



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 12 January 2020

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	Exodus 34:1-14
Hymn	552 – <i>I Surrender All</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 34:1-37
Hymn	217 – <i>Break Thou the Bread of Life</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	“How Big Is Your God?”
*Closing Hymn	484 – <i>I Need Thee, Precious 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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## The Tongue is a Devastating Fire

James 3:5-6 - *"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."*

### *Australian Bushfires and the Destruction of Forests*

A forest contains great beauty. Underneath the canopy of all the trees, it is a refuge for animals, plants, and flowers. But a forest can be destroyed in a matter of hours by fire.

Fire is devastating. When it ravages a forest, everything can be turned into dust, ash, and desolation.

Before the fire, all is green, shaded, peaceful, and scented by the flowers. This was the Australian bush. It was a safe haven for all kinds of animals - big and small. But the ongoing bushfires have destroyed that haven. Half a billion animals have perished. The fires have also caused billions of dollars in damage.

These burning forests have shown the destruction that is possible when God's creation comes under the force of raging fire.

Fire is an energy created when wood, coal, oil, and other fuels break down. Some elements are flammable - like dry grass and wood. Once ignited, these fuels release much energy. They can be ignited with only a little fire.

Fire is not bad. It can be used for good like lighting candles to produce light or lighting the hearth to cook food. It is good when controlled.

But fire can be destructive. According to Proverbs 30:16, there is a "fire that saith not, It is enough." When it is uncontrolled, it can be very hard to

stop. The bushfires in Australia are proof that it is hard to stop.

### *The Tongue Is a Fire*

The Bible says that the tongue is a fire (James 3:6). In other words, it has the same nature and ability as a destructive fire.

If it is controlled, it can produce much good. If it is uncontrolled, it will destroy.

It is good because words that are controlled and wise can bring warmth and peace and comfort. The gospel is preached by redeemed tongues. Our faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10). Words can also be used to reprove, rebuke, exhort, with long-suffering and instruction (2 Timothy 4:2).

But words that are uncontrolled and foolish can destroy. Proverbs 26:20-21 says, *"Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife."*

Verses 22 speak of how the wounds of a talebearer are like wounds that hurt a person deep down into his soul.

Through angry and careless words, the love and trust of another can be transformed into hatred, jealousy, and strife.

### *The Tongue that Started it All*

The fall of mankind came about through the use of the tongue. Satan used it to create a fire of covetousness, deceit, and pride. Jesus said in John 8:44 that Satan is the father of lies and he used it to be a murderer from the beginning.

Jesus said that it is not what enters a person that defiles him, rather it is what proceeds out of him. Matthew 15:18-20a - *"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the*

*heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile a man..."*

The tongue deceives, tempts, seduces, sows discord, etc. Like a fire, these words can smolder in the emotions and eat away at anything that is good. Other times, like a fire, these words can rage through anything in its path. The devil uses it to destroy God's kingdom.

### *Controlling Our Tongues*

Children are told not to play with fire. Similarly, God tells his children not to be loose with the tongue. In Proverbs 26:18-19, he likens a man who deceives his neighbor and says he's only joking to a mad man who throws firebrands, arrows, and death.

Our words have a wonderful and terrible power. We can create joy and peace; or grief and sorrow. Although Job lost his farm, family, and flesh; it was his friends' folly that crushed him. Job 19:2 - *"How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?"*

Thus, let us remember, as James 1:26 says, to bridle our tongue. Matthew 12:36-37 warns us that every idle word we speak, we have to give an account of it - *"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."*

## **Catechism for Younger Children**

61. What does it mean to believe in Christ? To trust in Christ alone for my salvation.

62. Can you repent and believe in Christ by your own power? No. I cannot repent and believe unless the Holy Spirit changes my heart.

The force of idle words is very powerful. And therefore, we are to weigh our words. Ephesians 4:29, 31-33 instructs us to *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers... Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

An angry word, a foolish remark, a lie, or a gossip can start a fire. This fire can cause a smolder that will slowly destroy or it can cause a blaze that will quickly destroy. Proverbs 18:21 says, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."* ~ Pastor

# Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (12.1.2020)</i>	<i>Next Week (19.1.2020)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Magdalene Tay
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	John & Adeline Ng
Offering Stewards	Yen Fye Yap, Jansen Ng	David Pang, Chris Budiman Jemima Ng, John Chandran
Ushers	August Ng, Joyce Ng	Sharon Sriharan, Nicole Tan
Kitchen Duties	Dina Portillo, Andressa Carvallo Adeline Ng	Carmel Sriharan, Heng Qi Ban Peggy Woo
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo

## Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Where Were You?" (Job 38:1-7).
3. Adult Bible Class and Children's Sunday School is in recess until February

### Appointments for the Week

SUN	9:30 am	Prayer Meeting
	10:00 am	Worship Service

### Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2120.10  
(ET - \$300.00)  
Mission Fund - \$100.00  
Building Fund - \$400.00 (ET - \$400.00)  
Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2620.10

\*ET: Electronic Transfer    Attendance - 92.