



COVENANT Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 26 January 2020

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	12 – <i>Praise Him! Praise Him!</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 42
Hymn	Insert – <i>As The Deer</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 42:1-17
Hymn	526 – <i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	“God Restores”
*Closing Hymn	651 – <i>Face to Face</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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Jesus Is the Good Shepherd

In John 10:14-15, Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Christ is many things to us - he is our God and Savior. We know that he is also our Lord and King. But Jesus here announced that he is the Good Shepherd.

Hebrews 13:20 calls him the Great Shepherd, 1 Peter 5:4 calls him the Chief Shepherd.

What did Jesus mean when he spoke of himself as being the Good Shepherd?

Where He Uttered These Words

In John 10, Jesus was in Perea, on the other side of the Jordan River. We know this because he would cross over to Jerusalem for Hanukkah (John 10:22) and then return to Perea (John 10:40). This means that he was in Perea when he uttered these words.

Perea was a place of sheep and shepherds. The people there knew their sheep. And so, Jesus, being the teacher that he was, instructed the people using the surrounding images.

Before this, in John 10:7, he said "I am the door of the sheep." He was referring not to the gate itself, but to the practice of how shepherds would sleep at the opening of the sheepfold at night.

What Is a Shepherd?

A shepherd was the person who looked after the flock of sheep. The sheep either belonged to him, or not. He could have been a hireling employed to look after someone else's sheep.

Whichever he was, his duties included leading the sheep to green pastures where they would graze, and to lead them beside still waters to drink. Since sheep would not drink from running waters, the shepherd would sometimes have to dig the ground to fill it with water.

The shepherd would also protect the sheep from attacks by wolves, lions, and bears. Sometimes the attackers were

thieves who came to steal and kill the sheep for their meat and wool.

The shepherd also looked for sheep that got lost - nursing them to health and tending to their injuries.

Christ called himself a shepherd because his relationship with his people closely paralleled the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep.

Who Are Christ's Sheep?

Christ's sheep are his people. They comprise all true believers alive today as well as those believers who have already gone to heaven. They also comprise those believers who would believe in the future. Christ knows exactly who his sheep are and who his sheep are not.

In John 10:2-27, Jesus told the Pharisees that they did not believe in him because they were not his sheep. Those who were his sheep would hear his voice and follow him.

We need to remember that we do not become the sheep of Christ by our faith. We become his sheep by God's appointment. And the sheep of Christ will hear and believe and follow the chief shepherd.

Some are not yet in the fold - but they are still sheep nonetheless. And one day, by God's grace, they will hear the voice of their shepherd and follow him. The Pharisees did not believe because they were not sheep.

Christ As the Good Shepherd

Jesus said - "I know my sheep, and am known of mine...my sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

As their shepherd, he guides and leads them, feeds and waters them, restores them when they are injured, searches for them and returns them to the fold when they stray. He also protects them from danger, and chastises them when they are disobedient.

He does these things because he is the good shepherd. He is not an ordinary shepherd, but a good one.

"Good" speaks of morality. He is morally better than others. He's the perfect shepherd. Anything that anyone could ever want of a shepherd can be found in Christ. He put his whole heart into shepherding.

He is also good because he is not a hireling (John 10:12). The reason why he loved the sheep was because he owned the sheep. The sheep were given to him by the Father. He knows each of them by name and has a deep interest in them.

It was not his job - but it was his love. And because of that, he gave his life up for every one of them. Jesus said in verse 15 that he played down his life for them. A good shepherd risks his life. However, a hireling would simply run away.

Jesus did not suffer inconveniences or poverty for us - he died for us. He endured great pains to deliver us from hell.

The very moment he was born, he began to lay down his life. He was the eternal Son of God - but he became a mortal son of man. He enjoyed the glories of heaven - but he suffered the pains of the world. He had a throne in heaven, but was placed as a baby in a manger.

Why did Christ lay down his life? It was for his sheep.

When he preached the gospel, he traveled and had no place to lay his head. He was hungry and tired. He was persecuted. Why did Christ lay down his life? It was for his sheep.

When he was arrested, he was betrayed by his friend. He was forsaken by his disciples. He was ridiculed and mocked. He had a crown of thorns forced on his head. Why did he lay down his life this way? It was for his sheep.

And at the cross, the sun was blotted out. Why? Because the Son of Righteousness was bearing the sins of the sheep. He saw only the anger of God - who had forsaken him. Why did Christ lay down his life in this manner? It was for the sheep.

No other man has done this for us but Christ.

Our Response as His Sheep

Let us remember that no other man has done what Christ has done for us. This demands a certain response from us. Firstly, we need to remember. If Christ is our good shepherd, then we are his sheep. We are sheep. We need a shepherd. We need Jesus Christ.

Secondly, if Christ has lay down his life, we need to be grateful to him. This gratefulness can only be cultivated when we remember what he has done for us - and from what he has rescued us. If do not acknowledge the sinfulness of our hearts, then we will not be grateful for his redemption.

Thirdly, if Christ is our shepherd, then we are to hear him and obey him. As sheep hear the voice of the shepherd, we are to hear the voice of our shepherd. Jesus said, "my sheep hear my voice and they follow me." We need to hear. We need to follow him alone. And his voice comes forth clearly in His Word and in the preaching of His Word.

Fourthly, if Christ is our shepherd, then let us rely on him. In Psalm 23:1, David said, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want."

We ought to rely on him for our physical and spiritual needs. We are to find our greatest fulfillment in him. When we realize that this shepherd doesn't only take care of the sparrows and the lilies, nor just the stars and the nebulae - but he takes care of us - we can be content knowing that the big and small things are in his hands.

And knowing that the Chief Shepherd of the Sheep is the head of the church, we are to be confident in him that he will direct the future of his church.

Conclusion

If Christ is our Good Shepherd, and he is - we must know that he loves and cares for us because he has laid down his life for us. Our hope must be in him alone. Let this be my parting words to you. ~ *Pastor*

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (26.1.2020)</i>	<i>Next Week (2.2.2020)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Glen Lock
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Kim Leow, Steven Lim Ken Chong, John Tan	Ken Chong, Sharon Sriharan John Chandran, Steven Lim
Ushers	Rebecca Lee	Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	Mary Loh, Jenni Budiman Michelle Tan	Angela Yap, Putri Harapan Siew Kim Chandran, Rachel Kung
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. 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 messenger is Pastor Glen Lock.
4. Adult Bible Class and Children's Sunday School is in recess until February

Catechism for Younger Children

65. How were sinners saved before Christ came? By believing in the promised Messiah.
66. Before Christ came, how did believers show their faith? By offering the sacrifices God required.

Appointments for the Week

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

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$1608.00
(ET - \$200.00)
Mission Fund - \$80.00
Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)
Total Tithes & Offerings - \$1988.00

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 88.