



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

November 26<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 Winnie Lim/Deacon Joel Wong

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Eugene Leong/Yew Jinn Chieng

\*Hymn **HOP 28** I sing the Mighty power of God

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Psalm 147:1-11

Hymn **HOP 289** God Will Take Care of You

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings **HOP 435** Come, Ye Thankful People

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Choir Presentation **HOP 291** Saviour, More Than Life To Me

Scripture Reading Ephesians 3:20-21

Hymn **HOP 261** I Want a Principle Within

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng

### 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 Keeping

\*Hymn **HOP 5** The God of Abraham Praise

\*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 4)

Dear BPCWAians,

Over the last 3 weeks, we saw the Protestant Reformation's influence on church music. To summarize, the Reformers ensured that church fulfilled its teaching purpose, which meant it must be theologically sound. They re-established congregational singing instead of just choirs. Words of the songs were the focus, not the accompanying music. We saw how music was meant to support the songs, not distract the worshipers from them. Music compositions and playing styles avoided frilly embellishments to avoid drawing attention to the music itself. So while the counter-reformation turned church music into a concert performance to draw the crowd, the Reformers remained steadfast to the Biblical purposes and principles for music. Last week, we saw how today the music in many churches have stepped back, instead of continuing in the Reformation tradition. Music in many churches are little different from concerns, serving to entertain the congregation. Instead of music helping as a teaching function by supporting the words sung, it is instead elevated above theology.

### Any form of music accepted without cautiousness

Instead of the strict harmonic rules and the orderly laws of classical form that governed the music of the Reformers, harmonic music is de-emphasised today. Many church musicians and modern song writers adopt the musical styles of jazz, pop, and rock genres. It is often asked what is wrong with these genres for church music? It must be remembered that Reformation hymnody music was of the genre broadly known as classical music. The world began to take this form of music, changing and distorting its composition rules, and breaking away from classical conventions and structures to form these other genres with their own carnal styles for the worldling's consumption. But the Christians adopted these

worldly genres into churches because it appeals to and hence brings in the masses. In the modern craving for the emotional “worship experience”, music is used to stimulate the emotions, where once theology used to do so. We must worship God with emotions as well but where previously the doctrines in the song would teach, edify, and stir the singer and listener, music is generally now the main driver designed to “move” the singer emotionally and bring about a physical response. This is often done through increased syncopation by irregular rhythms and off-beat emphasis. “Edification” has also been redefined. It is no more about being built up through the Word, but it is usually about getting an emotionally and physically “high” experience. The focus of the Reformers was that music is a natural *response* of the hearts understanding God through theology. In contrast today, music is used to manipulate *emotions* with the hope that the hearts will respond to God. How would one describe today’s church music? Perhaps it would be tempting to say that today, “theology is next to music”. “If this church does not have music that I like, so what if it has sound theology, I’ll go to another”. Or, “If this church has music that I like, never mind the poor theology, I’ll stay.”

### **Discernment needed today**

Exodus 32:17 “And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, *There is a noise of war in the camp.* 18 And he said, *It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.*” Notice that music sounded like noise when Satan first introduced syncretic worship. Perhaps he might not have been successful in making it part of Israel’s worship thereafter. But it seems he has succeeded today in the New Testament churches despite and after the Reformation. Well maybe you say, “we don’t have such music in our church”. However, few churches end up with full blown rock and pop Contemporary Christian music in church overnight. Churches usually go through the “grey areas” first. Traces of jazz and pop

styles are gradually introduced in fellowships and through musicians' playing styles. These are pre-CCM stages. Like a frog in gradually boiling water, the churches are getting destroyed without them realising. Hence, discernment is needed more than ever before because CCM is here to stay. While many Bible Presbyterian churches remain sound and separated from false doctrines and worship styles of Charismatic churches, this carefulness must extend to the music realm as well, especially in this day and age. It can be our potential "Achilles heel" if we are complacent. It is quite common that when the music becomes carnal, the life of the church follows. Safeguards must be carefully put in place to stringently and objectively evaluate any music we allow into our churches today. The Reformers understood that music is not subjective. BPCWA church leaders and musicians must have discernment and exercise caution. Whether BPCWA will still be sound in music years from now depends upon church leaders seriously making it a point to be so today. If music is truly next to theology, we must ensure that music continues to be subject and second to theology.

I hope all worshipers in BPCWA will take the time to read and re-read this series on church music. We must be very aware of the issues plaguing Christendom. CCM is always trying to creep in. Each worshiper and musician especially must not be careless.

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION**

1. **Fellowship Lunch (Today, after Worship):** All worshippers and visitors are welcome to join the fellowship lunch after Worship Service today. Do take the opportunity to mingle and get to know one another better.

2. **Children’s Christmas Presentation Practice (Today, 11:30 am - 12 pm):** Sunday School children will practice a Christmas song presentation today and the next few weeks until Christmas. Parents, please pick up your children from the upstairs sanctuary at 12 pm.
  
3. **City Evangelism (Today, 2 pm):** Join us as we go to the City to share the precious Gospel message that God entrusted to us. 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 and come meet at Church at 2 pm.
  
4. **Mandarin Care Group (This Saturday, 2 December, 10:30 am):** The meeting will be held in Church. Yew Jinn will be speaking on “The Christian Armour - The Sword of The Spirit” taken from Ephesians 6:17. 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.
  
5. **Car Park:** If your car is blocking someone from leaving church, please help to move your vehicle straight after the worship service. Please register your car details at [www.bpcwa.org.au/carpark](http://www.bpcwa.org.au/carpark) to help with the smooth running of the church.

6. **Programs planned for December:**

DATE		TIME	PROGRAM
2/12	Saturday	10:30 am	Mandarin Care Group
10/12	Sunday	6:00 pm	Men Fellowship & Ladies Fellowship
17/12	Sunday	3:30 pm	Adelphie Bible Study
18-20/12		8:45 am - 12 pm	Children Holiday Bible Program
22/12	Friday	7:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight Gospel Service
25/12	Monday	10:00 am	Christmas Day Worship Service
31/12	Sunday	7:30 pm	Watchnight Service

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

- Thank God for His help and wisdom at the Session Meeting yesterday. Pray for wisdom in planning for 2018 and in redevelopment of Nehemiah.
- Thank God for guiding the Welcomers' and Ushers' training yesterday. May this help us extend a warm welcome to visitors that they will return to grow spiritually.
- Thank God for seeing the students through their examinations. Pray that they will use their holidays to draw close to God.
- Pray as we go out for City Evangelism this year end period to be able to reach out to many souls with their need for a Saviour. Pray for this to bring in God's sheep to grow with us in BPCWA. Pray for invitations for the Christmas Gospel Service and the Children's Program to reach out to many as well.
- Pray for Mandarin Care Group to be used to build up the Mandarin speaking brethren to stand strong spiritually.
- Pray for Children Holiday Bible Program to build up children to have a firm foundation in their walk with God through daily devotions.
- Pray for God's guidance for the planning of the Christmas Gospel Service to be used to draw many to come and hear the Gospel of salvation and trust in Christ as their Saviour.

SERVICE DUTY	26/11 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch	3/12 COMBINED - Holy Communion
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Eugene Leong/Yew Jinn Chieng	Deacon Joel Wong/Yew Jinn Chieng
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)	Winnie Lim	Sharon Poon
Welcomers (Foyer)	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Yi Choong Liew	Wei Yan, Bei Li, Yi San Chieng
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Jonathan Woo, *Edward Ee, Caleb Cheng Yi Choong Liew, Benjamin Kan, Jason Tey	*Allan Ang, *Edward Ee, Pei Shion Chai Stephen Chia, Mark Heath, Claude Yiu
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan, Jay-son Lim	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai, Vincent Naing
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho, Lee Fung Fong Ming Ming Th'ng, Xuan Rui Yong	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	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)	Mark Heath (Benjamin Kan)
South Perth	A: Mark Heath B: Caleb Cheng	A: Allan Ang B: Yew Jinn Chieng
Berrington	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)	Mark Heath (Benjamin Kan)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Yew Jinn Chieng

### APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	26/11	12:45 pm	Teens Q and A
		2:00 pm	City Evangelism
Tuesday	28/11	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng, Deacon Joel Wong, Hannah Th'ng
Friday	1/12	10:00 am	Mothers Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Saturday	2/12	10:30 am	Mandarin Care Group
Sunday	3/12	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

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (19/11)

Attendance: 203 (Combined-169; JSS-34); Prayer Meeting: 84

Offerings in Total: \$8,672.65; General Fund: \$8,672.65

(#4347-\$63.00; #4348-\$315.95; #4349-\$155.70; #4350-\$174.10)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What is Prayer?** Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, (Psalm 10:17; Psalm 62:8; Matthew 7:7-8) for things agreeable to his will, (1 John 5:14) in the name of Christ, (John 16:23-24) with confession of our sins, (Psalm 32:5-6; Daniel 9:4-19; 1 John 1:9) and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies. (Psalm 103:1-5; Psalm 136; Philippians 4:6)