



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

### 1 The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord is in His holy temple: Let all the earth keep silence, Let all the earth keep silence before Him Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

Prelude/Preparatory Hymn Sharon Poon/Kenny Tan

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong

\*Hymn **HOP 7** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Psalm 145:10-21

Hymn **HOP 145** I Hear the Saviour Say

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings **HOP 397** I Gave My Life For Thee

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 3:14-16

Hymn **HOP 135** Standing on the Promises

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip

### 2 Gloria Patri

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, Amen.

### 3 Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## The Believer's Strength

\*Hymn **HOP 133** O Breath of Life

\*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

\*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

\*Congregation Standing

### 4 The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace; The Lord make His face to shine upon you, And be gracious unto you, be gracious, The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.



### THEME FOR 2017:

“... STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT, WITH ONE MIND STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL” (Philippians 1:27)

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# PASTORAL LETTER

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## The Reformation and Music: Music is Next to Theology (Part 2)

Dear BPCWAIans, Last week we saw the Reformers' emphasis on the teaching aspect of songs by ensuring that 1) songs must be theologically sound and that 2) songs serve a teaching purpose, hence it must be understood. In their reformation of church music, they also 3) returned to congregational singing during worship. This made it even more necessary for the accompanying music not to distract but help focus on the words of the hymns instead of the music and musician's style. This week, we will see 3 other areas the Reformers focused on.

### 4) Music must be fitting

Both Luther and Calvin generally rejected the elaborateness of the music. Such fancifulness was already very common during their time. But this was not because they were musically illiterate. Luther would have studied music in his curriculum during his university days in Erfurt. Such study would have included the harmonic aspects of melodic composition, where it was thought of as "a study of the mathematical arts." Luther's understanding of music was more than that of a semi-skilled amateur. Music, Luther understood, followed strict laws, and his simple German Reformation hymns had the congregation singing in unison with the primary harmonic chords of the tonic, subdominant and dominant chords. In other words, it followed good and sound music composition principles instead of "free style" improvisations that were contrary to these principles. Though there was harmonisation, the music was not aimed at being the music of a professional presentation, but to be simple enough for the congregation to sing to. The lesson for us is - that no matter how skilled one is in music,

the musician must exercise great restraint and impose limits on the music in church so as to avoid distracting the worshiper away from concentrating on the words. Only words can teach, and so only the words have didactic value. Music cannot teach, though it supports the words in tune. Music must fit its purpose, not exceed it. For example, Luther's focus was not on instrumental music, but upon texts set to music. Luther's chorale *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* is easy for the congregation to sing, yet fittingly militant in tone to encourage the faithful to fight against evil. So, we learn that music must not distract while fitting the hymn's teaching value – whether it is meditative or militant.

#### 5) Careful views and use of music

Calvin's tunes used single line melodies, without accompanying parts and without instruments. He wanted to ensure that music in the church would not become an artform and frilly. Even the simplest polyphonic psalm harmonisations were rejected as frills in Calvinist services. Ulrich Zwingli, though an exceptionally gifted musician, was suspicious of the liturgical practices of the medieval church. He insisted that all choral and instrumental music was eliminated from the church in Zurich. While we do believe there is a proper need to be careful about church music, we certainly do not take the view of Calvin and Zwingli in forbidding the use of harmonisations and instruments in church music. Nevertheless, it would do us well to take heed to Calvin's valid principles and cautions concerning music. Being aware of and cautious about the effect of music, Calvin stated, "We must, however, carefully beware, lest our ears be more intent on the music than our minds on the spiritual meaning of the words... songs composed merely to tickle and delight the ear are unbecoming the majesty of the Church, and cannot but be most displeasing to God." (Inst. 3.20.32). This is an astute observation made against the backdrop of rapid changes to the secular music scene. It is hence even more crucial today for us to take heed. Music in itself is attractive. Thus, the musician must use it very carefully to avoid attracting

the worshiper to music itself, but rather aid and direct the worshiper to the words being sung to God.

Church musicians and those involved in the music of the church must be careful to guard their hearts against introducing frilly styles in the church, even if the music breaks no “music or harmony” rules. Once a musician plays in a way that draws attention to the music, that musician has drawn the ears of the worshiper to the music, and the style of playing. Church musicians aid the worshiper to focus on the words, not distract them to admire their style.

#### 6) Worship, not concert

By the turn of the century after the Reformation, in order to draw people into their church as part of the Roman Catholic Counter Reformation, the Roman Catholic church service was to all intents and purposes a “concert.” Cathedral services in Venice at the peak of the Counter Reformation “could well be looked upon as the earliest public concerts (for a “mass” audience, so to speak). Huge congregations flocked to them, and their fame was spread abroad so that travellers made special journeys to hear the music. The most spectacular impression was made not by the singers but by the massed instrumentalists.” (Richard Taruskin, *Reformations and Counter Reformations*). They used the power of music to draw people into the Roman Catholic church, unashamedly turning the music in the service into a “concert”, so as to counter the Protestant Reformation. Undaunted, the Reformers’ emphasis was to have simple music which believers could sing to as they went about their normal life. Luther’s music was attractive, well set, but not overly elaborate. It was not designed to be artistic, but aided the didactic purpose of hymns to enhance the faith of the believer. While the music was carefully crafted and polished, the Lutheran musician’s aim was not to impress you and bowl you over with stylistic attractiveness.

To summarize, the lessons are that the music accompanying the words must not be fanciful because if it is so, music oversteps its function. This results in distracting the worshiper by drawing attention to the musician and the style instead of the words sung, which every worshiper is supposed to focus on. When this happens, the didactic purpose of hymns is lost. Churches today must use compositions and instruments with constant carefulness. If not, church worship will become a concert instead. God willing, we will conclude next week by looking at how church music has changed compared to the Reformation principles in this area.

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION**

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1. **Husbands and Fathers Fellowship (Today, 3:30 pm):** Husbands and fathers who have not previously attended this fellowship are encouraged to join us in learning the privileges and responsibilities of being godly and loving husbands towards our wives. Pastor will continue to teach us from Ephesians 5:25-26.
2. **Adelphie Bible Study (Next Sunday, 19 November, 3:30 pm):** All ladies are encouraged to join this ladies bible study as Pastor Joseph continues to teach us about how God executes His decrees and His providence. Understanding God's decrees will help us to have a higher view of God and see how He has been working in our lives. So come, learn and grow together in the knowledge of God.

### **3. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for seeing Yew Jinn and FEBC Online students through another semester of studies. Pray that the Holy Spirit will use His Word to give obedience through transformation of lives from within.
- Thank God for spiritual feeding and fellowship at the Seniors Fellowship outing yesterday.
- Pray for God's guidance and unity of hearts at the Session meeting to make decisions for BPCWA according to God's purpose.
- Pray for Husbands and Fathers Fellowship to build strong leaders at home that will lead their families to follow God through godly examples and teaching.
- Pray for planning for Children Holiday Bible Program and Christmas activities to be able to edify the saints and be an outreach to those outside BPCWA and to others in our neighbourhoods.
- Pray for children in our midst to come early to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. Pray for God to help fathers and mothers bring up a next generation of godly seed that will serve God with faithfulness and in truth.
- Pray for spiritual growth for worshipers to love and serve our Saviour.
- Pray for Yew Jinn's ministry in our midst as he returns to serve with us during his Bible College holidays.

SERVICE DUTY	12/11 COMBINED	19/11 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Yew Jinn Chieng
Preparatory Hymn	Kenny Tan	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Sharon Poon
Welcomers (Foyer)	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Mark Heath	Wei Yan, Bei Li, Lee Lian Yong
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Eddie Foo, *Claude Yiu, Allan Ang Jonathan Woo, Caleb Cheng Michael Lee	*Edward Ee, *Jason Tey, Colin Chng Michael Lee, Claude Yiu Wei Yan
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu Cheryl Lin	Yi Choong Liew, Ellainne Cheng Yi Jye Chieng
P.A. System	Albert Ho	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Yi San Chieng, Lily Liow May Chee Tey, Edward Teng Joanne Teng	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun Shuin Ning Jong, Yi Jye Chieng Valerie Wan
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

### Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Allan Ang (Hannah Th'ng)	Yew Jinn Chieng (Benjamin Kan)
South Perth	A: Caleb Cheng B: Mark Heath	A: Alex Luu B: Kenny Tan
Berrington	Allan Ang (Hannah Th'ng)	Yew Jinn Chieng (Benjamin Kan)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Kenny Tan

### APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	12/11	12:30 pm	Teens Q and A
		3:30 pm	Husbands and Fathers Fellowship
Tuesday	14/11	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Deacon Joel Wong, Angeline Yong
Friday	17/11	10:00 am	Mothers Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	19/11	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	Mandarin Sunday School/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		2:00 pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont Bull Creek – RAAFA Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149 Adelpe Bible Study

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (5/11)

Attendance: 206 (Combined-172; JSS-34); Prayer Meeting: 79

Offerings in Total: \$7,548.15; General Fund: \$7,548.15 (#4339-\$656.05; #4340-\$110.20; #4341-\$25.00)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What is the Lord's Supper?** The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and the cup, according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26) and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment, and growth in grace. (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)