



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

December 24th, 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/Deacon Eugene Leong

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Joel Wong/Sonny Lim

*Hymn **HOP 17** All Creatures of Our God and King

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Psalm 150:1-6

Hymn **HOP 73** O Little Town of Bethlehem

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

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:7-10

Hymn **HOP 260** A Charge to Keep I Have

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.

Each Given a Gift

*Hymn **HOP 316** To the Work!

*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

The Birth of Christ, the Lord

Dear BPCWAians,

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord.

Christmas is a day which Christians set aside to remember and tell others about the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Today, we look back on a period more than 2,000 years ago when Christ was born. We celebrate Christmas not because we believe Christ was born exactly on the 25th of December. We do not know for certain the exact date He was born, and it may likely not even have been in December. However, that day has certainly been marked in eternity's history. That day, the Almighty God took on human flesh to be Redeemer for lost mankind. This is what we seek to remember and rejoice for on Christmas day.

Promised from the beginning. With man's fall into sin, God promised our first parents in Gen 3:15 that one day, the seed of the woman shall bruise the head of Satan. With this promise, God showed to our first parents the means by which redemption would come – through death and shedding of blood of a substitute. The LORD God killed an animal, made coats of skins, and clothed Adam and his wife with it. This was the first gospel, showing to mankind God's plan of redemption. Even then, God had already planned for a day when God's only begotten Son would be given, that He might be killed to be the sacrifice for man's salvation. The gracious God had provided mankind a way of salvation through His Son because we could no longer

obey Him perfectly. The Covenant of Grace had begun. Only by grace alone could man be saved. Holy, Just and Righteous, the Gracious God had to provide for Himself the Holy Lamb so that we could be saved. From the first Adam till us living today in the 21st century and while the earth shall last, there was and is only one means whereby man can be saved – through faith in Jesus Christ. The LORD God had promised to give to man the Lamb of God, and He would not fail. He would not forget. He would not change His mind.

Revealed through the ages. And so, as man’s history unfolded, God worked out His plan. He called Abraham out and made a covenant with him, promising to make him the father of many nations (Gen 17:4). He cared and protected Abraham and His seed through their generations. When His people were in Egypt, God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob (Exod 2:24). While the disobedience and murmuring of His chosen people angered even the meekest man Moses, God steadfastly never wavered in His promise to give the greatest Gift man could ever receive – His Son was born in the nation that these chosen people would form. As God unfolded His plan of Redemption to mankind, the focus was sharpened from “the seed” to one that would come from the line of David (2 Sam 7:12,13). The hope of all mankind was not “to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” (Gal 3:16). The child would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). The child would be the Almighty God (Isaiah 9:6, 7) - the LORD of hosts will perform this. God Himself would fulfil the promise He had made in His Covenant of Grace. God would provide the Lamb, in His time. Man was to watch and wait for His Coming.

The Day Comes. What would you do if you were planning for months for a special event and the day arrives? The LORD God had planned for this day before the foundation of the world, and He sends His angelic messengers to announce the glad tidings in Luke 2:11. Do you realise how remarkable that day was? Sometimes we wait for someone to do what they had promised to do, and that day never comes because the person was unable to, or neglected to do as he promised. But with the omnipotent God, all that He purposes always comes to pass. Strive as he would, Satan could not thwart God's plan for redemption. God's Covenant is sure, immovable, unbreakable. The Seed that would bruise Satan's head was given to man, and the Seed was none other than *Christ, the Lord*.

So, as we approach another Christmas, let us take time to ponder and to reflect on our faithful LORD. He gives us His promise of salvation in His Covenant of grace, and the Mediator of that Covenant is the LORD God Himself. For any reader who has not yet believed in Christ, how will you escape God's judgement, if you reject so great and gracious a Covenant that God offers to you for your salvation? And for us who have believed, what shall we give who have received such a wondrous gift as the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives? This is what we celebrate at Christmas – the Lord Jesus' Birth in fulfilment of the promised Covenant of Grace. How our hearts must sing out,

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Yours in our Lord's service
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Christmas Service (Tomorrow, 25 December, 10 am):** Come and worship our Saviour as we remember His Birth. Do follow up on and encourage your family and friends whom you have invited to come. Photographs of the children song presentation will be available on the church Facebook page so parents are requested not to take photos during the presentation to avoid distraction. Do stay back for lunch and fellowship after the Christmas service.
- 2. Fellowship Lunch (Next Sunday, 31 December, after worship):** Please bring a dish to share as we have our last lunch together for the year after Worship service next week.
- 3. Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service (Next Sunday, 31 December, 7:30 pm):** Will be held next Sunday night. Do come to give thanks and praise to God for His goodness and preservation through the past year.
- 4. Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses:** Today is the last day of registration. Please hand in the completed form with fees to Soo Jin Kang. The new semester starts January 2nd and from Wednesday 3rd January, we will be screening Genesis in the Church. All worshippers are welcome to attend these classes.

5. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for the children who came for the Children Holiday Bible Program, and God's provision of many willing helpers through the 3 days. Pray for the Word sown in the hearts of the children to take root, and that unbelieving children will come to know Christ and come to church to worship Him.
- Thank God for friends who came to hear the Gospel at the Carols by Candlelight Christmas Gospel Service, and for the diligent labour of many in preparing for the event. Pray that unbelievers will come to the personal saving knowledge of Jesus Christ this Christmas.
- Pray for God's Word and every part of the Christmas Worship Service to help us to focus our worship and praise on God for the gift of Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. Pray that Christians will live lives that testify of the Gospel of Christ.
- Pray for all worshippers to come with thankful hearts to praise God during Watchnight Service as we close off 2017.
- Pray that we will all walk close to God in daily prayer, knowing His Word, holy living and faithful service in 2018.
- Pray for the final planning of 2018 activities to help us to be built up in the faith. Pray for BPCWA to be strengthened to further God's work next year.

SERVICE DUTY	24/12 COMBINED	31/12 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pastor Joseph Poon/Deacon Joel Wong
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Joel Wong/Sonny Lim	Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Eugene Leong	Claude Yiu
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Karen Ee
Welcomers	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Ellainne Cheng
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Kenny Tan, *Eddie Foo, Wei Yan Benjamin Kan, Yi Choong Liew, Kenny Chia	*Caleb Cheng, *Claude Yiu, Alex Luu Jason Tey, Kenny Chia, Colin Chng
Ushers	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Cheryl Lin	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai, Vincent Naing
Audio Visual	Caleb Cheng	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun Shuin Ning Jong, Yi Jye Chieng, Valerie Wan	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew, Christine Chia Phyllis Voun, Mable Soon
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Edward Ee (Benjamin Kan)
South Perth	A: Yew Jinn Chieng B: Caleb Cheng	A: Kenny Tan B: Allan Ang
Berrington	Edward Ee (Sharon Poon)	Edward Ee (Benjamin Kan)
Bull Creek	Yew Jinn Chieng	Allan Ang

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Monday	25/12	10:00 am	Christmas Service
Tuesday	26/12	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng, Deacon Adrian Cheng, Angeline Yong
Friday	29/12	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Sunday	31/12	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
		7:30 pm	Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (17/12)

Attendance: 181 (Combined-150; CSS-31); Prayer Meeting: 83; Carols by Candlelight: 148

Tithes and Offerings: \$8,547.60 (#4365-\$1595.50; #4366-\$202.50; #4367-\$86.00)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What do we pray for in the second petition? In the second petition, which is, *Thy kingdom come*, we pray that Satan's kingdom may be destroyed; (Matthew 12:25-28; Romans 16:20; 1 John 3:8) and that the kingdom of grace may be advanced, (Psalm 72:8-11; Matthew 24:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25) ourselves and others brought into it, and kept in it; (Psalm 119:5; Luke 22:32; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5) and that the kingdom of glory may be hastened. (Revelation 22:20)

