went through in Romans 8. He spoke about facing trouble, calamity, persecution, destitution, and dangers - but he knew that they could not separate him from God's love.

Even if he faced struggles every day, he knew that he could overcome them. He said in Romans 8:37 - *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."*

But how do we appropriate these promises and make them part of our lifestream so that we may be steeled to face our burdens?

*We Remember Christ and His Promises*

There is no easy shortcut to finding the strength and the patience to survive and overcome our burdens.

The place where it happens is the inner man - the heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The Apostle Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God (Eph 6:14-17), and the first piece to put on is the belt of truth. On this belt are attached the other pieces.

We are to meditate on the truth of Christ. What are some truths that we need to remind ourselves of?

Firstly, we need to remind ourselves that because Christ lives, he gives life to those who hear him (John 5:25-26).

Secondly, we remind ourselves that he is very present with us. He reminded his disciples before he departed physically that he would be forever with them (Matthew 28:20).

And he is - by way of his Spirit, who lives in us.

Thirdly, we remember that he is in control of everything. Christ is sitting at the right hand of God and has rule over all things, especially his people.

Ephesians 1:22 says, "*And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.*"

Therefore, his perfect will for us is meant for good (Romans 8:28). All things that happen to us are being ruled by him. Colossians 1:17 says, "*And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*"

Therefore, our suffering, illnesses, grief, loss, job situation, health, loneliness, busyness, and burdens are all within his rule.

And that gives a lot of hope and assurance to us. If Christ has given us life, and he loves us with an everlasting love, and he desires life for us - all of these seeming oppositions are but avenues to that abundant life.

This is why for the Christian who keeps thinking and hoping and remembering the promises of God - joy in difficult circumstances is not farfetched.

When we go through suffering, reminding ourselves that this life is only temporary, and that our inner man is surely being molded by these tough experiences to yearn for heaven, we can rejoice. Yes, it does matter how we think and feel.

1 Peter 1:6 says, "*Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.*"

The way to have this joy is to discipline the mind to remember Christ's promises.

1 Peter 1:13 says, "*Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end...*"

How we think helps us to overcome and remain under our burdens. Burdens will never be absent - but how we think unburdens us.

~ Pastor



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 195. What do we pray for in the sixth petition?

A. In the sixth petition, (which is, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,) acknowledging, that the most wise, righteous, and gracious God, for divers holy and just ends, may so order things, that we may be assaulted, foiled, and for a time led captive by temptations; that Satan, the world, and the flesh, are ready powerfully to draw us aside, and ensnare us; and that we, even after the pardon of our sins, by reason of our corruption, weakness, and want of watchfulness, are not only subject to be tempted, and forward to expose ourselves unto temptations; but also of ourselves unable and unwilling to resist them, to recover out of them, and to improve them; and worthy to be left under the power of them: we pray, that God would so overrule the world and all in it, subdue the flesh and restrain Satan, order all things, bestow and bless all means of grace, and quicken us to watchfulness in the use of them: that we and all his people may by his providence be kept from being tempted to sin; or, if tempted, that by his Spirit we may be powerfully supported and enabled to stand in the hour of temptation; or when fallen, raised again and recovered out of it, and have a sanctified use and improvement thereof: that our sanctification and salvation may be perfected, Satan trodden under our feet, and we fully freed from sin, temptation, and all evil, for ever.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (4.3.18)	Next Week (11.3.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, David Pang* Eugene Lim, Ian Read	Ken Hong*, Yen Fye Yap* Lye Heng Chua, Rex Sriharan
Ushers	Dolphin Wai, Wendy Gong	August Ng, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Eileen Tay*, Florence Orchard, Jemima Ng, Rosemary	Mary-Anne Chan*, August Ng Victor Poon
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
Prayer Meeting	9 March 2018	16 March 2018
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	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. 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: "Wily Paul, Surrendered Paul" (Acts 23:1-11).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Be Content and Not Covetous" (Hebrews 13:5-6). Speaker: Jackie Hong.
5. Bible Conference 2018. Dates: 23-26 April 2018. Speaker: Pastor Allen Beardmore. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Electronic payment option - CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial).
6. Visitation this week: Ken and Elaine Chong by Pastor Mark Chen, Elder Jimmy Orchard, and Deacon Jacob Woo.

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 &amp; Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SAT 4:30 pm JF &amp; TF</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7:30 pm Men's Bible Study</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$3,433.00 (*DD - \$200.00, #775 - \$100.00, #776 - \$16.80). Missions Fund - \$280.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$502.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #578 - \$202.00). Total Tithes &amp; Offering - \$4,215.00. Attendance - 145.</p> <p><i>*DD: direct deposit</i></p>

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$85,738.90
Last Week's Collection	\$502.00
Total	\$86,240.90
Outstanding Loan	- \$380,000.00
Amount Still Needed	\$293,759.10
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.

## Where Is Your Citizenship?

Acts 21:30-22:30

The issue of citizenship is a hot subject. Who can be a citizen? What are the basic requirements needed? There are a lot of advantages of being citizens of certain countries. And there are lots of disadvantages being citizens of certain other countries. But where is our citizenship as Christians? How valuable is our belonging to Christ to us? How troublesome is it?

1. The Perks of a Valuable Earthly Citizenship
  - a. Rules and good order don't prevent civil problems
  - b. Paul respected for being a citizen of a prominent city
2. The Disadvantages of a Heavenly Citizenship
  - a. Pre-conversion testimony
  - b. Conversion testimony
  - c. His plea for them to convert
  - d. His preaching would convince none of them
3. The Weakness of a Valuable Earthly Citizenship
  - a. Being a Roman citizen saved him
  - b. Being a Roman citizen couldn't save him

What gives you security? Your citizenship? Your job? Your education? These may help you in this life time; but certainly being a Christian will not help you today. But yet, none of these other strengths can rescue you from hell - only your Christian citizenship can. How do you identify? No matter what it costs us, may we never be ashamed of our heavenly citizenship.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. What are the benefits of your earthly citizenship, education, and abilities compared to the benefits of your heavenly citizenship?
2. How much of a disadvantage can your heavenly citizenship be to your earthly citizenship in today's climate? In what ways have you been tempted to hide it?