

# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

7 March 2021

## SUNDAY 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.

Preparatory Hymn

**RHC 67** Praise the Savior

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship

Deacon Adrian Cheng

\*Hymn

**RHC 66** Fairest Lord Jesus!

\*Invocation/The Lord's Prayer & Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading

Psalm 18:13-24

Holy Communion

Hymn

**RHC 307** Amazing Grace

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Joshua 20:1-9

Hymn

**RHC 305** Wonderful Words of Life

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon

## Our Just God

\*Hymn

**RHC 32** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

\*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

\*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

\*Congregation Standing



**THEME FOR 2021: GROW IN GRACE AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen". (2 Peter 3:18)

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# PASTORAL LETTER

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## Church Study Series: BPCWA History

Dear BPCWA worshipper, In February 2021, BPCWA passed 35 years since her founding in 1986. Much has occurred during these 35 years. Many of our worshippers have shared with me snippets of stories about our church history. Even people I've met from churches outside of the BP circle here know of some of the turmoils BPCWA has gone through. BPCWA has had its share of nicknames. I thought it would be important for our worshippers here to have an understanding of our background. This is important also for those who are interested or considering taking up membership with us in the future. It is part of knowing the family that you are part of. I am sure that those who have been here long enough to have gone through the downs don't want such days to return. Some have come in more recent years, and have only seen the church in the recent stable and peaceful state that God has been merciful to be pleased to bless us with. It is important for both groups to learn from our history so that we can together all reinforce the positives and not repeat the negatives.

**Would our church history be considered a "Bible study"?** This study is not in a presentation format of a typical anniversary magazine, where we present glossy photographs of smiling babies, children, and adults in picture perfect-poses and saying only the "good stuff". It is not intended to track how long a ministry has/ has not been in existence. It is not intended to provide fuel for gossip, nor is it intended to embarrass others. This study is not going to be heavily focused just on timelines. Instead, we will be looking at a more macro view of our history and from that highlight Biblical viewpoints. This study is intended to help us apply Scriptural principles to actual events. It is to apply the eyeglasses of our Christian faith to past events. While we can study what the Bible teaches about the church, it is different when these teachings are superimposed on a church's history and events in it. This is where we take you out of the classroom theories about the church and into the actual real world, a place where needs and emotions are involved, and the decisions that are made when the tests and trials come. If we say that

secular history is actually “His story” ie God’s story, then how much more when it comes to a church’s history? The Church is God’s body, His witness, the place where God is worshipped. God never fails. And where there are failings in any church, it is all due to man’s failures. So, when despite these failings and yet the church continues and stays faithful, it can only be attributed to God’s sovereign care, help, and preservation. Through this, we must see the Hand of God at work. So we are studying what the Bible says about the church as we study the church. And when we do so, we must then realise that in our time, it is the charge that He entrusts to us to keep.

**Should we dig up our history since it’s past?** Since it’s already over, is there really a need to talk, much less teach, about it? The fact is that history, whether pleasant or unpleasant, plays its part in shaping the people in the church, and to some extent, its ethos. The Bible records both the good and the wrongs that occur. The purpose is for learning from both. What we experience in our life often affects, moulds, and shapes us into what we are and how we think and respond. Similarly, what one goes through in a church is what one comes to associate with the church and what one expects the church to be. Some may yearn still for what used to be done in the “good old days”. These emotions and expectations then become the pressures that form and exist within a church, some in subtler and some in more noticeable forms as the church goes through necessary changes that God leads it through. Whether for a nation or a corporation, it is very important for a church to also not to lose sight of know how it started, how it was run, where it is at, and how it should move forward. Those that went through each turmoil in the past never thought that there would be another, in another form. There is no guarantee that the pressures that were faced in the past will not repeat themselves again in the future. If it should do so, how should BPCWA respond when history tries to repeat itself? Real problems do exist, and new ones can arise, and we cannot pretend that they don’t and won’t. Will the congregation and the leaders respond in unity based on God’s Word? What happens when they don’t? Members can want to do the right thing – but the wrong leaders may refuse. The right leaders may want to do the right thing – but they can end up being disliked by the members. A leader who desires to please the people will buckle under pressure from the members and succumb. A leader

who wants to do right may face the unhappiness of the people who will be voting for him. Satan knows that “. . . if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.” (Mark 3:25) For a church to thrive, we must “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind”. It is however not a unity based on loyalty to a man, but “for the faith of the gospel” (Phil 1:27). This is why it is important for the church at large to know and understand the biblical basis for such matters.

**Are we ready to learn?** As with any and all Bible study topics, the best that the church can do is to faithfully teach and pray that worshippers will want to learn. The learning is really up to the hearers, and that is something that is outside of my control. We can attend a Bible study with a preconceived mindset, ready to criticize each and every point brought up. I will readily admit that this is not a perfect study, but I have attempted to search through available documentation to try as much as possible to reflect the issues objectively. Only God can do a perfect history recap. But this does not mean that we should not learn what we can in the light of His revealed will in His Word. The purpose of this series is not for nostalgia, and definitely not for debate. It is for learning, and I hope this will be the mindset of all who decide to come – to learn. This study took many hours of research and combing through our archives. If we want to leave the next generation a church that will not repeat the mistakes of the past and know what to do when similar attacks of Satan reoccur, then the only solution is that we must teach, and all must learn. When other tests come, what will the next generation do? Peace is fragile, and unity is precious. This is our family history, and it is for the BPCWA family.

“That the generation to come might know *them*, *even* the children *which* should be born; *who* should arise and declare *them* to their children: 7 That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:”

Ps 78:6-7

Yours in our Lord’s service,

Pastor

# ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

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## 1. **Church 35th Anniversary Thanksgiving Dinner Registration (Today, after Worship):**

Everyone is welcome to join in the Anniversary Dinner celebration to commemorate and give thanks to God for His upholding and sustaining of BPCWA over the last 35 years. Registration starts today and closes on 21 March. Please find the details below with more information at the registration table in the Fellowship Hall.

**Venue:** Pinn's Palace

**Address:** 1481 Albany Hwy, Beckenham WA 6107

**Date:** Sunday, 4 April 2021 (6:00 pm)

**Cost:** Adult - \$29pp, Child - \$10pp

## 2. **Husbands and Fathers Fellowship (Today, 3:30 pm):**

Pastor will teach on the biblical principles to help the Christian father to become a godly father. All husbands, regardless of their stage of life, are encouraged to come and study God's Word together. Please arrive only after 3:15 pm to allow sufficient time for the earlier Worship Service to conclude.

## 3. **Submission for Baptisms, Affirmation of Faith and Membership Transfers (Today):**

To facilitate the arrangements for an interview by the Board of Elders, completed forms, together with their testimonies, must be submitted to Deacon Adrian Cheng by today.

## 4. **Church Study Series (This Friday, 12 March, 7:30 pm):**

The 2nd study in this series will trace the early days of the first phase of our church.

## 5. **Rededication Sunday (Sunday, 14 March, during Worship):**

All who are serving in any of the church ministries should sign the rededication form inserted in today's weekly and participate in the rededication vows during next Sunday's worship service. Please place your completed forms in the box provided in the foyer next Sunday.

**6. Family Camp 2021:** All part-time participants who have yet to sign up are required to do so before part-time registration for this year's Family Camp closes today. All participants are also kindly reminded to make any outstanding payments today.

**7. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for those that have registered to attend our family camp full-time, and for help to confirm our booking with the resort.
- Thank God for strength and grace to resist and stand fast against the trials and temptations of each day.
- Thank God for the peace that He has granted to BPCWA so that we may now seek to fully do His will and strive earnestly for His kingdom's work through His church.
- Pray that worshippers will be transformed in the renewing of their minds to fight against every besetting sin in their lives.
- Pray for the Church Bible Study to build a strong church that will base both our faith and practices upon God's revealed will in His Word.
- Pray for spiritual and physical protection upon BPCWA from attacks of the evil one.
- Pray for a peaceful WA State Election, and that the results will allow us to continue to live our faith and worship God without hindrance.

**APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK**

Sunday	7/3	3:30 pm	Husbands and Fathers Fellowship
Tuesday	9/3	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
Friday	12/3	7:30 pm	Church Study Series
Sunday	14/3	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	Basic Bible Knowledge Class
			Children Sunday School
		10:00 am	Sunday Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Teens Q and A

**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCES & OFFERINGS**

**Attendances** – Sunday Worship: 163; Prayer Meeting: 92

**Tithes and Offerings** – Sunday Worship: \$8,817.50

**Building Fund** – Last Week: \$3,754.26; To Date: \$582,777.96; Gap: \$717,222.04

Worshippers can continue to return to the Lord by making bank transfers to the following accounts:

a) Tithes and Offerings    BSB: 016-268, Account: 4784-38319

b) Building Fund            BSB: 016-268, Account: 5313-03414

**WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH – CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX: OF COMMUNION OF SAINTS**

2. Saints, by profession, are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities and necessities. Which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.

