



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 25 February 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	22 - <i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 Kings 18:20-39
Hymn	TP 103:1-13
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 21:17-31
Hymn	374 - <i>He Keeps Me Singing</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Anger and the Idolatry of Custom"
*Closing Hymn	609 - <i>God Will Take Care of You</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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Formal Home Visitation

In our November session meeting, the elders proposed a home visitation plan where every family of the church and individual member and worshiper will receive a visit at least once a year.

Thus far, our visitations have been conducted in an *ad hoc* fashion, by pastor and elder, and on a need basis. These were usually informal visits.

But a formal home visitation is important.

At these times, the elders and deacons can demonstrate their care for the worshipers and encourage them to grow in Christ.

The worshipers can also give an account of their spiritual growth, their victories, the obstacles they face, and seek pastoral help to overcome them.

This does two things - it allows for oversight by the elders and subjection by the worshipers to that oversight.

The Scriptural Basis for Home Visitation

When Paul was in Ephesus, he faithfully visited the flock. We learn that when he was in Miletus, he called the elders of Ephesus to meet with him.

He revealed that while he was Ephesus, he taught from house to house (Acts 20:20). And the manner in which he did was by admonishing them night and day with tears (v 31).

And he urged the elders to do the same - to labor in this way to support the weak (v 35) by having oversight and to feed the flock (v 28).

The goal is that we grow in Christ and to be like him. We want to grow in grace and in spiritual fruit. We want to grow in a greater desire for Christ and his kingdom. We want to die daily to our carnality.

Yes, we have not been as diligent to provide this kind of care. But may the Lord be pleased to help us in our duties to you, the flock.

What Is It For?

An elder and a deacon will visit the home of a church member or worshiper to discuss the spiritual vitality of their Christian life and the life of the congregation.

This helps to strengthen the spiritual lives and faith of the congregation - both the church families and individuals.

The intent is to challenge each person to live for Christ and to worship him by their lives and service in a way acceptable to Christ.

It also encourages fellowship and service in the church. The deacon is there also to encourage worshipers who feel down and out and to determine how to use the resources of the church to help them.

He also determines how he can encourage gifted saints to serve the body of Christ.

It helps the elders to determine the specific spiritual needs of the people and to assess the congregation's reaction to and growth from the preaching and teaching of the church.

It also creates a meaningful relationship between the people and their officers apart from extraordinary circumstances.

And yes, visitation helps the officers to know potential problems and to address them before they increase in intensity. If anything, it gives opportunity for the worshipers to express their concerns for the church.

In short, the purpose of this visitation is to see God's Word functioning and living in the hearts of the congregation. This helps the officers to check on the spiritual welfare of the people.

How Is It Done?

Home visitation is not a Bible Study. There will be no lengthy sermon. However, the Word of God is always the starting point - it will be given and also applied.

While we must always worship God, home visitation is not a family worship.

But it is a time of spiritual check-up, where both officers and worshipers can examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith; to test ourselves to see if Christ is in us (2 Corinthians 13:5-6).

The officers will inquire about your spiritual health, what victories you have been experiencing in your Christian walk, which sins you have overcome, and how they can pray for you.

They will encourage you to serve and also to apply God's Word to you to help you grow in Christ.

Those who are visited are to speak openly about their victories and struggles and concerns.

In order for the home visitation to be fruitful, both sides in the visitation are therefore enabled to encourage one another.

It is not a "one way" monologue - it is a dialogue where all are to speak.

Both parties ought to feel free to share in their spiritual growth and sanctification.

This can only work well if the officers can also share about their struggles, victories, and prayer requests.

Will It Be Uncomfortable?

Of course it will be uncomfortable.

While we have come together for fellowship before, sometimes our fellowship may not be so deep. We talk about many things and little about our walk with the Lord.

This will not be comfortable - because it is personal. But this is what true fellowship is about.

Furthermore, realize that it will probably be more uncomfortable for the officer than for you.

It is not always comfortable transcending the mere bonds of friendship to assume the role of overseer and servant.

But this home visitation is an opportunity for all of us to fulfill our duties to God and church.

Val will be contacting you to arrange for a time for the elders and deacons to visit.

As we start out, I would ask the whole church to pray that this would not be contrived but rather be a fruitful and Christ-honoring time - that Jesus would use it to build us all up in Christ.

~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 194. What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

A. In the fifth petition, (which is, Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors,) acknowledging, that we and all others are guilty both of original and actual sin, and thereby become debtors to the justice of God; and that neither we, nor any other creature, can make the least satisfaction for the debt: we pray for ourselves and others, that God of his free grace would, through the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, apprehended and applied by faith, acquit us both from the guilt and punishment of sin, accept us in his Beloved; continue his favor and grace to us, pardon our daily failings, and fill us with peace and joy, in giving us daily more and more assurance of forgiveness; which we are the rather emboldened to ask, and encouraged to expect, when we have this testimony in ourselves, that we from the heart forgive others their offences.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (25.2.18)	Next Week (4.3.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Dolphin Wai & Josephine Austin	Yen Fye & Angela Yap
Offering Stewards	Ken Hong*, John Tan* David Pang, Rex Sriharan	Paul Butler*, David Pang* Eugene Lim, Ian Read
Ushers	Jesslyn Leow, Wendy Gong	Dolphin Wai, Wendy Gong
Kitchen Duties	Mary-Anne Chan*, Lisa Lim Val Withnell	Eileen Tay*, Florence Orchard, Jemima Ng, Rosemary Fitzpatrick
PA Duty	Joel Chua	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>2 March 2018</i>	<i>9 March 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	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. 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: "Where Is Your Citizenship?" (Acts 21:30-22:30).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "It Is Important to Believe and Live Correctly" (Hebrews 13:8-16). Speaker: John Tan.
5. Retirees' Bible Study. Tuesday, 27 February 2018, 10am. DVD Movie: "Born to Win". Potluck lunch after meeting.
6. 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.
7. Bible Study Tour of Israel and Jordan. Dates: 9-21 December 2018. Please contact Pastor Mark if you are interested. Itineraries are available at the foyer.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
TUE 10:00 am Retirees' Bible Study	General Fund - \$3,620.35 (*DD - \$1,835.00, #771 - \$1,000.00, #772 - \$4.20, #773 - \$20.00). Missions Fund - \$430.00 (*DD - \$330.00, #774 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$600.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #577 - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$7,166.70. Attendance - 142.
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details

Available Building Fund	\$85,138.90	General Fund:	
Last Week's Collection	\$600.00	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316942
Total	\$85,738.90	Missions Fund:	
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$380,000.00</i>	BSB: 036-031	A/C: 316950
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$294,261.10</i>	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.

Anger and the Idolatry of Custom Acts 21:17-31

There are certain things that Christians hold dear. These may be past traditions or customs from our culture or from when we were unbelievers. Some of these customs are anti-biblical and must be discarded, some are unbiblical but have been masked as being biblical, and others are not unbiblical but we may be so attached to them. How Christians deal with these things today is important for the unity of the church.

1. An Expected Reaction and a Violent Result
 - a. Unbelieving Jews opposed Paul
 - b. They stirred the people against Paul
 - c. They did it by poisoning their minds
2. An Unexpected Reaction and a Peaceable Response
 - a. The joyful reaction of the elders to Paul's ministry
 - b. The disappointing reaction of the Jewish believers
 - c. The submission of Paul to the wise counsel of the elders

There are many customs which are meant to bring people closer - but often these become the occasions for division. We learn here not to sweat the small stuff in church. There is enough to deal with from the world and Satan. We need to preserve the unity in the church, and that only happens when the gospel of grace is at work in us.

Questions for Reflection:

1. How is Paul's humility and willingness to submit here to the Jerusalem elders surprising? What does this tell you about him? How would you feel if you were in Paul's situation, knowing his fate and having to prove himself here?
2. Read Romans 14:13-19. How can we stand on our convictions, live the way we think before God, and not cause another to stumble? How might such a life benefit our witness for Christ?