



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

Vol. 32 No. 49  
December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

### 1 Gloria Patri

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. Amen.

Preparatory Hymn

Kenny Tan

Prelude

Sharon Poon

Call to Worship

Elder James Wong/Yew Jinn Chieng

\*Hymn

**HOP 77** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalm 89:30-45

Hymn

**HOP 346** Down at the Cross

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

\*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 3:3

Hymn

**HOP 309** Yield Not to Temptation

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip

## Carnal Emotions

\*Hymn

**HOP 127** Search Me, O God

\*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

\*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 3

\*Congregation Standing



Theme for 2015: "WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD UNTO ALL PLEASING" (Colossians 1:10)

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# WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDING PASTOR

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My dear readers,

*(Excerpt from RPG "The Christmas Story" Oct – Dec 1997, Dec 7 / Dec 8 / Dec 21).*

## **1. Favour with God (Isa 7:14)**

Girls today seek the favour of men. This is their common ambition and failing, even among Christian girls. For many a young upcoming lassie, it has been their undoing. To you, young ladies, let me say this: Arise! *"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness ..."* (Rom 13:12-13). Put an end to all lustful, sexy and carnal activities, but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ. Strive to please Him, not men! Let me quote from Horatius Bonar's classic hymn:

*Go labour on; 'tis not for naught;  
Thy earthly loss is heavenly gain;  
Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not;  
The Master praises, what are men?*

Nazareth lay on the trade route from Capernaum to the sea with many caravans and traders frequenting the town. It would have been fashionable for young girls to visit the night spots and to get a taste of high and fast living. Some would have joined in the loose lifestyle of the day, as they do today. Christian girls, seek not the favour of men! The only thing that matters is favour with God. Strive for His approval; strive at all costs to guard your virtue.

Mary is your best example. She guarded her virtue. She cherished her chastity. She treasured most of all the favour of God. She was a virgin: Luke said so, she herself confessed it, the angel Gabriel confirmed it. Seven hundred years earlier the prophet Isaiah prophesied it. The sinless, holy Son of God was to come to earth through a human mother. God chose a godly, virtuous and chaste maiden, the virgin Mary. That was God's plan.

Now there are Churchmen and traitors to the Church of Jesus Christ who have sold their souls to the Devil. These no longer believe in Jesus as the Son of God. They do not believe that Jesus was any more than a mere man. Therefore they deny His virgin birth and His resurrection. The same Churchmen do not believe in chastity and holy living. Two of the most notorious are bishops of the Church of England.

But God is true, men are liars. Let all who love the Lord Jesus and seek favour with God, not men.

## **2. The Mary of Scripture (1 Sam 2:1-10)**

What role does Mary play in the Drama of Redemption? What place should she have in the Church? We ask these questions to set us thinking. In some churches today she is accorded a place of honour exceeding that of Christ, and certainly out of all proportion to her place in Scripture. Our one and only ground of faith and practice is God's infallible Word, not the traditions of men or the voice of the church. Therefore, to the Scripture we must resort.

What does Matthew's nativity story tell us about Mary?

(a) Mary was a virgin at the time the story opened. When the angel Gabriel visited her she was a chaste maiden. She was startled by the suggestion of the angel that she was going to have a baby. She expressed her fears frankly. Within her she wondered, "What will Joseph and others think of me, pregnant out of wedlock!"

(b) Mary's words to Gabriel in Luke 1:38 are significant: "*Behold the handmaid of the Lord.*" Later when she visited her cousin Elisabeth she said, "*My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden ...*" (Luke 1:46-48).

From the above account we draw certain Scriptural conclusions:

a) Mary was the child of ordinary Jewish parents, conceived and born a sinner. Like any child of Adam, she was in need of salvation. She admitted this in her words of praise, acknowledging *“God my Saviour”* (Luke 1:47). Scripture gives no authority or support for the dogma of the *“Immaculate Conception”* (meaning that Mary was conceived without original sin), or for the title *“Mother of God”* accorded to Mary (who confessed herself to be *“handmaid of the Lord”*).

b) Mary did not remain a perpetual virgin as falsely taught by some. Scripture records that after the birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary lived as normal man and wife (Matt 1:25) and had other children (Matt 13:55-56). While we understand from Scripture that Mary had rare virtues, nowhere does it give any warrant for Mary to be venerated, prayed to, or worshipped. Let Mary be Mary!

### **3. Tidings of great joy (Luke 2:8-14)**

For 4,000 years the world groaned under the curse brought on by the fall. *“For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain until now for...the redemption...”* (Rom 8:22-23). The whole creation waiting for one Man, the promised *“seed of woman”* who should bruise the serpent’s head (Gen 3:15). The waiting was not in vain.

*“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law”* (Gal 4:4). At last the fulness of the time was come! The virgin-born Son of God was come to take away the curse; to break the evil power; to shatter Satan’s prison house and set the captives free. To all the world lying under the curse, the Good News must be made known!

God’s heavenly messenger was sent, not to the highest courts in Jerusalem; not to the chief priests and temple rulers, but to men of lowly estate. To certain poor shepherds tending their sheep in the Judaeian hills at night came the glad news. In dazzling brilliance, the angel of the Lord proclaimed *“tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people”* (Luke 2:10). God’s salvation was come, not just to Israel, but to all. Christ the Saviour is born!

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a great celestial choir, singing: *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”* (Luke 2:14). The greatest glory is to God the Father because the Son is come to do His will and finish His work (John 17:4), the work of redemption through His death on the cross. *“...in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh ... for He is our peace ...”* (Eph 2:13-14).

Peace on earth, good will towards men becomes a reality by the blood of Christ. Let us, with the angels, declare the tidings of great joy to all people.

God bless all readers.

Yours faithfully in the Saviour’s Service,  
Dr SH Tow

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION**

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- 1. Church Theme for 2016:** is taken from 2 Timothy 2:21 *“Sanctified, and Meet for the Master’s Use”*.
- 2. Lunch Fellowship:** next Sunday after the worship service. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome.
- 3. Christmas Day Worship Service (25th December):** the service will start at 10 am. This is another opportunity to invite relatives and friends to hear the gospel and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with us. Christmas lunch will be prepared by the church. All are welcome to join.
- 4. Christmas Day Sunday School Class:** There will be a special Sunday school class for only Toddler and pre primary students during Christmas service, held upstairs. Please bring your children upstairs before service starts. All older classes will be worshipping downstairs with the main service.
- 5. Fellowship Meeting on Friday 25/12:** All fellowship groups will be in recess for Christmas day.
- 6. Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service (31st December):** Come and join us to worship God and remember His goodness towards us on the last evening of 2015. The service will start at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served after the service. All are welcome to stay behind for prayer.

**7. 10 am Chairing and 1 pm Ushering Training 1st January:** At 10 am, there will be a training session for those involved in chairing worship in the worship service, fellowship groups and in the nursing homes. At 1 pm, those involved in welcoming and ushering will meet for training to improve our ministry for the Lord in making BPCWA more welcoming.

**8. FEBC online courses:** The courses for next semester are Revelation, Ezekiel II and Westminster Confession of Faith. If you could please complete the registration form and hand the form with the money (\$80 per course) to Mark Heath as soon as possible. Close of registration is next week.

### **9. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for the Christmas Gospel meeting last Friday. May all the non-believers who hear the gospel come to know the saving grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
- Pray for the Christmas Day Worship Service and Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service.
- Pray for fervent service and commitment in the new year.
- Pray for wisdom for the camp committee members in planning and preparing for the Church Mandarin Family Camp (Dates: 28-31 March 2016). Pray for the camp speaker Rev James Sun, and worshippers willing and preparing their hearts to attend the camp.
- Pray for the many brethren who are suffering from physical infirmities. Thank God He has been gracious and merciful towards them. May God's grace and strength continue to sustain them.
- God's guidance and wisdom in the redevelopment of Nehemiah Place.
- God's will and leading on restarting the Mandarin Sunday Worship Service.
- Pray for those who are seeking employment. May God grant protection and safety to those working away from home, to students who have returned to their hometowns and to families travelling during the holiday season.
- Pray for protection in and around the church and homes of worshippers.

SERVICE DUTY	20/12 COMBINED	27/12 COMBINED - Lunch Fellowship
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Rev Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Elder James Wong/Yew Jinn Chieng	Robert Wong/Sonny Lim
Prep Hymns	Kenny Tan	Jason Tey
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Karen Ee
Welcomers	Terry Chong, Lydia Chong, Lily Liow	Allen Liew, Fiona Liew, Julia Sun
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Alex Luu, *Terry Chong, Kenny Tan, Eugene Leong, Edward Ee	*Allen Liew, *Caleb Cheng, Jason Tey, Yi Choong Liew, Steven Sun
Ushers	Edward Ee, Yi Jye Chieng, Yi Mey Tan	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng, Shie Tian Wong
P.A. System	Albert Ho	Kenny Chia
Kitchen Duties	Margaret Ng, Christine Chia, Ming Ming Th'ng	Yi Min Chieng, Lily Liow, Shuin Ning Jong
JSS Singpiration	Yung Tsing Mew/Rowena Cheng	Esther Yiu/Yi Mey Tan
Toddler Class Assistant	Victoria Lew/Ka Yii Yip	Yi Mey Tan/Lilian Yong
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

### Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Edward Ee (Karen Ee)	Yew Jinn Chieng (Ruth Wong)
South Perth	Combined Hall: Yew Jinn Chieng/Mark Heath	Hall A: Rev Joseph Poon Hall B: Allan Ang
Bayswater	Mark Heath	Allan Ang
Berrington	Edward Ee	Yew Jinn Chieng

### APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	22/12	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng, Caleb Cheng, Yi Mey Tan
Wednesday	23/12	7:30pm	FEBC Inter Semester Course: Leviticus
Friday	25/12	10:00am	Christmas Day Worship Service
Sunday	27/12	8:30am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:15pm	Church Van Depart
		2:00pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30pm	Nursing Home: Ben Ritcher Lodge – 480 Guildford Road, Bayswater Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (13/12)

Attendance: 193 (Combined-164; JSS-29); Prayer Meeting: 49

Offerings in Total: \$8794.35; General Fund: \$8794.35 (#3966-\$377.25; #3967-\$281.55; #3968-\$1000; #3969-\$1000)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What do we pray for in the third petition?** In the third petition, which is, *Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*, we pray that God, by his grace, would make us able and willing to know, obey, and submit to his will in all things (Ps 19:14; Ps 119; 1 Thess 5:23; Heb 13:20-21), as the angels do in heaven (Ps 103:20-21; Heb 1:14).

SERVICE DUTY	25/12 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE - Christmas Lunch
Speaker/Interpreter	Elder James Wong/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Dn Joel Wong/Sonny Lim
Prep Hymn	Allan Ang
Prelude	Winnie Lim
Welcomers	Dn Michael Lee & Irene Lee
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Claude Yiu, *Allan Ang, Eddie Foo, Yan Wei, Dn Michael Lee
Ushers	Claude & Esther Yiu
P.A. System	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Shirlyn, Victoria & Team