



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

**Order of Worship – 28 April 2019**

**Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)**

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	13 - <i>Rejoice, the Lord Is King!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 50
Hymn	TP 50:1-6
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 5:1-17
Hymn	517 - <i>Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Knowing the Mercy and Terror of the Lord"
*Closing Hymn	408 - <i>Blessed Assurance</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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## The Attacks on Sri Lankan Christians

### *What Is on the News*

On Easter Sunday, Sri Lankan churches were destroyed in attacks by Islamic extremists. Many professing Christians died - as many as 350 were killed.

2 of the churches were Roman Catholic - St Anthony's Church in Colombo and St Sebastian's Church in Negombo. The third was evangelical - Zion Church in Batticaloa.

These attacks were planned and while they were 290 kilometers apart, they were almost simultaneous.

ISIS has claimed responsibility through their local chapter - the National Thowheed Jamaath.

### *Implications of the Attacks*

It has been said that these attacks were carried out as vengeance for the attack on a mosque in New Zealand. But it seems like plans for the attacks had been in the works for some time already.

But there are deep implications for the nation and for Sri Lankan Christians. Politically and ethnically, there is the potential of throwing an already divided country into greater division.

Socially, the Christians in the country - constituting a very small minority - will be in the spotlight and will fear the practice of their faith.

There seems to have been a deliberate attempt to threaten the harmony and stability of the country.

Sri Lanka is made up of 2 major ethnic groups - the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

The Sinhalese make up about 70% of the population and most of them practice Theravada Buddhism. Politically, they make up the ruling classes. And that

being the case, politics and religion are very much connected.

The Tamils comprise the remaining 30% of the population. 12% are Hindu, 9% are Muslim, and 9% are Christians.

This means that the perpetrators were Tamil and Muslim.

### *Sri Lanka and Christianity*

Of these 9% who identify as Christian, only 2% are Protestant. They comprise not only of ethnic Tamils, but Sinhalese and Anglo-Indians.

Roman Catholicism came to Sri Lanka through Portuguese colonists. Other Protestant denominations came later - such as the Anglicans, Methodists, and Pentecostals.

Most of the Christians in Sri Lanka are not rich nor influential. But many of them are proclaiming Christ and serving God especially by serving the poor.

Parachurch organizations like Youth for Christ have been active for the past few decades - bringing the gospel to more remote regions.

Because of the ethnic make up of the Christians, and the overwhelming Buddhist majority, there has been much opposition to the preaching of the gospel and planting of churches.

Whenever new churches are planted, there have been reports of attacks on the church buildings and upon both worshippers and clergy.

According to the NCEA - a national alliance of evangelicals in Sri Lanka - such attacks have increased in the last 6 months.

In a report by Barnabas Fund, a church pastor from a town near Colombo, was tortured and left unconscious after he

was stopped by policemen in October 2018.

He had been traveling home by motorbike when he was abducted. He was tortured with electric shocks for a whole day. His unconscious body was dumped by his attackers.

Police often collude with the attackers or they refuse to take action against the perpetrators.

While the Sri Lankan constitution guarantees freedom of religion, it does give first place to Buddhism, which enjoys the protection of the state. As such when Sinhalese Buddhist groups incite violence against Christians, local authorities do not often react.

While the persecution was by the Sinhalese and Buddhist majority in the past, this current persecution is by the Muslim Tamils.

Since persecution had largely come at the hands of Buddhist radicals, the church has largely responded to the attacks with shock - since these attacks came mainly from people of their same ethnicity.

#### *The Loss of Lives in Zion Church*

From the only evangelical church bombed, a report came.

The suicide bomber was originally not targeting Zion Church. But the most well-known church in Batticaloa - a

Catholic church - had already had their Easter mass the night before.

He then went to Zion Church. There, several people spoke to him, including the pastor's wife. One reported that he was sweating profusely. They invited him in the church to sit down and to take his backpack off. They showed kindness to him.

But he refused; made a phone call and immediately detonated.

At the time of the explosion, the worship service had started. But this was also when the Sunday School had finished and the children were having their refreshments. As such, most of the casualties were children and Sunday School teachers.

#### *Pray for the Christians in Sri Lanka*

There will certainly be a lot of bitterness, fear, and anger among the Christians in Sri Lanka. We are to pray for them that they would not take revenge but allow God in his time to avenge them.

We are to pray for the witness of the gospel in Sri Lanka - that the words of Christ would be continually preached and that the Christian leaders there would have God's wisdom to minister to the people.

Pray for those who have lost their loved ones - that they will turn to Christ for comfort. That even in such a dark time, people will turn to Christ for answers.

~ Pastor



## **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

Q. 96. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. The Lord's Supper is a Sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (28.4.19)	Next Week (5.5.19)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Edward Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Wendy Gong & Rebecca Lee	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	David Pang, Paul Butler Eugene Lim, Jacob Woo	Ken Hong, Paul Butler Rex Sriharan, Yen Fye Yap
Ushers	August Ng, Jemima Ng	Jerome Ng, Heng Qi Ban
Kitchen Duties	Dina Portillo*, Josephine Austin Putri Harapan	Angela Yap*, Debbie Blake Mary-Anne Chan, Sarah Siew
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>3 May 2019</i>	<i>10 May 2019</i>
Chairman	Jansen Ng	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Nancy 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: "Knowing the Mercy and Terror of the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:1-17).
4. Retirees' Bible Study. 10 am, Tuesday, 30 April 2019. Pastor will be speaking on "Sola Gratia." Please bring a dish to share.

<b>Appointments for the Week</b>	<b>Last Lord's Day Tithes &amp; Offering, &amp; Attendance</b>
TUE 10:00 am Retirees Bible Study	General Fund - \$2,971.10 (DD - \$987.00, #861 - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$230.00 (DD - \$100.00, #862 - \$20.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,501.10. Attendance - 125. *DD: direct deposit
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	
FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

<b>Repayment of Building Fund</b>	
Next Payment: 1 June 2019	Total Paid To Date: \$130,000.00
Target: \$50,000	To Be Paid by 2025: \$310,000.00
Current Balance: \$50,876.47	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.  
**Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.