



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

October 14th, 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.

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.

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.

Prelude/Preparatory Hymn Sharon Poon/Deacon Eugene Leong

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong

*Hymn **HOP 38** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading Proverbs 14:10-17

Believer's Baptism Ruixi Huang, Susan Tiong, Cornelius Wong

Infant Baptism Caleb Wong, Isabella Wong, Ethan Wong

Affirmation of Faith Joash Teng

Transfer of Membership Yi Jie Chieng, Morray Li

Hymn **HOP 363** Constantly Abiding

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings **HOP 230** Trusting Jesus

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Ephesians 5:19

Hymn **HOP 374** I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim

Be Spirit Filled – Sing to the Lord!

*Hymn **HOP 361** Redeemed

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

*Congregation Standing



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

Why do I become a member when I get baptized?

Dear BPCWAians, Today we witnessed believer's baptisms, infant baptisms, affirmation of faith, and transfer of memberships. As members of BPCWA, you also arise at such events to receive them into membership of BPCWA. Have you ever wondered why baptisms and affirmation of faith leads automatically to membership in a church? Why do people transfer memberships? Do infants also become members upon baptism? And why do we ask members of BPCWA to arise to receive them? It is important to understand the Biblical principles behind all these because you are yourself a member or might become a member one day.

Believer's baptism and membership. When a believer is baptized in a church, he becomes a member of that church. Here, it is important to understand that there is a difference between the universal church and the visible church, because this is where many people are confused. True born-again believers are all part of the invisible universal church of God's elect. This invisible church is one that in the fulness of times Christ will gather together in one (Eph 1:10). But as part of God's redemptive plan, He calls out and establishes a visible witness on earth. So, "church" literally means "called out ones". This visible witness in the Old Testament was the nation of Israel whom He called to Himself, and in the New Testament is the local church. We see references of this in the Bible, such as "the church of God which is at Corinth" (1 Cor 1:2), "the church at Cenchrea" (Rom 16:1) and "the seven churches which are in Asia" (Rev 1:11). There are people who are clearly identified and who belong to these churches. How are these people identified as being part of God's visible witness as His people? The children of Israel were God's people by His covenant with them. The covenantal sign of this was circumcision in Gen 17:7, 9 "And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an

everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee . . . And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations." God spoke of being in a covenant with His people. Covenants have signs and seals. People of other nations who come to Jehovah as their God must also be circumcised because it is the outward sign of being part of God's people (Ex 12:48; Eze 44:9). Just like at a wedding solemnisation, there is always the ring serving as the sign and seal of each entering into the marriage covenant. The Abrahamic covenant is under the covenant of grace, which both Old Testament and New Testament believers are in. After Christ came, the Apostle Paul explained to the Jews in Col 2:11, 12 that the covenantal sign of circumcision had been replaced with water baptism. That is why there was no longer the command to be circumcised, even for proselytes, but to be water baptized instead. Just as the Old Testament circumcision was the sign of someone becoming part of Jehovah's visible people, so in the same manner today, every believer who is baptized becomes part – a member – of the visible local church where he is baptized. This has to do with being part of God's people. So, if any refused to be circumcised, it was a sign of refusal to be part of God's people. Similarly in the New Testament covenantal sign of baptism, anyone who refuses baptism cannot be a member of a local church. Just like the act of circumcision didn't save the Jews in the Old Testament, the act of believer's baptism doesn't save anyone today. It is something you do after declaring belief in the LORD.

Transfer of membership. So, having understood that, some may wonder – does it matter where my membership is so long as I am baptized and am member of a church? To answer this question, we must go back to the purpose of a local church as a visible witness of God's people. For many of us, we may have been baptized in our younger days in another church. Later, God's Providence directed us to move from our original countries or churches

and brought us to BPCWA. If you have been worshipping with us for some time, I trust that this is an indication that you have found BPCWA to be a faithful witness for our Lord. In what way is a church a local witness for the Lord? A church is a local witness by the soundness of the doctrines taught and embraced, by our public worship, by the sacraments and ordinances administered, and where the saints gather and are perfected (Westminster Confession of Faith XXV:3, 4). Membership in a church makes you part of that local witness. This is because in taking the step of membership, one covenants to be part of that church, to support her and to serve with her for the Lord's work. There is a commitment to that church family in the vows that you take, and in being part of that visible witness, there is no "sleeping member". Hence, today, some have taken the step to transfer their memberships over from their previous church over to BPCWA. These ones have embraced our beliefs and practices, and desire to serve alongside with us and be part of God's local witness at BPCWA. While some cannot be admitted as full communicant members because of their visa status here in Australia, they indicate by their vows that they are willing and ready to be subject to BPCWA's oversight and work together with us.

Having understood this, we thank and praise God for Him graciously keeping and using BPCWA to be part of His Great Commission to make disciples of Christ. Matt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Seniors Fellowship (This Saturday, 20 October, 10:30 am):** Meeting will be held in church with Pastor speaking on the topic “The Reason For Sickness - Signs of Preparedness”. Fellowship Lunch will follow after the message, please kindly bring a dish to share. All are warmly welcome to join.

2. **2018 Camp Jackets:** There is a limited number of 2018 Camp Jackets available for purchase at a cost of \$27. Previous years camp jackets and T-shirts are also available in limited numbers at \$10 and \$6 respectively. Please see Deacon Eugene Leong if you are interested to purchase. Sizes available on first come first serve basis (2018 Jacket – XL,L,M. 2017 T-Shirt – S. 2016 Jacket – XL. 2015 Jacket – XL,L. 2013 Jacket – L.).

3. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for those who have been baptised, have their infants baptised, affirmed their faith, and had their memberships transferred today. Thank God for salvation that He has freely given to them. Pray that they will fulfil their vows to be His true disciples from henceforth.
- Thank God for the Family Seminar conducted yesterday. Thank God that we worship a familial Lord Who directs us through His Word how we should bring up our families for Him.
- Pray for the Church Extension program to continue to be directed by God so that we will know what should be done according to His plans.
- Pray for those going through trials, suffering from illnesses and seeking jobs to find grace in their knowledge of God and to be strengthened in their faiths.
- Pray for every worshipper in BPCWA to earnestly desire to grow in God's truth through our Bible Studies and Fellowships, and to apply the Word learnt into our lives so that we can please and glorify our Lord and be prepared to meet Him in His timing.

SERVICE DUTY	14/10 COMBINED	21/10 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon / Sonny Lim	Pastor Joseph Poon / Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Adrian Cheng / Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Eugene Leong / Yew Jinn Chieng
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Eugene Leong	Deacon Joel Wong
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Sharon Poon
Welcomers	Colin Tey, May Chee Tey, Yi San Chieng	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho
Offering Stewards	Eddie Foo, Pei Shion Chai, Stephen Chia Wei Yan, Jonathan Woo, Colin Chng	Claude Yiu, Eddie Foo, Kenny Tan Colin Chng, Caleb Cheng, Edward Ee
Ushers	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan, Mable Soon	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai, Jay-Son Lim
Audio Visual	Albert Ho	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew, Christine Chia Mable Soon	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun, Shuin Ning Jong Yi Jye Chieng, Valarie Wan

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	14/10	12:30 pm	Teens Q & A
Tuesday	16/10	10:00 am	Chinese Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng, Deacon Joel Wong, Yung Tsing Mew
Wednesday	17/10	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Old Testament History
Friday	19/10	10:00 am	Mothers Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CAF/CSF
Saturday	20/10	10:30 am	Seniors Fellowship
Sunday	21/10	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English Basic Bible Knowledge Class/Chinese Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		2:00 pm	Nursing Home: Concorde/Onslow Gardens
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Berrington/Bull Creek

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCES & OFFERINGS

Attendances – Sunday Worship: 217 (Combined: 186; CSS: 31); Prayer Meeting: 89

Tithes and Offerings – Sunday Worship: \$7,388.85 (#4506: \$717.00; #4507: \$90.50); Designated Love Gift (Pastor Joseph Poon: \$100.00)

Building Fund – Last Week: \$3,075.00; To Date: \$128,077.42; Gap: \$1,171,922.58

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH – CHAPTER TWO: OF GOD, AND OF THE HOLY TRINITY

1. THERE is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal most just and terrible in his judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.

