



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

January 21st, 2018

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/Deacon Eugene Leong

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Joel Wong/Sonny Lim

*Hymn HOP 14 Come, Thou Almighty King

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Proverbs 1:20-33

Hymn HOP 218 Moment by Moment

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

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 10:12-17

Hymn HOP 260 A Charge to Keep I Have

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.

Walk In God's Ways

*Hymn HOP 264 More Holiness Give Me

*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 2018:

"...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," (Deuteronomy 10:12)

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PASTORAL LETTER

A Cultural or Religious Show?

Dear BPCWAians, In recent months, many of us may have noticed promotions at shopping centres regarding a Chinese cultural show and also advertisements pasted on shop windows or on walls. These advertisements show a graceful Chinese costumed lady in dance, dressed in pink contrasted against a yellowish-orange coloured background. It aroused my curiosity a little, since it seemed to present itself as a Chinese cultural show. So, recently, when I saw a brochure promoting the tickets to the show, I took a copy home to read and understand more about it. With apparently positive reviews from producers, critics, lead ballet dancers, and even by an Archbishop, is this just a promotion of Chinese culture?

Is this cultural or religious? Upon reading, it quickly became apparent that this show is no mere classical Chinese dance, but is intended to promote a religious cause. In English, the performance is simply called “Shen Yun”, and the show is by Shen Yun Performing Arts. At a glance, one would simply think that it is simply a name, just like any other. However, their blog site explains their name to mean “the expression and representation of divine beings”, or “dancing goddesses”. They explain that contrary to the belief of one supreme heavenly being, “Chinese spirituality on the other hand, is replete with hundreds of deities,

Buddhas, and Taoist immortals”. Their mission is to revive a culture which they believed once existed in China when “deities and mortals coexisted”, and “the divine” transmitted “a rich culture” to people, giving harmony between heaven and earth. Under the ticketing information, it states that the show is presented by Falun Dafa Association of Australia Inc. “Falun Dafa, also known as Falun Gong, is a self-practice system that combines ancient Chinese teachings with meditation exercises.” So, in its performances, Shen Yun’s artistic team depicts the stories of Falun Dafa through song and dance dramas. In photographs of their dance, men are depicted in the flowing orange robes of Buddhist monks, ladies dance with headgears of lotus flowers, and in 1 stance, the men are lined up to depict Buddha with multiple arms. Undoubtedly, this art performance conveys a strong religious message. This is not lost on the audience. In interviews, those who watched it described it as “the idea of everybody coming from a celestial place”, “it’s all beauty and truth and light”, “it’s a bridge between meditation and peace” and with the effect that “it’ll ... enrich her soul and her development as a person... change her life”.

Their “divine inspiration” is the spiritual discipline known as Falun Dafa, where they strive to attain a higher realm because they think “that ancient wisdom resides deep in our being, waiting to be unlocked”. This explains the not so innocuous reason for their name. Embedded in it is a religious intent to portray the Chinese spirituality idea that the

divine being resides in every person. Without a doubt, the online videos show incredible gymnastic performances that make one want to go and watch. But this is not just a cultural show. It is at its heart a religious promotion with a religious message being put across to viewers through song and dance.

How should Christians respond? Many things are presented as cultural, medical and traditions, but are really religious in nature and origin. This is why it seems so harmless and therefore effective in creeping into Christians' lives, beliefs and practices. This so called Chinese cultural show is no different. We are to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess 5:21,22). All these promotions may appear to you as cultural, but they are done with a spiritual purpose and intent. Their website does not deny that their aim is to bring across, through this performance, the spiritual message they believe in. Such shows by Shen Yun are really evangelization rallies, designed to promote their religion. We cannot attend these events, thinking that "I am just there to enjoy the entertainment, I won't fall". We are not wiser than God, who says "let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor 10:12). If we will not go to a temple and be part of the Buddhist ceremony, why will we go to such a performance as this? The light of the body is the eye (Matt 6:22) – why let our guard down and allow our eyes and heart indulge in the active promotion of

something that goes against our Almighty God and Father? Christians must “be ye separate... and touch not the unclean thing” (2 Cor 6:17).

Yours in our Lord’s service

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Australia Day Outreach (This Friday, 26 January, 3:00 pm):** Come for the Australia Day combined fellowship meeting at 3 pm with Pastor speaking on “Genuine Evangelism”. We will then go into the city to give out tracts and share the Gospel, ending with fellowship together. We welcome all in the church to join us for Australia day this year with the church family. Registration closes today in the fellowship hall.
2. **Fellowship Lunch (Next Sunday, 28 January, after Worship):** Please bring a dish to share. Do stay back to get to know each other and visitors in our midst. All are welcome.
3. **Adelphé Bible Study (Next Sunday, 28 January, 3:30 pm):** As Christians, we should always be seeking for God’s will in every part of our lives. But often, many of us still wonder: “How do I know God’s will when making choices?”, “Can I walk out of God’s will?” or “Do we have free will?” All ladies are encouraged to attend this Bible study as we discuss these questions and continue to study the sevenfold will of God.

4. **Safety:** Worshippers are reminded to ensure that they keep their valuables with them at all times while in the church as strangers may come into church when the church is busy with people.

5. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for physical protection of the church. Continue to pray for vigilance, protection and guidance in taking care of the church's safety so that we can worship unhindered.
- Thank God for help in preparations for the student pre-departure talks in Singapore.
- Thank God for the Busy Bee held yesterday and all who came to serve God together in maintaining the church yesterday. Thank God for safety and time to get to know one another better as we labour together.
- Pray for God to prepare the hearts of people that we can speak to during our Australia Day Outreach. Pray for freedom to be able to continue to reach out to others with the gospel and joyful proclamation of God's truth as we go out.
- Pray that every worshipper will fear and walk with our Lord, love and serve Him with all our heart and soul every day of our lives.
- Pray that God will continue to keep and use BPCWA as a faithful witness for His testimony and defender of His truth.

SERVICE DUTY	21/1 COMBINED	28/1 COMBINED - Fellowship Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Joel Wong/Sonny Lim	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Kong Vui Yip
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Eugene Leong	Deacon Joel Wong
Musician(s)	Karen Ee	Winnie Lim
Welcomers	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Lily Liow	Wei Yan, Bei Li, Mark Heath
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Jason Tey, *Kenny Tan, Yi Choong Liew Colin Chng, Pei Shion Chai, Stephen Chia	*Edward Ee, *Jonathan Woo, Kenny Chia Claude Yiu, Colin Chng, Wei Yan
Ushers	Yi Choong Liew, Ellainne Cheng Yi Jye Chieng	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan Jay-Son Lim
Audio Visual	Albert Ho	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew, Christine Chia Illihoa Ramachandran, Lee Chin 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	Pastor Joseph Poon (Hannah Th'ng)	Edward Ee (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	A: Allan Ang B: Caleb Cheng	A: Kenny Tan B: Mark Heath
Berrington	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Edward Ee (Yung Tsing Mew)
Bull Creek	Caleb Cheng	Mark Heath

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Tuesday	23/1	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Deacon Joel Wong, Yi Mey Tan
Wednesday	24/1	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Genesis
Friday	26/1	3:00 pm	Australia Day Outreach
Sunday	28/1	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
		12:45 pm	Teens Q & A
		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 Adelphie Bible Study

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (14/1)

Attendance: 176 (Combined-145; CSS-31); Prayer Meeting: 71

Tithes and Offerings: \$5,924.75 (#4378: \$712.70; #4379: \$65.00; #4380: \$13.90)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What do we pray for in the sixth petition? In the sixth petition, which is, *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil*, we pray that God would either keep us from being tempted to sin, (Psalm 19:13; Matthew 26:41; John 17:15) or support and deliver us when we are tempted. (Luke 22:31-32; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Hebrews 2:18)