



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 29 April 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	51 - <i>Jesus Shall Reign</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Jonah 1:1-16
Hymn	TP 39:1, 4-6, 12-13
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 27:1-44
Hymn	177 - <i>Before the Throne of God Above</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Safe Through Shipwreck"
*Closing Hymn	630 - <i>Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me</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

Ebenezer at this Church Anniversary

In 1 Samuel 7:12, the prophet Samuel put a rock between two places - Mizpeh and Shen. He called it Ebenezer which meant "a stone of help" because it was at that place, that God helped them.

The Israelites had just won a big victory over the Philistines. Prior to that, Samuel had led them in repentance for their sins against God.

Upon repentance, God delivered them from their enemies. It would be years before they attacked again.

There Was Sorrow Before Triumph

But that field on which the monument was erected was significant. 20 years before the stone was laid, Israel experienced great trouble at that field.

Hophni and Phineas, the sons of Eli, were slain on that field. The ark of God was taken by the Philistines, and Israel was defeated in battle there.

It was a defeat they remembered. The kingdom of God - his church on earth - will experience defeat from time to time.

Hophni and Phineas were priests. But they were punished for their sins. They kept the best parts of the sacrifices for themselves and had their way with the women of Israel. God was provoked!

The church of God will at times experience defeat because of the sins of God's people, who are his priests.

Like Hophni and Phineas, we have not done right. We have rested in our service - serving in our own strength, praying without faith, and working to receive a reward.

As such, there had been casualties. The spot reminded them of their failures.

The spot also reminded them of their sadness. When Eli heard about his sons' deaths, he fell backward and broke his neck.

When Phineas' wife gave birth, she named her son Ichabod - to signify the departing of God's glory.

Not only had the ark been taken, but their harvests had been stolen. Israel had 20 years of bitter sorrow.

The church of God will know sorrow from time to time.

But it was also their place of repentance. They came together to confess their sins & remove their idols.

Perhaps at this anniversary, as we praise God, we need to recall our defeats, remember our sorrows, and come to God in repentance.

Spurgeon said, "*On earth penitence and praise must always sing together. Just as in some of our tunes there are two or three parts, we shall always need repentance to take the bass notes while we are here...*"

Despite the sin, trouble, and weakness, they triumphed because of repentance.

There Was Weakness Before Triumph

When the whole nation came together, the Philistines suspected a revolt - even though they came together to repent and worship.

As such, the Philistines attacked. But they were attacking unarmed people.

When Israel heard this, they were distraught. What should they do? They were unarmed! So Samuel took the only weapon he knew. He offered a lamb and asked God for help.

What could they do in their weakness? They could neither fight with swords - for they had few; nor assemble the people to fight - who were comprised of women and children.

They were weak. But in their weakness before God, and offering a lamb, God was strong.

God responded by confusing the Philistines with thunder. And while the Israelites heard the thunder, they were not confused.

They used the confusion, chased the Philistines and finally defeated them at a

place called Bethcar - the House of the Lamb!

If we are to win at all, it must be from a position of weakness - and Christ must win the battle for us.

It was by surrender to God and by prayer that the battle was won.

Triumph does not come when we do not pray. Triumph does not come when we assert self. It comes from a position of weakness.

There Was Understanding After the Triumph

After Israel triumphed, they built the monument. There were three things that they realized that day.

Firstly, they realized God helped them. By calling it Ebenezer, they acknowledged that God was their stone of help. It was he who destroyed their enemies.

Yes, Israel had picked up swords and pursued the Philistines. But without the thunder and confusion, they would not have been able to win.

Secondly, they realized that God had always been helping them.

They acknowledged that "*hitherto hath the Lord helped us.*" It was hitherto - *thus far* had God helped them!

Even the past 20 years when they experienced great trial, sorrow, weakness, and sin - they knew God had not departed from them. The ark of God

might have been taken, but the presence of God never departed.

Often, when we see problems in God's kingdom, we are quick to forget that God is still with us. We may want to give up. But he is leading us through the problems.

Thirdly, they also realized that God would continue to help them.

Hitherto had God helped them. But the journey was not done! There would be more trials, joys, temptations, triumphs, prayers, and answers.

Things would not be all smooth sailing after they laid the monument - there would be more trouble. And there was. A lot!

This is often difficult news to accept. Especially if God's people and church are going through problems. "This is not the end?! And if we triumph over this, there will be more problems?"

Yes. And yes.

This is why, because God has helped, because he is our Ebenezer, we must gird up the loins of our minds and to be sober, and to continue in the work of repentance and sacrifice.

There is much to do in kingdom building - but nothing more important than the works of repentance, surrender, and remembrance.

May God give us grace to remember Christ and rely on him.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 15. What was the sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created?

A. The sin whereby our first parents fell from the estate wherein they were created, was their eating the forbidden fruit.

Q. 16. Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

A. The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (29.4.18)	Next Week (6.5.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Edward Paauwe
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Edward Lim	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	David Pang*, Yen Fye Yap* Eugene Lim, John Tan	Paul Butler*, Rex Sriharan* Steven Lim, Eugene Lim
Ushers	Dolphin Wai, Joyce Ng	Rebecca Lee, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Lisa Lim*, Jemima Ng Ken Hong	Mary-Anne Chan*, Val Withnell Rosemary Fitzpatrick, Eileen Tay
PA Duty	Jacob Woo	Ian Tay
Prayer Meeting	4 May 2018	11 May 2018
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Jerome Ng

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 speaker is Rev Edward Paauwe. Message: "Keep Calling on the LORD for Help" (Psalm 130:1-8).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "The Church Must Always Be Learning" (Acts 2:42-47). Speaker: Mark Chen.
5. Visitation this week by Pastor Mark Chen, Elder Jimmy Orchard and Deacon Jacob Woo.
6. We would like to offer our condolences to the Woo family on the passing of Fong Kwan Chai, their beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$5,091.30 (*DD - \$1,971.00). Missions Fund - \$270.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (*DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$5,661.30. Attendance - 138. *DD: direct deposit
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	
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	\$90,740.90
Last Week's Collection	\$300.00
Total	\$91,040.90
Outstanding Loan	- \$380,000.00
Amount Still Needed	\$288,959.10
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.

Safe Through Shipwreck

Acts 27:1-44

Have you ever experienced anxiety because of life's circumstances? The natural man reacts with despair. The Spirit controlled man reacts with grace. Paul faced many problems. But he was confident that God would see him to the end - that he would be safe from shipwreck.

1. It Is Always a Difficult Journey

- a. What starts well may not continue well
- b. Despite precautions taken, success is never guaranteed
- c. What is bad can become worse
- d. There will be many false hopes

2. Our Response to Difficulty

- a. The dominant natural response
 - i. Preserve wealth
 - ii. Preserve life
- b. The trusting spiritual response
 - i. Demonstrated wisdom and common sense
 - ii. Showed compassion
 - iii. Gave Assurance

3. The Source of Our Safety and Confidence

- a. The faith of Jonah and Paul
- b. God gave his best, he will supply the rest

Many of us wrongly judge the shipwreck in our lives to be our problems and we do all we can to save ourselves, our wealth, and our lives. By so doing, we shipwreck our faith. Never fear the shipwrecks in life more than the shipwreck of our faith. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you fear the shipwreck of your life more than the shipwreck of your faith? Why or why not?
2. What is your particular *typhonikos* now and how can you demonstrate faith, wisdom, compassion, and assurance?