



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 5 January 2020

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	51 – <i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Matthew 5:13-26
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	238 – <i>How Sweet and Awful Is The Place</i>
Hymn	499 – <i>Call Jehovah Thy Salvation</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 33:1-33
Hymn	487 – <i>Sometime We'll Understand</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Inspiring Words for a Tough Year Ahead"
*Closing Hymn	HGG – <i>Psalms 119f</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 Mercy, Compassion, and Faithfulness of God

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

The book of Lamentation is a lamentation. Jeremiah wrote it after the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. He was in despair as he saw how the city had been completely razed to the ground.

Anyone who loved the city of God would have been completely devastated.

In that book, Jeremiah announces and laments the destruction of Jerusalem. But he reminds Israel of the mercy of God despite the sin of God's people. And he prays for mercy upon Israel.

One of the greatest promises of the Bible is found in Lamentations. Chapter 3, verses 22 and 23.

What do these verses tell us?

The Mercy of the Lord

The Hebrew word for "mercy" is translated elsewhere as lovingkindness and grace. It refers to the covenant loving kindness of God. It doesn't only speak of God's mercy as opposed to God's judgment. But it speaks of God's love and favor toward the people of his covenant.

Like a father's love for his children, God's love is not dependent on their obedience or worthiness. As a father, he was very angry at Judah for their sins against him. He punished their rebellion.

However, he still loved them. This is why Judah was not completely destroyed. "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed."

Judah had been wicked, but there were still his elect within Judah. This is why God spared Judah, as he would one day

make her great. There would be a day when he would use her to sow the seeds among the Gentiles (Hosea 2:23).

This is why she was not consumed even though she deserved it. God had a better plan for her. Through her, God will gather all his people.

The Compassion of the Lord

The Hebrew word for "compassion" is translated elsewhere as mercy, womb, or bowels. It is used 44 times in the Old Testament.

This speaks about the affection and pity that God has on his people.

The reason why Judah was not consumed was because of God's covenant loving kindness. But it was also because God pitied her.

Compassion can fail and falter. A doctor who works in the front line of a war may be greatly moved and grieved by the injuries and atrocities she sees. She may want to help and heal all the patients that she sees. But after seeing so many injuries, she may no longer be moved by every injury. She has to make cut and dry decisions about whom to treat first. There may no longer be that compassion she once had.

Even the compassion of a father can falter. He may be very compassionate toward his children at first, but after a while, the ungratefulness of his children, their disobedience, and their rebellion may harden his heart.

But God's compassion will never fail. While the people had rebelled against God and deserved to be destroyed; yet God continued to show his pity on them for the sake of his people. It was through them, that Christ would be born. They had to survive! He would show them pity.

And each new day, as the Jews saw the sunshine, they knew they were spared because of God's compassion.

We in the New Testament are more blessed than they in the Old Testament. We too deserve God's wrath. But because his compassions fail not, we are not consumed. Moreover, God has sent Jesus to take on human flesh for us, to be tempted, so that he might pray for us.

This is why we are to thank God for his mercy and compassion.

The Faithfulness of the Lord

The faithfulness of God refers to his steadfastness and his keeping of his promises.

This is what Balaam remarked in Numbers 23:19 - "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

God does not merely bless his children because he is compassionate and merciful. He blesses his children because he has promised to do so. And Paul recognized that God's promises to his children are "yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (2 Corinthians 1:20).

God would faithfully keep his promises because he has given them to Christ and Christ has suffered for them.

Romans 8:32 reminds us that if God has "spared not his own Son, but delivered

him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

This is why God's faithfulness is great. He will never leave his people nor forsake them. This who know him and love him are enabled to know and love him by his grace. We are confident that God will never abandon us.

So no matter how hard our lives may be, or how we may suffer, we need to remember that God is faithful.

This was a fact that Jeremiah remembered when the situation in Judah seemed hopeless. May God grant us the same remembrance when we go through our troubles.

Conclusion

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed for his compassions never fail - they are new every morning. Great is his faithfulness. This is his promise - may we never forget his mercy, compassion, and faithfulness. May he give us strength to live our lives until the day we see him face to face.

~ Pastor

Catechism for Younger Children

59. How do you repent of your sin? I must be sorry for my sin, and hate and forsake it.

60. Why must you hate and forsake your sin? Because sin displeases God.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (5.1.2020)</i>	<i>Next Week (12.1.2020)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jerome Ng
Welcomers	Johnny & Lydia Orchard	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Johnny Orchard, Micah Chiang	Yen Fye Yap, Jansen Ng
Ushers	Faith Chiu, Jemima Ng	August Ng, Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Aliza Chiu, Sarah Siew Rebecca Lee, Jerome Ng	Dina Portillo, Addressa Carvalho Adeline Ng
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and lunch.
2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Please spend some time in quiet meditation and self-examination to prepare yourself to partake of the elements in the Sacrament.
3. Next week's message: "How Big Is Your God?" (Job 34:1-37).
4. Adult Bible Class and Children's Sunday School is in recess until February 2020.

Appointments for the Week

SUN 9:00 am Sunday School
 10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$1839.40
 (ET - \$200.00)
 Mission Fund - \$90.00
 Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)
 Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2229.40

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 109.

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373.

Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149. **Chris Budiman** 0422 736 658.