



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 5 May 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	Psalm 90a
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Colossians 3:1-17
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	347 - <i>Not What These Hands Have Done</i>
Hymn	537 - <i>Not I But Christ</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2
Hymn	385 - <i>Jehovah Tsidkenu</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"The Apostle's Heart Cry"
*Closing Hymn	Insert - <i>His Robes for Mine</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

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The Attack on Californian Jews

Shots Fired at a Synagogue

Last Lord's Day, the article in the bulletin was about the killing of Sri Lankan Christians by Islamic extremists, and the prayerful responses of Christians to this atrocity.

But when I was writing the article last week, another atrocity happened.

On 27 April 2019, a synagogue in California was attacked and its worshippers shot.

The perpetrator was a professing Christian raised in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church - which with the Bible Presbyterian Church - is a Bible-believing Presbyterian church.

How do we as Christians in conservative, confession, and Bible-believing Presbyterian church respond to this?

John Earnest Was Raised as a Christian

On the last day of Passover, John Earnest opened fired at a synagogue in San Diego, California, killing one woman and injuring 3 others.

He was 19 years old and a nursing student. He was a well-accomplished pianist and had top grades in high school.

According to the reports, he had posted an open letter and manifesto describing why he did what he did.

He was influenced by the recent attacks on the New Zealand mosque and another similar attack last year on another synagogue.

It was disturbing because the letter was filled with references to the Bible as well as references praising Hitler.

What also was disturbing was that he was raised in a Bible-believing Presbyterian church, where his father was an elder.

His Manifesto and Influence

His profanity-laden and hate-filled manifesto was about preserving the European race by punishing the Jews,

whom he called "responsible for the meticulously planned genocide of the European race" by their role in media, banking, Marxism and Communism, mass migration, and persecution of Christians.

From reading his manifesto, it is clear that the faith in which he was raised and his upbringing by his Christian parents were not to blame.

He wrote and answered a potential question asked of him - "Did your family cause you to think this way?" by saying "Unfortunately, no. I had to learn what they should have taught me from the beginning."

So where did he get his ideas from?

When Brenton Tarrant, the Australian man who shot Muslims in the Christchurch mosque, released his manifesto, it was revealed that the internet had shaped his ideas.

In his document under "From where did you receive/research/develop your beliefs?" he wrote, "The internet, of course. You will not find the truth anywhere else."

Similarly, this was the case with Earnest, whose ideas were shaped by the internet.

Therefore, he rejected the faith taught by his church and his parents. His pastor wrote - "The atrocious crime of violence and hatred that took place at Chabad of Poway synagogue on Saturday, April 27, grieves us deeply and shatters our hearts. As a congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, we devote our lives to the love and mercy of the Lord to all of God's beautiful children, from every nation, language, and tribe...We deplore and resist all forms of anti-Semitism and racism. We are wounded to the core that such an evil could have gone out from our community. Such hatred has no place in any part of our beliefs or practices, for we seek to shape our whole lives according to the love and gospel of Jesus Christ."

His parents wrote - "Our son's actions were informed by people we do not know, and ideas we do not hold. Like our other five children, he was raised in a family, a faith, and a community that all rejected hate and taught that love must be the motive for everything we do."

Raised in the Church but not Born Again

John Earnest believed that he was a Christian and doing what God willed him to do.

Unfortunately, what he did - by killing these lives - was not the will of God. His hatred for these lives - based on their race - was not the will of God.

In fact, what was chilling is that Earnest himself acknowledged that not everyone who calls themselves Christian is a Christian. He wrote - "just because someone calls themselves a Christian does not make them one."

Isn't that the truth?

There are many that we have known or heard of - even pastors' children - who have denied the faith by their very lives and actions. They no longer profess Christ.

The founder of CNN, Ted Turner, is well-known to be anti-Christian. Turner said he had a strict Christian upbringing and at one time considered becoming a missionary.

"I was saved seven or eight times," a newspaper quoted him as saying. But he said he became disenchanted with Christianity after his sister died, despite his prayers. Turner said the more he strayed from his faith, "the better I felt."

The Bible is filled with examples - like Demas, who served; Simon Magus, who was baptized; Judas, who cast out demons. Children raised in the church may not truly be born again.

Response to This Tragedy

Firstly, it is important for us to condemn the motivation and the action of this man as being anti-Christian. It is clear it was also against his upbringing.

Secondly, it is to be sober - that in our midst, there may be covenant children who don't truly believe. And partially, we as parents don't always point them to Christ - we may point them to Christian culture or church attendance.

But it is not the church or Christian culture they should be taught to embrace - but they should be taught to embrace Christ who saves them from their sins.

Thirdly, it is to be fervent in ensuring our children have right beliefs. The internet and pop culture can sway our children into holding onto things which are truly outlandish. And those things become more important to them than Christ.

Fourthly, we are to pray for our children that they embrace Christ and continue in the things they have learned.

In the end, while we are responsible as parents to teach our children, they themselves are responsible to God, to embrace the faith in which they have been raised.

May the Lord have mercy on us.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 97. What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A. It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body, of their faith to feed upon him, of their repentance, love, and new obedience; lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (5.5.19)	Next Week (12.5.19)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jacob Woo
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jerome Ng
Welcomers	Yen Fye & Angela Yap	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Ken Hong, Paul Butler Rex Sriharan, Yen Fye Yap	Steven Lim, Johnny Orchard David Lim, Ken Chong
Ushers	Jerome Ng, Heng Qi Ban	Rebecca Lee, Nicole Tan
Kitchen Duties	Angela Yap*, Debbie Blake Mary-Anne Chan, Sarah Siew	Florence Orchard*, Nancy Lim Jemima Ng
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>10 May 2019</i>	<i>17 May 2019</i>
Chairman	Jimmy Orchard	Eugene Lim
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Mark Chen

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.

2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Please spend some time in quiet meditation and self-examination to prepare yourself to partake of the elements in the Sacrament.

3. Next week's message: "A Treacherous Woman, a Heroic Woman" (2 Kings 11:1-21).

<p style="text-align: center;">Appointments for the Week</p> <p>WED 10:00 am Craft Group</p> <p>FRI 7:45 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting</p> <p>SUN 9:00 am Sunday School</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">10:00 am Worship Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">General Fund - \$2,331.45 (DD - \$200.00, #863 - \$15.00). Missions Fund - \$220.00 (DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,851.45. Attendance - 133.</p> <p>*DD: direct deposit</p>
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Repayment of Building Fund	
Next Payment: 1 June 2019	Total Paid To Date: \$130,000.00
Target: \$50,000	To Be Paid by 2025: \$310,000.00
Current Balance: \$50,876.47	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
Johnson Lim 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.