



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

November 19<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.

### 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.

### 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.

Prelude/Preparatory Hymn Sharon Poon/Deacon Eugene Leong

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Adrian Cheng/Yew Jinn Chieng

\*Hymn **HOP 27** God of Our Fathers

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Psalm 146:1-10

Infant Baptism Daniel Yan Xin Chia

Hymn **HOP 144** In Times Like These

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings **HOP 212** How Firm a Foundation

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 3:17-19

Hymn **HOP 123** Hover o'er Me, Holy Spirit

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng

## The Believer's Filling

\*Hymn **HOP 355** Jesus Is All the World to Me

\*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

\*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

\*Congregation Standing



### 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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## The Reformation and Music: Music is Next to Theology (Part 3)

Dear BPCWAians,

Today, we will continue to see how the church's view has changed since the Reformation in 2 particular areas.

### **How music and worship has changed today**

#### Music above theology

While many would propound Luther's saying that "music is next to theology", what they likely mean in effect is that music – not the theology put to music – is key. This phrase has taken on a new meaning of putting music on par with theology. But nothing should be thought to be on par with God's Word. The Reformers emphasized sound theological music which served a didactic purpose. God never intended the church to entertain, but to edify, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Col 3:16). And Biblical edification is always and only when the mind is engaged with understanding. However, the highly popular Christian genre known as Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) today features songs that are often shallow or even unsound in theology. Repetitive phrases and words leads the mind to a trance like state rather than to a conscious understanding of Biblical doctrines. Moreover, the focus of the songs is often man-centred. Unlike the Reformation, the focus today is predominantly on music as a form of entertainment. Sadly, in CCM, it would seem that music component is the typical focus rather than the theology. Most worshipers are drawn more to the music itself. You can tell from the fact that tunes of hymns are often replaced with contemporary pop style compositions.

### Concert rather than worship

In many churches today, performers and their instruments take centre stage, like in a concert. The pulpit is often moved to the side of the stage to make space for the singers perform in the centre instead. While the audience (ie, the congregation) may enjoy the music being performed and perhaps still sing along, there is little doubt who is the spectator and who is the singer. Music is about providing the right “atmosphere” so that one can have that emotional “encounter with God” as part of the “worship experience”. With such a desire in worship music, Reformation hymns and hymnbooks are naturally considered dated. Unless the music style is contemporary in jazz, pop, rock, sentimental ballad style, it will be labelled as boring. An ever-new, ever-changing variety of songs is now projected on screens. With uplifted hands and dancing, the congregation sings, not to bless God, but to receive a “blessing” from God in this “worship encounter”. The Reformation spirit in music was to draw attention to God, but CCM today draws more attention to the music, the instruments used, and the performers. People are drawn primarily to the ear-pleasing music, rather than to the Biblical richness of the words.

There is a lesson here for all of us. As worshippers, let us always remember to focus our minds and attentions on the words of the hymn that will serve to teach and edify us. Let us not allow our hearts to be drawn away and captivated by the music. Let us not seek to have music simply because “we like the tunes”. Musicians must remember that music is secondary to the words of the hymn. Let not the desire for “interesting” arrangements or the expression of one’s musical or technical ability distract the congregation from the undivided worship of God. God alone must be worshipped. Worshippers who enjoy CCM music styles will always be striving against leaders and musicians who desire to keep the church’s music sound. They will seek to wear down the defence of leaders little by little. And the usual avenues to introduce CCM is through the fellowship groups and musical

items. What the younger people get used to in their fellowship groups will become the future of that church's music. Here is where the prevention begins before it is too late. And to do so, it is not sufficient for the leaders alone to be against CCM, but we must all be personally convicted and stand together against it making inroads into BPCWA.

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION**

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1. **Adelphe Bible Study (Today, 3:30 pm):** All ladies are encouraged to join this ladies Bible study as Pastor 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.
2. **Welcomer and usher training (Saturday, 25 November, 10 am to 12 pm):** All welcomers and ushers are kindly requested to attend the training that will be held in Church. The aim of this training is to equip you with the necessary information to perform your roles effectively. Please see Kenny Tan should you have any query regarding the training.

3. **Fellowship Lunch (Next Sunday, 26 November, after worship):**  
Please bring a dish to share. Do stay back to get to know each other, visitors and new students in our midst. All are welcome.
4. **Children's Christmas Presentation (Next Sunday, 26 November):**  
Sunday School children will practice a song presentation after Sunday School from next Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November. Parents, please help your children learn the carol (The First Noel) during the week.
5. **City Evangelism (Next Sunday, 26 November, 2 pm):** Having been saved from sin and Hell, it is now our privilege to go for City Evangelism next Sunday from 2 pm. We will conclude the outreach with testimonies back in Church at 5 pm. If you would like to join this outreach, please register your details on the registration form in the foyer or contact Deacon Adrian (0402 036 430) for more details.
6. **Mandarin Care Group (Saturday, 2 December, 10:30 am):** The meeting will be held in Church. Yew Jinn will continue to speak on "The Christian Armour" (Ephesians 6:10-18) series. As there will be lunch after the message, please kindly bring a dish to share. All are welcome to attend and learn God's Word together.
7. **Children Holiday Bible Program (18 - 20 December, mornings):** This year's theme is "My Quiet Time with God" (Ps 63:1), focusing on helping children to understand the importance of daily devotion. Do arrange to bring your children for their spiritual blessing. Please also make use of the flyers available at the foyer to invite your friends' children as part of outreach. Program is for ages 4-11, but regular BPCWA Sunday School children currently aged 3 are welcome and encouraged to attend. Any enquiries, please see Yew Jinn.

8. **Far Eastern Bible College online courses:** The new semester's brochure is on the foyer table. The courses for next semester are: Systematic Theology IV Eschatology (2 credits); Genesis (2 credits); Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther (1 credit, audio, Dr Whitcomb). The fees are \$80 for the two credit course and \$40 for the one credit course. Please pass the completed forms with course fees to Mark Heath.

9. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for Mothers Fellowship. Pray that it will be used to build up godly wives to help families build up a next generation will continue to serve and worship God.
- Pray for God's directing for the planning of 2018 church calendar. Pray for these activities to be used to help BPCWA fulfil God's work for us.
- 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 wisdom in the planning for Nehemiah's redevelopment according to God's plan for BPCWA.
- Pray for a consistent spiritual walk for all worshippers to maintain their closet prayer and meditating on God's Word daily.

SERVICE DUTY	19/11 COMBINED	26/11 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Yew Jinn Chieng	Deacon Eugene Leong/Yew Jinn Chieng
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Eugene Leong	Deacon Joel Wong
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Winnie Lim
Welcomers (Foyer)	Wei Yan, Bei Li, Lee Lian Yong	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Yi Choong Liew
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Edward Ee, *Jason Tey, Colin Chng Michael Lee, Claude Yiu, Wei Yan	*Jonathan Woo, *Edward Ee, Caleb Cheng Yi Choong Liew, Benjamin Kan, Jason Tey
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Yi Choong Liew, Ellainne Cheng Yi Jye Chieng	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan Jay-son Lim
P.A. System	Caleb Cheng	Kenny Chia
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun Shuin Ning Jong, Yi Jye Chieng, Valerie Wan	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho, Lee Fung Fong Ming Ming Th'ng, Xuan Rui Yong
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

### Nursing Home Ministry

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

### APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	19/11	3:30 pm	Adelphie Bible Study
Tuesday	21/11	10:00 am	Mandarin Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Yew Jinn Chieng/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Eugene Leong, Sharon Poon
Friday	24/11	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	26/11	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
		12:45 pm	Teens Q and A
		2:00 pm	City Evangelism
			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		

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (12/11)

Attendance: 203 (Combined-171; JSS-32); Prayer Meeting: 74

Offerings in Total: \$6,905.30; General Fund: \$6,905.30

(#4342-\$6.50; #4343-\$60.20; #4344-\$795.25; #4345-\$150.50; #4346-\$40.00; Thanksgiving - Gospel Tract-\$500.00)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What is required for the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?** It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)