



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 10 November 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	20 – <i>Abba Father! We Approach Thee</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Hebrews 4:12-16
Hymn	Insert – <i>Rejoice In The Lord</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Job 2:1-13
Hymn	521 – <i>My Times Are in Thy Hand</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Testing from Above"
*Closing Hymn	392 – <i>The Solid Rock</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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Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

The church of God is glorious. But it doesn't always seem glorious at times. There are conflicts and difficulties. We may even lack confidence in her people.

But what does God think about the church despite her warts and all? He thinks she is glorious. Why?

The church is glorious because God calls it glorious. It is a people formed by God for his dwelling. He is building the church.

This is what John Newton wrote when he paraphrased Psalm 87. He wrote:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;

He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode.

In all the world, God loves nothing more than his people. Psalm 87:2 says, "*The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.*"

Why does God delight in his people? There are 3 reasons why he does.

God Loves His People Because Christ Is There

Psalm 87:1 says that God's foundation is in the Zion. What is this foundation? It is the Lord Jesus Christ. Because Jesus is among his people and his church, God loves the church.

Isaiah 28:16 says, "*Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.*"

And this foundation is clearly identified in 1 Corinthians 3:11 as Jesus Christ - "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*"

This tells us that God's church is glorious not because we are there per se. We are sinful and ugly. But we have been transformed by Jesus. And that is why God receives us - it is because of what Jesus has done.

But God loves the church because Jesus is there.

God Loves His People Because They Worship Him

Psalm 87:2 says that "*The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.*"

God loves the gates of Zion because the temple of God is there. Nothing exalts God more than the public worship of God's people. When we come together in Christ's name and sing God's praises, Jesus Christ himself is with us.

Psalm 22:22 says, "*I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee*" declares Christ our Lord."

This is why the church is glorious to God. Because Christ is there and they worship him.

And we see that they come from all over to worship him. The church is not comprised of people who are uniform. In fact, they are comprised of people who are very different.

Psalm 87:4-6 makes it clear that they come from all over the world. They are comprised of people who are traditionally enemies of God's people - Rahab and Babylon (v 4). There are Egyptians and Babylonians - both countries had enslaved God's people in the past.

They are also comprised of people who troubled Israel throughout her existence - like the Philistines and the Sidonians (v 4). This is the membership of God's people - former enemies but together as one body.

And these people are not considered foreigners. They are considered born in Zion (vv 5,6). They have the full rights given to God's people. He is considered a citizen.

And this is all done by God. God himself establishes the church. He will draw people from wherever he chooses.

The LORD says to His servant Christ in Isaiah 49:6, "*It is a light thing that thou*

shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."

Jews and Gentiles saved together in Christ! This is something God does.

God's People Love Him and It Should Show

As God's people, brought from every corner of the world, every sinful background, every kind of character; we are joyful that God would even receive us.

And the result is a people who gratefully serve God. God acknowledges what they do.

Psalm 87:7 says, *"As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there: all my springs are in thee."*

In the Old Testament, the gratefulness was seen in the worship of the temple - where the Levites sang and played on their musical instruments.

In the New Testament, that gratitude is described in Colossians 3 and Ephesians 5 as God's people making melody in their hearts to the Lord.

And this delight of God's people becomes the delight of God. "All my springs are in thee" expresses God's delight.

In ancient times in Israel, they understood the value of springs of water. The Judean wilderness was a parched land. And whenever people found a spring or oasis, there would be great delight.

This is the kind of joy of God's people.



Catechism for Younger Children

43. Can anyone be saved through the covenant of life? No. No one can be saved through the covenant of life.

44. Why can't anyone be saved through the covenant of life? Because all have broken it and are condemned by it.

When Isaiah pointed to God's kingdom and to seek it, he told them how lovely it would be. Isaiah 58:11 - *"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."*

When Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman, he spoke of the soul satisfying power of God's kingdom - that it would be a spring of water welling up in him.

John 4:14 says, *"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."*

Conclusion

When we look at the church we see all her warts and all. When God looks at her, he sees that Christ is her foundation and he has saved these people from himself.

What a delight it is to be part of this people. What a delight it is to worship God. What a delight it is to be an instrument of God's delight.

May this help us in our view of Christ's church. May this also help our worship of God - that we would never again refuse to sing his praise. ~ Pastor

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (10.11.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (17.11.2019)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Johnson Lim	Mark Chen
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Magdalene Tay
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Ken Hong, Micah Chiang Xin Yi Hong, Sharon Sriharan	David Pang, Jacob Woo Vincent Chiu, Faith Chiu
Ushers	Jerome Ng & Heng Qi Ban	Putri Harapan & Rebecca Lee
Kitchen Duties	Nancy Lim, Rebecca Lee Jemima Ng	Mary Loh, Sarah Siew Aliza Chiu
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo

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: "Why Do I Even Exist?" (Job 3:1-26).
3. **Notice of an Extraordinary Congregational Meeting.** Date: Sunday, 17 November 2019. Time: 11:45 am sharp. Venue: 47 Davis Road, Attadale WA 6156. Please collect the agenda from Jacob Woo today.
4. Church Family BBQ, 12pm on Sunday 1st December at Point Walter. Cost: \$5 for everyone except children under 6 years old. Please register and pay with Bro Micah Chiang or Bro David Pang.

Appointments for the Week

SUN 9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2030.30 (ET - \$200.00, \$100.00). Mission Fund - \$800.00 (#894 - \$500.00, ET - \$100.00, \$100.00). Building Fund - \$600.00 (#658 - \$200.00, ET - \$300.00, \$100.00)

Total Tithes & Offerings - \$3430.30

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 115.