



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

December 31<sup>st</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 Karen Ee/Claude Yiu

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong

\*Hymn HOP 21 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Philippians 1:27-30

Hymn HOP 176 Nothing But the Blood

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings HOP 146 I Know Whom I Have Believed

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 4:11-13

Hymn HOP 252 Higher Ground

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

### 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 Purpose of Gifts

\*Hymn HOP 260 A Charge to Keep I Have

\*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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## Why Attend the Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service?

Dear BPCWAians,

This year, December 31st falls on Sunday. This means that for many of us who are reading this, you have come for the morning Worship Service. So, you may wonder, why then should I come again for the Watchnight Service? After all, I have already worshipped God today – what’s the difference between that and the Watchnight Service?

**Why have a Watchnight Service?** Watchnight service is said to have begun back in the 1700s as a service to have Christians renew their covenant with God with the New Year around the corner. As individuals and as a church, we enter into a covenant with our LORD to serve Him and to obey Him. We covenanted with Him that the LORD would be our God, and that we would walk in His ways and be His holy and peculiar people (Deut 26:16-19). This is a serious covenant that we must live up to every day of our lives. The Watchnight Service is intended to be with 1) Thanksgiving and 2) Reflection of the year past, as well as a 3) Looking forward to the year ahead.

**1) Thanksgiving.** As we look upon the past year, we reflect on God’s goodness to us. We look back with thanksgiving, remembering His protection and care over us. Some may have walked through deep valleys and shadows over the past year. It may be illnesses, farewells, difficulties, trials, losses, or what seemed like bad news in some way or other. God has covenanted with us to be our God. We reflect on His faithfulness in fulfilling His covenant. And when we see His Providential Hand working in our lives and answering our prayers, we praise Him with grateful hearts. **2) Reflection.** Next, we

must also reflect on our part of the covenant. In 2017, have we lived up to what God expects of us? While many of us begin our Christian walk and possibly every year with enthusiasm, the sad fact is that many of us often don't live up to our promises to God and aspirations to live for Him. But you may be thinking that "I don't have to be such a committed Christian. After all, I am saved, on my way to heaven, and that's all that's important". The fact is, whether or not we consciously realised or not, God called us – His people and His church – out of the world to be His peculiar people when He saved us. It was not just to deliver us from hell and to send us to heaven when we die. When we were saved, we entered into a covenant with Him. When we called upon Him as our Lord and our God, we accepted the fact that we would be His people. So, every truly born again believer is in a covenant with God and is accountable to that covenant. That is why each of us must reflect continually on whether we have lived in the world in a way that is "not of the world" (John 17:14). Have you been assimilated into the world? Are you still "peculiar", being set apart to our Holy Lord? Is the Lord or are you the master of your own life? **3) Looking Forward.** Finally, this is not a time merely to just "count" in what areas that we have failed Him, but to repent of our failings with godly sorrow and desire to change and correct ourselves in a concrete way. Here is where we look forward to 2018 with eyes raised and hearts desiring to once again pursue after our God with fresh love, zeal and vigour. We cannot just leave it as "I've failed, so too bad", but we must set our hearts, minds and habits to strive to change and not allow ourselves to go back to our old habits and our old sins. A reflection without a desire to change our way of living is not repentance. It means that we stop giving ourselves excuses for how we live our lives, continuing in our sin or our state of backsliding. We do not just say "I lack discipline" but we make concerted efforts to instil that discipline

in our lives. Some may be thinking “what’s the use of making New Year resolutions when we will break it anyway?” Well, simply because that is what we must strive to do in response to what God has done for us. If we call God our Lord, then we must live in a manner that shows that He is truly our Lord and Master – in obedience. But as we look forward, we realise that it is not going to be by sheer willpower and determination. We must learn to seek God for strength to live for Him in 2018. That is why we end off the evening with a time of prayer, to seek God’s help, strength and grace as we seek to live another year for His glory.

**Why must I go for Watchnight Service?** Perhaps I could answer this question with another... why would you not go for Watchnight Service? Does not God’s goodness and mercy to you over the last year move you to come to praise and give thanks to Him? And to spend the last night of the year with Him and His people? And maybe a larger question is – what will you be doing if you are not at Watchnight Service? Will you be spending it like the world in merrymaking and carnal joviality? Every year we also stay back after the worship to pray for the church and each other. It is so important for each of us to seek to enter into 2018 in watchful prayer as a family of God and as individuals. Let us watch and pray lest we fall in the way ahead. It is a good way to end the year and to start yet another – with the Lord and His people in worship and prayer.

So, this year and every year, we encourage all worshippers to come for the Watchnight Service. This is a time set together to reflect, and look back on the year past and to pray for strength to strive to live the year ahead with renewed zeal for our Lord. If you have not attended a Watchnight Service before, begin this year and resolve to come every year.

Yours in our Lord’s service  
Pastor

# ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

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1. The Session wishes all worshippers a blessed New Year. May we consecrate ourselves to live for Christ in the coming year.
2. **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 fellowship and encourage each other.
3. **Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service (Today, 7:30 pm):** Will be held tonight. As the year draws to a close, do come to praise and thank God for His preservation and provisions through 2017, and to prepare ourselves spiritually for 2018 through a time of learning His Word and worship together. There will be Holy Communion during the Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service.
4. **2018 Church Theme** is “Fear, walk, love, and serve my LORD with my all” taken from Deuteronomy 10:12 “And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.”
5. **Congratulations** to Deacon Adrian and Hui Ling on the birth of their baby son Jonathan. May they bring him up to be a selfless defender of the Truth for God.

6. **Programs planned for January:**

DATE	TIME	PROGRAM
7 and 14/1 Sunday		Students’ Pre-departure Briefing in Singapore
20/1 Saturday	9:00 am	Busy Bee
26/1 Friday	2:00 pm	Australia Day Outreach
28/1 Sunday	3:30 pm	Adelphie Bible Study

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

- Thank God for Christmas Worship Service and for friends that joined us to celebrate the birth of Christ on this occasion.
- Thank God for many that have laboured tirelessly for the many activities and events in the church for God's work and for His glory.
- Thank God for His preservation of BPCWA that we have a faithful and sound church to worship God in Perth, and where we may grow in His likeness and await His return.
- Pray for continued unity and steadfastness of BPCWA to strive together for the faith of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we close off 2017 and for many years to come.
- Pray for God to protect BPCWA and work against every attempt made by Satan to undermine our unity.
- Pray that BPCWA will be used to draw God's sheep closer to Him in holy fear, obedience, piety and service to our King in 2018.
- Pray for Yew Jinn as he returns to Far Eastern Bible College to complete his final semester of studies that he will be well prepared for full-time service in God's vineyard.

SERVICE DUTY	31/12 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch	7/1 COMBINED - Holy Communion
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Eugene Leong/Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong
Preparatory Hymn	Claude Yiu	Deacon Eugene Leong
Musician(s)	Karen Ee	Sharon Poon
Welcomers	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Ellainne Cheng	Alex Luu, Grace Luu, Ellainne Cheng
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Caleb Cheng, *Claude Yiu, Alex Luu Jason Tey, Kenny Chia, Colin Chng	*Yi Choong Liew, *Kenny Chia, Alex Luu Benjamin Kan, Jason Tey, Michael Lee
Ushers	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai, Vincent Naing	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Vincent Naing
Audio Visual	Yi Choong Liew	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew, Christine Chia Phyllis Voun, Mable Soon	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho, Lee Fung Fong Ming Ming Th'ng, Mable Soon
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Deacon Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

### Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Edward Ee (Benjamin Kan)	Mark Heath (Benjamin Kan)
South Perth	A: Kenny Tan    B: Allan Ang	A: Alex Luu    B: Kenny Tan
Berrington	Edward Ee (Benjamin Kan)	Mark Heath (Benjamin Kan)
Bull Creek	Allan Ang	Kenny Tan

### APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	31/12	7:30 pm	Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service
Tuesday	2/1	10:00 am	Chinese Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Deacon Joel Wong, Deacon Eugene Leong, Sharon Poon
Friday	5/1	7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Sunday	7/1	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 (24/12)

Attendance: 200 (Combined-163; CSS-37); Prayer Meeting: 72; Christmas Worship Service: 224 (Combined-202; CSS-22)  
Tithes and Offerings - Sunday Service: \$6,034.75 (#4369-From Nursing Home: \$100.00); Christmas Worship Service: \$2,078.75

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What do we pray for in the third petition?** In the third petition, which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things, (Psalm 19:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20-21) as the angels do in heaven. (Psalm 103:20-21; Hebrews 1:14)