



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 30 September 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	49 - <i>O God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Deuteronomy 6:1-13
Hymn	TP 39:1, 4-6, 12-13
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Ecclesiastes 9:1-10
Hymn	200 - <i>Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"There Is Joy in Life"
*Closing Hymn	704 - <i>We Plough the Fields, and Scatter</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 Olive Tree and Its Spiritual Significance

The Olive Tree Described in the Bible

The olive tree was created on the third day of Creation when God separated the waters and the dry lands and created all the trees and plants (Genesis 1:9–13).

It is interesting to note, that this was before the sun and the moon were created. These trees basked in the glory and light of God.

But the olive tree was first mentioned after the Flood. When Noah sent out the dove from the ark, it returned with an olive leaf.

"And the dove came in to him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf pluckt off..." (Genesis 8:11).

This shows us that out of the ravage of the flood, one of the first trees to grow was the olive tree.

It was hardy plant and a useful plant. When Israel was about to conquer Canaan, God told them that the land they would inherit would be filled with good things - including the olive tree.

"And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers...to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not..." (Deuteronomy 6:10-11).

And when the tribes settled in Canaan, the tribe of Asher received, as her inheritance, the foothills of the Galilean mountains - a land filled with olive groves.

"Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil." (Deuteronomy 33:24).

This shows that the olive tree was prized for his fruitfulness. The wood, leaves, fruit, and oil were used to sustain the people.

So precious and valuable were the trees and oil, that King David appointed special servants to take care of them - these were those used in the worship of God at the temple.

"And over the olive trees and the sycamore trees that were in the low plains was Baalhanan the Gederite: and over the cellars of oil was Joash." (1 Chronicles 27:28).

So useful and valuable was the tree that Israel herself was described as an olive tree - insofar as she was faithful to God.

"The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit..." (Jeremiah 11:16).

The Olive Tree Symbolizes God's People

This symbolic use of the olive tree to refer to God's covenant people - those with whom God had entered a relationship - was used in the Bible.

In the Old Testament, it was Israel (Jeremiah 11:16) - God's olive tree. God entered into a relationship with no other people.

But how could the Gentiles be part of that people? Only by being grafted into that one tree.

Gentiles were described as being wild olive branches - uncultivated and outside of God's garden - but by faith, they could be grafted into that one tree. They were brought from afar off into God's garden and grafted into his tree.

"And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree...and thou staidest by faith" (Romans 11:17,20).

But just as Gentiles could be made part of the people of God by faith, Israel - because of unbelief - was cast aside from being the people of God.

"Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith..." (Romans 11:20).

Being part of God's true people is not by genetics but by faith.

But the Bible tells us that Israel will not disbelieve forever. There will be one day when they will believe in Jesus. And when that happens, they will be re-grafted into the olive tree.

"And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again. For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?" (Romans 11:23-24).

Jesus and the Olive Tree

Jesus came to save his people. And thus we would expect a great connection between Jesus and the olive tree. He taught about it, used it in his parables, and had much spiritual connection with it.

In order to purchase a people for himself - which were not his people - Jesus had to suffer.

Jesus suffered at Gethsemane. The name literally means "olive press" and it

was a garden or a grove filled with olives at the Mount of Olives.

There, he was pressed in the spirit and shed great drops of blood (Matthew 26:36, Mark 14:32), as he struggled to overcome his will to live to submit to his father's will for him to die.

Presumably in the same garden, or another at the Mount of Olives, he was betrayed by Judas (John 18:1).

Here, years before, at the Mount of Olives, David himself wept sore - after having been betrayed by Ahitophel and his son Absalom.

Jesus also suffered and died at Golgotha - which is described in Hebrews 13:12-13. According to Levitical law, the sin offering for the Day of Atonement was burned outside the camp.

This was done at the Mount of Olives which was east of the city. This was the place where the red heifer was prepared for the purification of God's people (Leviticus 4:12, Ezekiel 43:21).

After Jesus suffered, was crucified, was buried, and resurrected; he ascended from the Mount of Olives after he gave his commission to his disciples to extend and establish the kingdom (Acts 1:9,12).

And on this mount he will descend at his Second Coming, where he will conquer the world and rule with his people (Acts 1:11, Zechariah 14:4).

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 43. What is the preface to the ten commandments?

A. The preface to the ten commandments is in these words, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Q. 44. What doth the preface to the ten commandments teach us?

A. The preface to the ten commandments teacheth us, that because God is the Lord, and our God, and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (30.9.18)</i>	<i>Next Week (7.10.18)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Vincent Chiu*, Julian Poon* Jacob Woo, Steven Lim	Chris Budiman*, David Lim* Rex Sriharan, Ken Hong
Ushers	August Ng, Rebecca Lee	Joyce Ng, Sharon Sriharan
Kitchen Duties	Jackie Hong*, Dina Portillo Aliza Chiu	August Ng*, Peggy Woo Helen Wong, May Poon
PA Duty	Jacob Woo	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>5 October 2018</i>	<i>12 October 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Nancy 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 are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's message: "Wisdom Is Better than Strength" (Ecclesiastes 9:11-18).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Saul of Tarsus" (Acts 9:1-9). Speaker: John Tan.
5. Ministry reports for ACM 2018. Please submit by tomorrow, 1 October 2018 - email Jacob Woo (jacob.woo@gmail.com).
6. Ladies Fellowship meeting today, 12 pm at church. Lunch and DVD "How People Change". Ladies of all ages welcome. Please see Marilyn for more details.
7. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Jr (October-December 2018) are available at the foyer.
8. Books for sale from Pro Ecclesia Bookroom (Armada) in the foyer (available today and next Lord's Day).

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$2,178.55
FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting	(*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$250.00 (*DD - 100.00, #821 - \$40.00).
SAT 4:00 pm YPG	Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$300.00, #615 - \$100.00).
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,828.55.
10:00 am Worship Service	Attendance - 131.
	<i>*DD: direct deposit</i>

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.

There Is Joy in Life
Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

There is a caricature that Christians are dour, boring, and opposed to all fun and fashion. It is true that some Christian groups are opposed to many things. The Amish deny themselves many modern things such as electricity and buttons. But despite their convictions, they are among the happiest people in the world (Time Magazine). They work hard, enjoy what they have, enjoy their community, etc. We are all looking for joy in the world - but how do we find it in this messy life under the sun?

1. The Realities of Life

- a. God is in control - we are not
- b. Death comes upon all
- c. Many respond to suffering with folly
- d. Life is better than death

2. The Joys of Life

- a. Enjoy food
- b. Enjoy celebrations
- c. Enjoy family
- d. Enjoy work

We are to enjoy food, celebration, family, and work here under the sun. These are not unspiritual things - but they are spiritual things that we will be doing in the new creation - where there will be better food, celebrations, relationships, and work in a better land where there is no sun.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Which attitude do you find more in your life? Asceticism or hedonism? And do you find yourself swinging between the two?
2. When you are going through a struggle, what does it tell you about yourself when you cannot seem to find joy? What part does idolatry play?
3. Which part of life under the sun do you need to enjoy more?



C O V E N A N T

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Message Forecast for October - December 2018*

"King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Lord's Day Worship Service:

OCT	Title and Text	Speaker
7**	Wisdom Is Better than Strength (Ecclesiastes 9:11-18)	MC
14	The Power of Folly (Ecclesiastes 10:1-20)	MC
21	Practice Advice for Young People (Ecclesiastes 11:1-10)	MC
28	Fear God and Obey Him (Ecclesiastes 12:1-14)	MC
NOV		
4**	Hear This and Give Ear (Joel 1:1-12)	MC
11	Cry Unto the LORD (Joel 1:12-20)	MC
18	A Day of Darkness (Joel 2:1-11)	MC
25	Return to God (Joel 2:12-27)	MC
DEC		
2**	King Jesus Destroys (Joel 3:1-16)	MC
9	TBA	TBA
16	TBA	TBA
23	TBA	TBA
30	The Hope of Christ's Kingdom (Joel 3:16-21)	MC

* Subject to change

** Lord's Supper

Adult Bible Class: "Bible Survey" (cont.)