



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 2 July 2017

Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	17 - <i>Praise the Saviour</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Song of Songs 5:1-16
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	238 - <i>How Sweet and Awful Is the Place</i>
Hymn	398 - <i>The Lily of the Valley</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 10:34-48
Hymn	TP 72:1-12
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"God Doesn't Show Favoritism"
*Closing Hymn	361 - <i>Jesus Loves Even Me</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

† 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.

†† Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Implications of Census 2016

Results of Census 2016

The results of Census 2016 were published a few days ago. There were some interesting findings since the last census in 2011.

Australians are generally getting older, more are living alone, and there is a growing number of same-sex couples.

The country's population has grown by 2 million since 2011 and has doubled in 50 years to 24.4 million.

There are many immigrants that have arrived in the past few years, mainly from Asia.

This had led to some changes in religious demographics.

Because of immigrants from South Asia, there has been a growth in Islam, Hinduism, and Sikhism.

And because of immigrants from East Asia, predominantly China, there has been a growth in Buddhism.

These growths, however, do not account for the sharp increase in those who say they don't have a religion. This is one third of the population - over 2 million more since 2011.

There has also been a sharp decrease in those who identify as Christian.

51% of the population said they were adherents of some form of Christianity (Catholicism, Anglicanism, and others).

This was a decline from 88% in 1966 and 74% in 1991.

What should the response be from Bible-believing Christians toward these statistics, assuming they are accurate?

How should we react to the growth of non-Christian religions through immigration? And how should we react to the decline of Christianity?

Joyfully

Firstly, we react with joy that many are coming to the shores of this country who may not have otherwise heard the gospel in their country.

The decline of Christianity because of the increase of other religions through immigration is not a cause for distress.

Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and Sikhs are coming to the country. Christians in this country can be a witness to them.

Solemnly

Secondly, we react with a measure of sobriety and solemnity. While many of those who were older identified as Christians, those under 50 were less inclined to do so.

In other words, there is a real decline of those who identify as Christian. This means firstly, that there is a decline in cultural Christianity.

Monash professor of Sociology, Gary Bouma, suggests that "The response to the religion question provides an indication of a person's cultural orientation and formation."

Those who identified as Catholics were probably Irish and went to Catholic school. Anglicans and Uniting Church adherents were British who went to state or private school.

They were raised Christian. Their grandparents and parents went to church, they may have gone to church as young children - either regularly or at Christmas and Easter.

But as these categories become less important, it becomes less necessary to identify in these ways.

It helps us to look solemnly at our own situation. How many of our children will leave their cultural Christianity? And

believe me, it is cultural until they embrace the gospel.

Those who identify as Christian may also not all possess evangelical faith.

And secondly, if there's a decline of cultural Christianity, there probably is a decline in true evangelical Christianity. As long as they are in church, they can hear the gospel.

This means that there is a larger mission ground in this country than previously admitted.

Biblically

Thirdly, we are to think biblically. While it is a solemn realization that Christianity is on the decline, we realize that apart from times of revival, the true church has always been a remnant.

The visible church may be large, but God's true people down the ages have always been a portion of that visible church. But now, the visible church in Australia is on the decline as it is in many other countries.

In the UK, there are more atheists and agnostics than believers. Only 2% of British men and women attend church.

0% of Icelanders under the age of 25 believe God created the earth - compared with 90% of all Icelanders only 20 years ago.

700 Protestant churches and over 1000 Catholic churches are expected to close

within the next few years in the Netherlands due to low attendance.

When it is no longer socially advantageous for cultural Christians to self-identify as Christians, the visible church will decline.

But the invisible church is always growing - sometimes imperceptibly. Christ will build his church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Sometimes there will be negative growth because of persecution and moral decline - yet there will be a remnant.

When true religion declined through the turning of the people's heart to Baal and through persecution during Ahab and Jezebel's reign, there were still 7000 who were faithful to Jehovah.

Why has there been a decline in Christianity? Good behavior is taught in church - instead of the gospel. Pursuits of the world are encouraged ahead of the gospel. Scandal is left to fester instead of confronting it with gospel grace.

As long as the heart isn't changed, there will be no true love for Christ.

And as the tide turns on the true faith, we can expect it to become harder for believers of the true evangelical faith.

This is also what the census tells us. But yet, the implications of the census are joy, solemnity, and a biblical expectation. ~ Pastor



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 155. How is the Word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (2.7.17)	Next Week (9.7.17)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Keith Morris
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Eugene Lim
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Jansen & Eva Ng
Offering Stewards	John Tan*, Rex Sriharan* Jansen Ng, Ken Chong	Micah Chiang*, David Lim* Kim Leow, Yen Fye Yap
Ushers	Wendy Gong, Rebecca Lee	Jemima Ng, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Lydia Orchard*, May Poon Peggy Woo, Dina Portillo	Adeline Ng*, Sarah Siew Victor Poon
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
Prayer Meeting	7 July 2017	14 July 2017
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Mark Chen
Pianist	Eugene Lim	Ian Tay

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's speaker: Rev Keith Morris. Pastor will be away in Melbourne to speak at Ebenezer BPC YF/CGF camp from 7-9 July.
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "The Son of God Became the Son of Man" (Hebrews 2:5-9). Speaker: David Lim.
5. Daily Manna and Daily Manna Junior (July-September) are available for collection in the foyer.
6. Hymnals sale today. 'Hymns of Grace and Glory' - \$25. 'Great Hymns of the Faith' - \$10.
7. Presentation by Creation Ministries International on 4 August 2017, Friday at 7.30pm. Speaker: Dr Ron Neller. Topic: "From Evolutionist to Creationist!"

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	General Fund - \$3,870.75 (#725 - \$1,000.00, #726 - \$8.70). Missions Fund - \$210.00. Building Fund - \$0.00. Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,080.75. Attendance - 153.

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$65,337.89
Last Week's Collection	\$0.00
Total	\$65,337.89
Outstanding Loan	- \$402,000.00
Amount Still Needed	\$336,662.11
General Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Missions Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
Building Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
 Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682.
Jacob Woo 0421 212 206.

God Doesn't Show Favoritism

Acts 10:34-48

In the beginning, God made man in his image, but that image was corrupted. God is working to replace that image in man through the gospel. It is progressive. Unfortunately, the Christian often tries to make other men in his image - that to be a good Christian, they have to fit our standards - and we show favoritism to those who are like us. But God shows no favoritism.

1. Acceptance by God Is Not Based on Outward but Inward Markers
 - a. God has never shown favoritism based on outward markers
 - b. The criteria for acceptance by God is inward
2. Acceptance by God Is Based on Faith in a Historical Christ
 - a. Belief in his historicity
 - b. Belief in his sacrificial work
 - c. Belief in his coming judgment
3. Acceptance by God Is Proven by God
 - a. They received the Holy Spirit
 - b. They were received into the Church

The moment we ask "Why him?" we show that we have forgotten why me. Do we try to fit people into our image of what a Christian should be? We are all having the image of God progressively restored in us. If we were to meet Jesus here on earth, would he fit our mold?

Questions for Reflection:

1. What do you think the points of differences are in our church that make people despise each other? Do you think there is pressure to conform to man-made rules of righteousness?
2. How does discrimination or a preference for certain kinds of people affect our witnessing opportunities? How broadly do we associate with people?

Hear the good news that the biblical account of origins is not only historically accurate, but makes better sense of the evidence.



Geomorphologist
and CMI Speaker

Dr Ron Neller

DOES GOD EXIST
WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION WAS
DARWIN RIGHT HOW CAN A LOVING GOD
ALLOW SUFFERING AND DEATH WHAT ABOUT THE
AGE OF THE EARTH DO DATING METHODS PROVE
EARTH IS MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD WHO WAS CAIN'S
HOW DID NOAH FIT ALL THE ANIMALS ON THE ARK WAS
REALLY A WORLD WIDE FLOOD DOES ANY REAL SC
BELIEVE IN CREATION ARE THERE REALLY
LINKS CAN'T A DAY MEAN MILLIONS OF
WHAT ABOUT NATURAL SELECTION W
THE RACES COME FROM REAL ABOUT
STARLIGHT AF
REAL DID GO
EVOLUTION WHAT
THE SIMILARITIES BE
MONKEY AND HUMAN
WHAT ABOUT THE ICE AGE WE
ADAM AND EVE REAL PEOPLE
WHO CARES WHAT I BELIEVE
ABOUT ORIGINS DON'T
FOSSILS TAKE MANY
MILLIONS OF YEARS
TO FORM WHAT ABOUT
DINOSAURS

Question Evolution!

ARE YOU READY FOR ANSWERS?



Don't
miss
out!

Friday 4 August at 7.30pm

From Evolutionist to Creationist!

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
47 Davis Rd, Attadale

Enquiries: Phone Ps Mark Chen on 0415 932 373

Admission free - donations accepted. Creation resources available.



CREATION.com

CMI Australia ph: 07 3340 9888 email: ministry@creation.info