



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

December 17th, 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 Adrian Cheng/Yew Jinn Chieng

*Hymn HOP 41 Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Psalm 149:1-9

Hymn HOP 131 Blessed Quietness

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings HOP 37 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:4-6

Hymn HOP 280 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

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 Basis for Unity

*Hymn HOP 178 The Church's One Foundation

*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

Recapturing our 2017 church theme

Dear BPCWAians, This week, we will close up on a relook at our theme for the year. Philippians 1:27 “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”.

Steadfastness in service. It is sometimes said that it is easy to begin something, but seeing it through is often the more difficult part. Children burst out in spurts of energy, but may not be able to have the endurance to sustain through difficulties and challenges. Talk is easy, but walking in it is hard. And so, as a church, we must be committed workers for our Lord’s work. We live in an age where commitment is a rare virtue. It is every man for himself, and if something isn’t going our way, we bail out. But spiritual work will never be easy, and instead, it often gets harder and harder as God may see fit to put trials in our way to test our perseverance for Him in the face of hardships. These difficulties will be part of our spiritual growth, as we depend upon Him and we do not give up on doing what God wants us to do. As a church, we may find the spiritual ground of hearts getting harder, more enraptured with the world. Interest in spiritual things may wane as many get caught up with chasing the glitter of the world. It is easy to get distracted or discouraged, but we must continue to remember this lesson to stand fast.

Unity in service. But in God’s service, we are His spiritual house. God gifts His church with spiritual gifts to serve Him, and God’s work in His church takes many people working together. *Firstly*, besides being united in the faith of the gospel, we must remember that it requires all of us to work together for it. There is no need for unity if it is only 1 person working. It is God’s design

for His church that His children are privileged to serve Him, and that we must do it together in our various roles. And because God intends His people to work together for His purpose, we must have a unity in doing this work. Yet, at the same time, because it is work that is done together, there are even more opportunities for discord, strives and unhappiness.... Which means a greater importance for unity in work, because it is not *our* work but *His* work. *Secondly*, this is in “one spirit”. It must be a solidarity that starts from within us. We can seem to be working together with our hands, but yet not together in spirit. One can apparently be serving together, but the hearts can be brewing with anger and unhappiness. We must be careful of this, because God looks not on the outward, but at our hearts. Let us consciously watch our hearts as we serve together. Are we doing it for vainglory to show ourselves better than another? We can have the same convictions of the faith but still divided in heart. Are we unhappy at submitting to another’s way of doing things? Are we listening to the devil’s whispers and thinking evil of a fellow co-worker without cause? It begins with unhappiness, grows to anger, and we have committed murder in our hearts. Left unchecked, it affects others and causes divisions in the church. *Thirdly*, we must do it with “one mind”. This means we must be doing it with the same affection and will. Just as in farming, 2 different animals cannot be yoked to work together because they will want to walk their own way. This begins with a common faith and set of beliefs. But it also extends to how things are done in church, who we will work with, and who we will separate from. As the Bible teaches, two cannot walk together except they are agreed. But at the end of the day, there must be a higher principle – we must realise that we are serving God. So, what and how we do things must be based upon what is best for God’s work at BPCWA as a common purpose and objective in our minds. This we do by setting aside our personal preferences, where a lot of differences and friction can occur.

Zealous Service. Finally, God’s work requires us to strive together. This means a readiness to exert oneself. What God desires of each of us is not to give Him our “spare time” when we’ve “nothing better to do”. It often takes a lot of commitment to hard work, discussion, planning, and executing. There is an earnestness that we should serve Him with that is not in a laissez faire manner, with half-heartedness. I thank God for many in BPCWA that serve very fervently. Many personal hours are set aside to further God’s work in their respective roles and areas. Much sweat and toil goes into many of the activities that are planned. Some will put in hard physical labour, others put in much time in organising, and yet others are stretched in playing multiple roles at the same time. We do all these together for the faith of the gospel, not for personal satisfaction or vain glory. If God so wills for BPCWA to grow, then there will be many more things that needs to be done, in more areas. And if so, then we will need more also to come forward and serve as well by helping out in some of these areas in unity.

As we approach the end of 2017, I hope that every worshipper will take some time to examine ourselves in the light of God’s Word. How have we served Him? Have we spent 2017 profitably for Him? How will we commit to His work at BPCWA in 2018? Will you strive together with us for His work at BPCWA?

*Must I be carried to the skies
On flow’ry beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?*

Yours in our Lord’s service
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Adelphie Bible Study (Today, 3:30 pm):** All ladies are encouraged to come and join this Bible study as we learn what is the meaning of God's will and study each of the sevenfold wills of God. Come, learn and grow together spiritually in the knowledge of God's word. Pastor will be leading this Bible study.
2. **Children Holiday Bible Program (Tomorrow-Wednesday, 18-20 December):** Parents are requested to bring their children to church by 8:45 am. All children should bring with them their own Bible and stationery. A light refreshment of fruits will be provided for during the break-time. Parents are encouraged to attend the closing session on Wednesday at 11:45 am when the children receive their certificates.
3. **Carols by Candlelight Gospel Meeting (This Friday, 22 December, 7 pm):** Please follow up on your family and friends that you have invited to the Carols by Candlelight Gospel Meeting and encourage them to come. Leaflets are still available to invite unbelievers to come and hear the gospel. Please come and join us at 7 pm for Carolling followed by the Gospel Meeting at 7:30 pm. BPCWA regular worshippers are requested to carpool to church and park along Ullapool Road and Wren St so that visitors can park in the church carpark.
4. **Christmas Service (Monday, 25 December, 10 am):** Please invite your family and friends to attend the Christmas Worship Service. Christmas Day worship service will be followed by Christmas lunch.
5. **Far Eastern Bible College online courses:** Registration is now open for next semester's courses, which are: Systematic Theology, Eschatology (2 credits, \$80); Genesis (2 credits, \$80); and Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther (one credit, \$40). Close of registration is 24 December. Please hand your forms with the fees to either Mark Heath or Soo Jin Kang. Next semester will commence on 2 January 2018. The course Genesis will be screened in the Church from Wednesday 3 January.

6. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for wisdom and unity of hearts at the Session meeting to discuss the matters of the church for our Lord's work.
- Thank God for the opportunity to learn God's Word together and to get to know one another better at the Men Fellowship and Ladies Fellowship.
- Pray for planning for 2018 activities to help worshippers to continue to grow in the Lord and for BPCWA to bring the gospel and truth to those around us.
- Pray for the Children Holiday Bible Program to draw children to salvation and a consistent daily walk with God as they grow up.
- Pray that we will invite our friends for the Carols by Candlelight Christmas Gospel Service and that it will be used to reach out to unbelievers with the gospel of salvation. Pray for the Christmas Service messages to point believers to live for Christ as He came to earth as our Redeemer.
- Pray for God's help and wisdom for Nehemiah redevelopment.
- Pray for God's directing Hand for BPCWA's focus and theme for 2018. Pray that BPCWA will continue to be used by God where He has placed us.

SERVICE DUTY	17/12 COMBINED	24/12 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Yew Jinn Chieng	Deacon Joel Wong/Yew Jinn Chieng
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)	Winnie Lim	Sharon Poon
Welcomers	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Mark Heath	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Mark Heath, *Colin Chng, Pei Shion Chai Yi Choong Liew, Claude Yiu, Benjamin Kan	*Kenny Tan, *Eddie Foo, Wei Yan Benjamin Kan, Yi Choong Liew, Kenny Chia
Ushers	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng, Mable Soon	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Cheryl Lin
Audio Visual	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	Yew Jinn Chieng (Hannah Th'ng)	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)
South Perth	A: Mark Heath B: Jason Tey	A: Yew Jinn Chieng B: Caleb Cheng
Berrington	Yew Jinn Chieng (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Sharon Poon)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Yew Jinn Chieng

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	17/12	3:30 pm	Adelphe Bible Study
Tuesday	19/12	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Yew Jinn Cheng/Kong Vui Yip, Deacon Eugene Leong, Yung Tsing Mew
Friday	22/12	7:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday	24/12	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	Chinese Adults 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 (10/12)

Attendance: 208 (Combined-175; CSS-33); Prayer Meeting: 74

Tithes and Offerings: \$7,314.45 (#4361-\$133.60; #4363-\$75.00; #4364-\$105.70)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What do we pray for in the first petition? In the first petition, which is, *Hallowed be thy name*, we pray that God would enable us, and others, to glorify him in all that whereby he maketh himself known; (Psalm 67:1-3; Psalm 99:3; Psalm 100:3-4) and that he would dispose all things to his own glory. (Romans 11:33-36; Revelation 4:11)