

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

4 April 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 217 Rejoice – the Lord Is King!

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship

Deacon Adrian Cheng

*Hymn

RHC 205 Thine Is the Glory

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

Responsive Reading

Luke 24:1-12

Transfer of Membership

Eda Liong, Keziah Peh

Holy Communion

Hymn

RHC 199 The Old Rugged Cross

*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:13-26

Hymn

RHC 208 The Day of Resurrection

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon

How Real Is the Resurrection to You?

*Hymn

RHC 203 He Lives

*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

Thanksgiving this Easter

Dear BPCWA worshipper, Celebrating Easter was something that we always took for granted, until the COVID-19 lockdown last year when all our services were conducted online and the church was empty on Easter Sunday. Even our traditional Anniversary dinner had to be cancelled and we held a thanksgiving Anniversary service that night in lieu. God works all things for good in His Sovereign plan, and I hope that the pastoral today will help us to be more thankful that things are different this year.

Thankful for regathering. In a situation that we would never have imagined before, last Easter was spent either alone or with our families at home. One thing that we missed very much, though we could livestream our Good Friday service, was our usual Lord's Supper. Our Easter Sunrise service also had to be cancelled. We had Easter Worship Service and gave thanks to God for our 34th church anniversary through livestreaming instead. Do you remember your emotions in those days when we could not gather as a covenantal family to worship, partake of the Holy Communion, and celebrate our church anniversary together in person? Unless our hearts are hardened, recalling those days must overwhelm us with joy and thankfulness that we can meet together in person this year! As God allows all these, we must at least notice and learn to treasure the freedom that we now enjoy in Perth which allows us to gather. Furthermore, the fact that we are not just merely meeting in rostered small groups, but can come together every week, worshipping on the same floor instead of having to sit upstairs, must fill our hearts with overflowing gratefulness to God for His mercies upon us. Our experience last year should teach us practically what it is like for some who, due to persecution or with the lack of a sound church where they are, could not gather together for worship. It must make

us thankful (and certainly a lot more prayerful) for the freedom that we have to worship God here in Perth. It must make us thankful that we have like-minded believers that we can join hearts and voices together with in the worship of our God.

Thankful for another milestone as we celebrate our church anniversary. As has been our practice, we celebrate our church anniversary today. This year marks the 35th Anniversary of our church, which was first started with humble beginnings on 9th February 1986. The church has been through much, as we have studied in our recent Church Study Series on our church's history. The fact that we are not only still existing, but that we also continue to teach the truth, standing "for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:2,9; 6:9), can only be attributed to God's special care, mercy, and protection. For the large majority of us, Perth is where we call our home at least for now. The fact that we have a sound church that we, as individuals and families, can continue to attend for ourselves must be something that we are grateful and thankful to God for. God granting us a sound church where we can worship, learn, and serve in cannot be taken for granted especially in these end times. Those who are truly God's sheep would seek to be fed with His truth. Even park rangers know that wildlife scavenging in the rubbish dumps and start eating the trash left behind by humans will cause them harm and eventual death. This is sadly the eventual case when they do not feed on the food they are supposed to eat. We see this physically and understand the harm that it causes the animals. A soul that has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and having a sound church to graze and grow in is God's blessing. The new creature needs to be nourished, sanctified, and built up so that it can be used by Him. And God's church is His means to provide for that. We must always long for such a sound church and pray for it constantly. And we must desire for it to remain faithful to our Lord, doing only what is right and pleasing in His sight, and following His leading, even if it means at times conflicting with our personal preferences and friendships.

Thankful for our Saviour's work on our behalf. In view of God's unusual goodness towards BPCWA, we must worship with grateful praise and thankful hearts. Moreover, as we commemorate the death of our Lord Jesus, we must remember that He gave Himself for His Church, which He purchased with His own Blood! And while we also commemorate His resurrection, we must be deeply grateful that through Christ, we are "blessed . . . with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph 1:3), especially the blessing of fulness of life in Christ, of eternal life so rich and free, and the glorious bodily resurrection that we, as God's children, will experience one day. Oh, what a blessed thought beyond words, especially after having just witnessed the recent homegoing of one of our brethren. How can we face death if we didn't have the assured knowledge of Christ's resurrection? What meaning does life have on earth without Christ as our Lord? How all these must surely stir endless praise in our hearts - that the infinite God, our Creator, should humble Himself to save the creature.

Indeed, we have so much to be thankful for today and to adore our God and Saviour for. What is the state of our hearts? I hope that as we gather together today – some of us for 3 occasions at Sunrise, Worship and the Anniversary dinner – we will raise our voices and sing His praises out loud for all the goodness that He has shown to us. Let us worship Him from our hearts, for He deserves all our worship. For if we "should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Lu 19:40).

Yours in our Lord's service,

Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. The Board of Elders and Session wish all worshippers a blessed Easter. May the reminder of Christ's resurrection cause us to seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
2. **Church 35th Anniversary Dinner Celebration (Today, 6 pm):** Our Church 35th Anniversary dinner celebration to commemorate God's blessings to BPCWA will be held at Pinn's Palace. Please arrive 15 minutes earlier and be seated at your assigned table for our program to start at 6 pm. Maps of the restaurant location are available in the foyer.
3. **Seniors Fellowship (Saturday, 17 April, 10:30 am):** Pastor will be continuing to speak on the series "Sound Doctrines for the Aged" at our next Seniors Fellowship meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and study God's Word together.
4. **Far Eastern Bible College Daily Vacation Bible Courses:** Between 10 May and 2 July, FEBC will be offering 3 courses: Angels and Demons, Epistle to Jude, and Jesus the Master Teacher. As these are one-unit courses, they are \$40 per course. Registration will be open from 12 April. Please see the flyer on the notice board for information on the courses.
5. Congratulations to Terry and Lydia Chong on the birth of their baby son. May he be brought up to be a godly seed for the Lord's use.

6. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God that we can once again celebrate Easter together as a church family after last year's lockdown.
- Thank God for His goodness upon BPCWA for 35 years of His merciful preservation and care.
- Pray that God's Word over Good Friday and Easter will cause His children to consecrate themselves to live every moment of their lives for His glory.
- Pray that BPCWA will always stand for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, fulfilling the Great Commission here in Western Australia.
- Pray that every worshipper will be earnest in evangelising and bringing in God's sheep to BPCWA.

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Sunday	4/4	6:00 pm	BPCWA 35th Anniversary Thanksgiving Celebrations – Pinn’s Palace (1481 Albany Hwy, Beckenham)
Tuesday	6/4	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
Friday	9/4	7:30 pm	Fellowships Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°
Sunday	11/4	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: 150; Prayer Meeting: 93; Good Friday: 176

Tithes and Offerings – Sunday Worship: \$8,960.50

Building Fund – Last Week: \$3,070.00; To Date: \$598,357.96; Gap: \$701,642.04

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-SEVEN: OF THE SACRAMENTS

3. The grace which is exhibited in or by the sacraments, rightly used, is not conferred by any power in them; neither doth the efficacy of a sacrament depend upon the piety or intention of him that doth administer it, but upon the work of the Spirit, and the word of institution; which contains, together with a precept authorizing the use thereof, a promise of benefit to worthy receivers.

