



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 10 February 2019

Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Prelude | <i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i> |
| Call to Worship | |
| *Opening Hymn | 177 - <i>Before the Throne of God Above</i> |
| *Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i> | |
| Scripture Reading | Psalm 100 |
| Hymn | 538 - <i>Give of Your Best</i> |
| Tithes & Offering | |
| *† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer | |
| Scripture Reading | Joel 2:28-32 |
| Hymn | 679 - <i>Revive the Hearts</i> |
| Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer | |
| Sermon | "The Power of God's Spirit to Revive" |
| *Closing Hymn | 211 - <i>Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove</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

Remembering and Sharing Christ this Chinese New Year

As many people in this church are Chinese, I thought it would be appropriate to share some thoughts on the Chinese New Year.

At this time of the year, even the Chinese Diaspora in Australia will find time to celebrate, by visiting and feasting with other folk.

But in the midst of all this, remember Christ and let the items of cultural significance be catalysts for not only remembering what he has done for us but be opportunities to witness for him.

The Significance of the Color Red

The color red is significant – it's a color of prosperity, happiness, and good luck. And the reason for this is steeped in superstition and myth.

According to legend, at each new year in ancient China, there was a mythical beast called "Nian" who would come on the first day to devour the livestock, crops, and children.

To protect themselves, people hung red banners to ward off the creature, a color it feared.

So people decorate their houses with and wear red for such reasons. Chinese believers also do this, not for superstitious reasons, but cultural ones.

To Christians, the color red is also significant. In Exodus 12, God was about to unleash the 10th plague upon the Egyptians – where he would enter into their houses and kill their firstborn.

God instructed the enslaved Israelites to sacrifice a perfect lamb, and to take its blood and paint the posts and lintel of the entrance door to their homes.

Those who did this would be protected from an angry God.

We as believers have the blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, shed for us for the remission of sin. We have overcome Satan and the beast by the blood of the lamb (Rev 12:9,11).

So as Chinese Christians don their red clothes and drape red banners over their doors, let them remember what the Lord Jesus Christ has done and be thankful.

The Significance of Spring

Chinese New Year is also called the Spring Festival because it occurs at the cusp of winter and spring.

It celebrated the coming of life after a long winter. Three things of significance would be done at this time of year for the Chinese New Year season.

Firstly, there's spring-cleaning. The house would be swept and cleaned before the first day. Old things would be thrown away to make room for the new.

Secondly, there are the activities to signify growth. Spring is characterized by new growth. Homes are adorned with blooming plants symbolizing birth, rebirth, and new growth.

Thirdly, there's the paying off of debts. Accountants ensure that the books are cleared of debts so that the New Year starts on a clean slate.

When friends and family members meet, greetings are exchanged and old grievances are forgotten.

Spring is also a very significant concept in Scripture. Christ's call to his people

to be reconciled to him is likened to the coming of spring.

Song of Solomon 2:10-12a says, "*My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come.*"

Those who have heeded this call have passed from winter to spring, from death to life, from old to new (2 Cor 5:17-18a).

Hence, there should be a changed life – our desires should be those of Christ. Our behavior should be that of Christ. These are the new fruits to bear.

Christ said in John 15:16a, "*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.*"

As Chinese Christians visit their friends and relatives, let them remember to show forth their changed lives.

The Significance of the Feast

Chinese New Year is a time of great feasting and there is great significance in the food consumed.

Pineapple tarts are eaten to signify the coming of wealth. Sticky rice cakes are

consumed in expectation of a higher and better year ahead.

Oysters cooked in black moss are distributed in hopes that the diner would increase in wealth.

Wealth is an important theme in Chinese New Year. But as believers, we know that the Lord is our wealth.

While popping tarts in our mouths are enjoyable and satisfying, we place no hope in material wealth.

As Chinese Christians enjoy reunion with their families and friends, let them look forward to their eternal hope, not in the material gains of this life, but in their future rewards.

As they eat, let them do so, "*giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light*" (Colossians 1:12).

And as they meet up and eat with people, let them consider those and ask if they shall partake of that great marriage feast of the Lamb.

Let them share with those the greater significance of the color red, of a permanent spring, and an eternal feast. ~ Pastor

Reprinted from CBPC Bulletin of 22 February 2015



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 83. Are all transgressions of the law equally heinous?

A. Some sins in themselves, and by reason of several aggravations, are more heinous in the sight of God than others.

Q. 84. What doth every sin deserve?

A. Every sin deserveth God's wrath and curse, both in this life, and that which is to come.

Worship Service Roster

| <i>Service</i> | <i>This Week (10.2.19)</i> | <i>Next Week (17.2.19)</i> |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Speaker | Mark Chen | Mark Chen |
| Worship Leader | Johnson Lim | Mark Chen |
| Pianist | Nancy Lim | Eugene Lim |
| Welcomers | Kim & Jesslyn Leow | Johnny & Lydia Orchard |
| Offering Stewards | Paul Butler, Kim Leow Eugene Lim, Jacob Woo | Chris Budiman, Rex Sriharan Jansen Ng, Ken Chong |
| Ushers | Putri Harapan, Josephine Austin | Joyce Ng, Wendy Gong |
| Kitchen Duties | Adeline Ng*, Lisa Lim August Ng | Helen Wong*, Ken Hong Rosemary Fitzpatrick |
| PA Duty | Jacob Woo | Ian Tay |
| <i>Prayer Meeting</i> | <i>15 February 2019</i> | <i>22 February 2019</i> |
| Chairman | Jimmy Orchard | Jacob Woo |
| Pianist | Nancy Lim | Mark Chen |

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshipers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "King Jesus Destroys" (Joel 3:1-16).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "The Weak and the Strong" (Acts 15:36-16:5). Speaker: Vincent Chiu.
4. Church Prayer and Planning Day, next Sunday after the service.
5. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Steven Tan. Registration forms available at foyer. Payment by cash, cheque or direct deposit to CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial). Any enquiries, please contact Micah Chiang or Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week

WED 10:00 am Craft Group
 FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting
 SUN 9:00 am Sunday School
 10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$1,979.15 (*DD - \$200.00). Missions Fund - \$100.00.
 Building Fund - \$800.00 (*DD - \$400.00, #639 - \$200.00, #640 - \$100.00, #641 - \$100.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,879.15. Attendance - 112.

*DD: direct deposit