



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 22 December 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	75 – <i>The Love of God</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	John 1:1-14
Hymn	89 – <i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i>
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	1 Peter 1:8-25
Hymn	98 – <i>The First Noel</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Taking the Time to Think About Jesus"
*Closing Hymn	92 – <i>Joy to the World</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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Christ Came to Save the Lost

Introduction

Everywhere you go, there are Christmas decorations. People are celebrating Christmas. It has become a cultural and commercial phenomenon.

But there's no relation between Father Christmas and the manger. There's no connection between Jingle Bells and Joy to the World. There's no relation between the Christmas tree and the Shepherds.

Whatever we may think about the religious celebration of Christmas, what is clear is that historically, it was about Jesus' birth.

The Bible speaks clearly about what happened.

The Bible and the Birth of Christ

Jesus - the Son of God - was miraculously born from a woman who never relations with a man. She was a virgin. This was foretold in the Bible. He was born in Bethlehem. This was also foretold in the Bible. That he was received by the rich wise men and the poor shepherds showed that he came for all kinds of people.

Why God would ever leave heaven's glory to be a man and to live in a sin cursed world is a question that we need to ask ourselves over and over again. It is so that we would remind ourselves of the answer. He took on human form and humbled himself to die (Philippians 2:5-8), so that we could become the sons of God (1 John 3:1).

John Calvin wrote that "the Son of God became the Son of Man, so that the sons of men could become the sons of God."

People of the world forget that. They think of Christ as a good man who came to teach good things. They think of Christ as a good example who came to do good things. But the Bible teaches

that Christ was a good God who came to die for bad sinners.

This is why, at the birth of Christ, the angels proclaimed - "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

God was to be praised because he would give peace to those whom he favors - on those he would save.

Christ Was Born to Save Sinners

The purpose of Christ's birth was to save sinners.

In Luke 19:10, when Jesus met Zacchaeus, he told him that the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Zacchaeus was a sinner. He cheated, he stole, and he collaborated with others to oppress the poor. But Jesus came to his house and reached out to him. And when Zacchaeus believed in Christ, he was saved.

Jesus told his disciples the very same thing. He told them in Matthew 10 that Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for many and to call sinners to repent.

Paul the apostle told his readers in Galatians 4 that at the right time, God sent his Son, to be born as a man, in order to redeem mankind from their sins.

Jesus was not merely a good man, a good teacher, and a good example - he came to save. He's the only savior that the world has. 1 Timothy 2:5 says that there is one God and one mediator between God and man - the man Christ Jesus.

Jesus did not come to seek perfect and sinless people. There are none in the world. When Jesus proclaimed to all at the house of Zacchaeus that he came to seek and save the lost, they understood what he meant by lost - those who are sinners and outside God's kingdom.

Romans 5:6-14 says, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."

There are 3 words in there to describe the lost. Firstly, they are without strength. They are spiritually weak. Secondly, they are ungodly or sinners - they have not met God's standard. And thirdly, they are enemies. Until we are saved by Christ, God does not see us as friends. We deserve his anger.

The Response of Sinners

When the shepherds were told by the angels about Christ, they came down from their fields to the town to worship Jesus.

When the wise men came to Christ, they knelt and worshiped him.

When Jesus came to Jericho, Zacchaeus was sitting in a tree. He had climbed up with his own effort to try to catch a glimpse of Christ. But when Christ came to him, he got down and invited Jesus into his house.

Catechism for Younger Children

55. What does God the Father guarantee in the covenant of grace? To justify and sanctify all those for whom Christ died.

56. How does God justify you? God forgives all my sins and accepts me as righteous through Christ

When Jesus appeared before Paul (who was on his way to kill Christians), Paul fell down on his face, and acknowledged he was blind.

When Jesus came to the fishermen - Peter, John, and James - they came down off their boats, and followed Jesus.

That is response of sinners to Christ.

And at the commemoration of his birth, we ought to take a fresh look at our response as sinners to him.

Have we followed the instruction of the angels to seek him? Have we knelt and worshiped him? Have we come down from our high status and invited him to our lives? Have we acknowledged our sins and blindness and need for him? Have we left all things behind to follow him?

Conclusion

The connection between our hearts and Christ can only be truly right if we see our need for a savior. And very often we are disconnected because our hearts are not right with God. May we remember our need for a savior and rejoice in what he has done - to be born, to live, to die, and to be raised - so that he might save the lost. ~ Pastor

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (22.12.2019)</i>	<i>Next Week (29.12.2019)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Mark Chen
Pianist	Magdalene Tay	Jerome Ng
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Putri Harapan
Offering Stewards	Steven Lim, Rex Sriharan	John Tan, Ken Chong
Ushers	Joyce Ng & Faith Chiu	Heng Qi Ban, Angela Yap
Kitchen Duties	Lydia Orchard, Angela Yap	Putri Harapan, Eileen Tay Ida Lee
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong

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: "A Much Needed Voice in Controversy" (Job 32:1-5).
3. Children's Sunday School is in recess until late January 2020. Adult Bible Class is ongoing.
4. **Christmas Day Service & Fellowship Lunch:** 10 AM, Wednesday 25 December 2019 followed by lunch after the service - please bring a dish to share.

Appointments for the Week

SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service
WED	10:00 am	Christmas Service

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2097.05
 (#897 - \$120.00 ET - \$200.00)
 Mission Fund - \$100.00
 Building Fund - \$300.00 (ET - \$300.00)
 Total Tithes & Offerings - \$2497.05

*ET: Electronic Transfer Attendance - 107.

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373.

Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149. **Chris Budiman** 0422 736 658.