



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 14 January 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	41 - <i>Blessed Be the Name</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:8
Hymn	TP 90:1-4, 10-14
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 20:1-12
Hymn	556 - <i>Only One Life</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Give of Your Best"
*Closing Hymn	538 - <i>Give of Your Best</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

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

We Get Lonely Sometimes

Christians have the presence of the Holy Spirit. But they often get lonely.

Christians may have friendship and companionship - but that does not always combat loneliness.

This tells us that loneliness is not absent despite the presence of people and companions.

Therefore, the foolproof solution for loneliness is not the presence of people. Having a lot of friends or being married does not solve loneliness.

People who are yoked and have friends still feel alone - *this is because loneliness is not a circumstance but a feeling.*

The Bible has much to say about loneliness - especially in the person of the prophet Jeremiah.

He was a man who was called to be alone and did go through bouts of loneliness.

Jeremiah's Call to Loneliness

Jeremiah was called to be alone and as such, his feelings of loneliness were a result of his commitment and obedience to God.

This is why some of us may feel lonely - God has intended for us to be for this season of our lives.

God had called Jeremiah to preach the Word to an idolatrous nation. He was to call them to repent and warn them of judgment upon their idolatry.

Therefore, from the start, Jeremiah was unpopular. The false prophets preached words of comfort and affirmed the people in their lives. But Jeremiah's preaching challenged them. The people hated his preaching.

Because of the danger he faced from these people and the impending destruction of Judah, God commanded him not to marry or have children. God

even commanded him to withdraw from the company of people (Jeremiah 16:1-9). So Jeremiah never knew the pleasures of marriage and friendship.

Why did God do this?

God wanted Jeremiah's lonely life to be a picture of what would happen to the nation of Judah. Jeremiah would not have friends to show all the people that they would one day have all their comforts and companions wrested from them.

Jeremiah's ministry was 40 years long - it was a prolonged stretch of loneliness.

And we see in his life how he dealt with it. He wasn't always stoic or content - he was just a human being.

Jeremiah's Pain in Loneliness

Jeremiah's prophecy & lamentations are filled with expressions of his pain.

Jeremiah 20:7b-8 says, "*I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.*"

He was mocked daily because of his preaching. And this led to some amount of bitterness against God. He felt that God had deceived him (Jeremiah 20:7a).

In his loneliness, he lamented to God. And that's where he found strength in loneliness. In his ups and downs, he learned to trust God. He praised God for his sovereignty, acknowledged his mercy, and praised his wisdom (Jeremiah 32:17-19).

And because of this, he was able to withstand his loneliness and all his other troubles.

The Greater Jeremiah

Jeremiah's pain in suffering and loneliness was not only to denote what

was going to happen to Judah. It showed what the greater Prophet would do.

It showed that Jesus would suffer loneliness so that his people would not be eternally separated from God.

When Jesus started his ministry, it was very lonely. Even his own brothers thought he was insane and didn't believe his claims and teachings.

Even in the three years with his disciples, he often went off alone. He was a man of sorrows.

None of them understood him. And they were unreliable friends. When he needed them most at the Garden of Gethsemane, they were asleep - unable to sympathize with him.

His close friend - Judas Iscariot - betrayed him with a kiss and none of his immediate disciples save John, were there with him at the cross.

That's loneliness. Jesus was lonely, even though he had so many followers during his ministry. And even at the end, from the sixth to the ninth hour, even his father had forsaken him.

But Jesus died that we may never be alone. He is with us by his Spirit - whom he called another comforter. A knowledge of that strengthens us in our loneliness.

Alone But Not Alone

Yes, we may be physically alone - without human companionship. We do need friends. God said about Adam that it was not good for man to be alone. And Christian friendship is important.

The new church directory helps us to contact one another, pray for one another, and visit one another.

Rather than wait for others to make the first move, we can minister to others. When we serve, we use our gifts, and that leads to fellowship in Christ.

We may also be lonely because that is our natural sinful temperament. We may be prone to feeling blue.

Yes, some of us have these wretched feelings that make us feel blue and we give in to them. But just like Jeremiah, we can encourage ourselves in the Lord. His loneliness eased when he remembered who God was.

Psalm 73:26 says, "*My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.*"

In our loneliness, we ought to spend time with God. In our loneliness, we ought to serve others.

May the Lord fill us in our lonely times. And may he remind us of the friend that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 186. What rule hath God given for our direction in the duty of prayer?

A. The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in the duty of prayer; but the special rule of direction is that form of prayer which our Saviour Christ taught his disciples, commonly called The Lord's Prayer.

Q. 187. How is the Lord's Prayer to be used?

A. The Lord's Prayer is not only for direction, as a pattern, according to which we are to make other prayers; but may also be used as a prayer, so that it be done with understanding, faith, reverence, and other graces necessary to the right performance of the duty of prayer.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (14.1.18)	Next Week (21.1.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Glen Lock
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Edward Lim	Meryl Woo
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Wendy	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, John Tan* Lye Heng Chua, Yen Fye Yap	Jacob Woo*, David Pang* Micah Chiang, Jansen Ng
Ushers	Joyce Ng, Jerome Ng	August Ng, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Jackie Hong*, Aliza Chiu Debbie Blake	Lydia Orchard*, Peggy Woo Julian Poon
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>19 January 2018</i>	<i>26 January 2018</i>
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Prayer Meeting in Recess
Pianist	Eugene Lim	

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's messenger is Pastor Glen Lock. Message: "What About Heaven" (Revelation 21:1-10, 22:1-7).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Don't Resist God" (Hebrews 12:12-17). Speaker: Johnson Lim.
4. Bible Conference 2018. Dates: 23-26 April 2018. Speaker: Pastor Allen Beardmore. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Please register with Ken Chong or Ken Hong.
5. Bible Study Tour of Israel and Jordan. Dates: 9-21 December 2018. Please contact Pastor Mark if you are interested.
6. Pastor Mark will be away in India for a mission trip from 19 to 27 January. Please contact Elder Jimmy for pastoral care.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
<p>FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p>General Fund - \$2,724.90 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$240.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$500.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #572 - \$200.00).</p> <p>Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,464.90. Attendance - 144.</p> <p><i>*DD: direct deposit</i></p>

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details	
Available Building Fund	\$93,901.82
Last Week's Collection	\$500.00
Total	\$94,401.82
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$390,000.00</i>
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$295,598.18</i>
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.

Give of Your Best
Acts 20:1-12

Knowing that your life would end soon changes things for us. We may give up all to focus on the things we enjoy. We may be completely devastated and unable to do what we normally would and should do. But despite our circumstances, we continue to serve God and give him our best.

1. He Expended Time and Effort to Encourage
 - a. Paul knew his discouraging fate
 - b. He traveled to encourage
 - c. He co-labored to encourage
2. He Expended Time and Effort to Worship
 - a. Paul kept the Lord's Day
 - b. Paul was excited about teaching
 - c. Paul gave despite discouragement

Paul struggled in his discouragement. But he didn't give in to it. He continued to give. This was the path that Paul would walk. He subdued his temperament and disciplined his flesh. That is the way of the cross; the way of the gospel. He gave himself to the encouragement of the saints and to the worship of God. He gave his best in the midst of suffering.

Questions for Reflection:

1. What strikes you most about Paul in his willingness to minister to Eutychus and raise him from the dead in the midst of him having received this devastating news? What do you think motivated him to such gospel living?
2. If you didn't have long to live, what spiritual 'beans' would you be planting? Are you planting them now?