



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

Vol. 32 No. 50
December 27th, 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

Jason Tey

Prelude

Karen Ee

Call to Worship

Robert Wong/Sonny Lim

*Hymn

HOP 22 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalm 89:46-52

Hymn

HOP 432 Thanks to God!

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 3:4-9

Hymn

HOP 247 Make Me a Channel of Blessing

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng

Right View of God's Labourers

*Hymn

HOP 239 Would You Live for Jesus

*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

My dear readers,

(Excerpt from RPG “Morning & Evening” Jan – Mar 1997, Jan 22 / Jan 23 / Feb 13 / Jan 12).

1. Now are we the sons of God

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us” (1 John 3:1). Consider who we were – worthless, hateful offenders, and enemies – and we marvel at our adoption into the family of God. *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God...”* (1 John 3:2). What a royal relationship with high privileges it brings! From the Father now we receive *“lovingkindness and tender mercies”* (Ps 103:4). To Him we offer our feeble but filial love and obedience. O blessed adoption which we deserve not! How can it be?

All that, and more, we now have through Christ, our Redeemer. But *“it doth not yet appear what we shall be”* (1 John 3:2). To the world we are nothing, as Paul the Apostle said, *“...we are made as the filth of the world...”* (1 Cor 4:13) and John the Apostle said, *“...therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not”* (1 John 3:1). Are you downhearted at times, dear child of God? Things are not what they seem! Be content to be unknown with Him in His humiliation, for shortly we shall be exalted with Him.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God...” (1 John 3:2) – easy to read but not so easy to feel. How is it with you today? Are you in the depths of sorrow? Is your faith almost gone? Fear not! Trust not in feelings and failings of life. You must live simply by faith, *“the faith of the Son of God”* (Gal 2:20) who loved us and gave Himself for us. Things may be against us, we may be in the valley of despondency and despair. It is in times like these that we turn to God’s Word: *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God...”* These words hold brightest hope and contain precious promises. Today, not yet – it doth not yet appear. *“But we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him”* (1 John 3:2). Like the Lord – renewed, pure, immortal, forever freed from earth’s corruption.

2. No condemnation

Come, dear reader, let us consider what these words mean. Believing in Jesus, we are actually and effectively cleared from all guilt; released from prison, we are no more in fetters, but delivered from the bondage of the

law. Freed from sin's shackles, we walk at large as freemen – all because our Saviour's blood has purchased for us our full redemption.

Now no sword of condemnation hangs over our head, but we have the commendation of the Father's love to encourage us to approach His throne of grace. No flames of divine vengeance or the just demand of the Law can threaten us who have been washed, cleansed and made innocent by the blood of God's own Son. No fear of hell and its everlasting flames haunt us, for there is "*... now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk ... after the Spirit*" (Rom 8:1).

"No condemnation" – O how sweet is salvation's sound! And sweeter still is the Saviour's name! To Jesus, our Saviour, we owe our eternal praises and gratitude, for He kept the Law for us, and that perfectly. Then to us He gives all the blessings of perfect obedience, simply because He did for us what we could not do. Now trusting Him, with faith and believing, God imputes to us all the merits of Christ's obedience to our account – amazing divine transaction!

*"A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offerings to bring;
The terrors of law and of God,
With me can have nothing to do;
My Saviour's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view."*

3. Trust only in the Lord (Heb 3:6-14)

The constant temptation is to rely upon the things which are seen, instead of resting upon the invisible God alone. Christians often look to man for help and counsel, forgetting the noble simplicity of purely relying upon their God. Reader, are you anxious about some temporal matter. Consider this: you trusted in Jesus, and only in Jesus for your salvation. Why then are you troubled? Has your Saviour lost any of His power?

"My care is very great," you say. And so it is, but it is also written, "*Cast thy burden upon the LORD...*" (Ps 55:22). Look not at thy burden, but look to the Lord, "*casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you*" (1 Pet 5:7).

Prayer makes the difference! *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know unto God”* (Phil 4:6). The result? The peace of God which passeth all understanding is yours!

Our God can solve your problem. He who saved you from everlasting death can surely save you from passing evils. This is His promise: *“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”* (Rom 8:32). Rest on the precious promises of His Word.

Our God is able! Why seek help from another? Why do you take the earth for another foundation? Jesus is our everlasting Foundation, even the Rock which cannot be moved. Build thereon, and be firmly established! Jesus is strong enough to bear any weight. Trust only in Him and He shall bring it to pass. With God nothing is impossible!

4. “Come up hither”

Without considering these words in their prophetic context, let us read them as our Lord’s invitation to His sanctified people. To each in his own time shall come the *“... great voice from heaven saying ... Come up hither”* (Rev 11:12). This should be to the saints of God the subject of joyful anticipation. When the call comes, no dread of the unknown or sadness of parting shall cloud the believer’s brow. Rather, we shall leave with joy that cannot be described as we wing our way to the Father.

In Christ our Lord we are not called **down** to the grave, but **up** to the skies. Our heaven-born spirits long for their native air. Yet the celestial summons may be the object of patient waiting. Our God knows best when to bid us *“Come up hither”* – the time is not ours to choose. Patience must have her perfect work. God ordains with sovereign wisdom the most appropriate and perfect time for each of us, whether to go or stay.

But until He calls, let us live out our days for Him. There is much yet undone – more sheaves for my Lord’s garner, more jewels for His crown! Think of the souls you and I can win for the Lord. He reminds us: *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest”* (Matt 9:37-38).

While the Lord of the harvest tarries let us busy ourselves about His business. *“... look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”* (John 4:35) is our Lord’s urgent call. Pray, dear reader, that He will show you what

you can do down here on earth for Him. When work is done, His call will surely come! Until then, let us burn out for Jesus.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Heartfelt Gratitude:** The Session would like to give all glory, honour, thanks and praise unto God for all the church ministries in 2015. Thank God for the preaching of His Word and those who serve the Lord with love, zeal, fervency and commitment. May BPCWA continues to grow in hope, faith, love, and in the knowledge of God's Word, so that the church may be strengthened, united and revived. The Session would also like to wish everyone a blessed new year.
- 2. Church Theme for 2016:** is taken from 2 Timothy 2:21 "Sanctified, and Meet for the Master's Use".
- 3. Lunch Fellowship:** is held today after the Worship Service. Please do stay behind and have fellowship with one another over lunch.
- 4. Holy Communion:** will be conducted next Sunday. Please prepare your heart.
- 5. Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service (31st December):** on the last evening of 2015, let us come together to give thanks to God for His goodness towards us. The service will start at 7:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served after the service. All are welcome to stay behind for prayer.
- 6. 10 am Chairing and 1 pm Ushering Training 1st January:** At 10 am, there will be a training session for those involved in chairing during worship services, 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.
- 7. FEBC online courses:** The FEBC online courses start Jan 4, 2016 and today is the last day for registration. Prayerfully consider taking Revelation, Ezekiel II or Westminster Confession of Faith. Complete the form and hand the form with the money (\$80 per course) to Mark Heath.

8. Program Planned for January 2016:

DATE		TIME	PROGRAM
1 st Jan	Friday	10am	Chairing Training
1 st Jan	Friday	1pm	Welcomer & Usher Training
16 th Jan	Saturday	10am	Seniors' Fellowship
23 rd Jan	Saturday	9am - 12pm	Church Busy Bee
26 th Jan	Tuesday	TBA	Australia Day Outreach

9. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for the Christmas Day Worship Service last Friday. May all the activities during the Christmas period truly help us to remember the birth of Jesus Christ and His saving grace towards us. May the non-believers who have heard the Gospel come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour.
- Please uphold Brother Stephen Cheng in prayer. May God's grace and strength be upon him. Pray for the doctor to have wisdom to manage his illnesses well.
- Pray for Brother Yew Jinn as he returns to Singapore to continue his second year of theological studies.
- Pray that more people will come to know Christ in 2016.
- Pray for each program planned for 2016.
- Pray for the Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service (31/12), chairing, welcomer and usher training on the 1st of January.
- 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 bodily infirmities. 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	27/12 COMBINED - Lunch Fellowship	3/1 COMBINED - Holy Communion
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Rev Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Robert Wong/Sonny Lim	Mark Heath/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Jason Tey	Claude Yiu
Musician(s)	Karen Ee	Sharon Poon
Welcomers	Allen Liew, Fiona Liew, Julia Sun	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Bernie Clarke
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Allen Liew, *Caleb Cheng, Jason Tey, Yi Choong Liew, Steven Sun	*Jonathan Woo, *Claude Yiu, Kenny Chia, Yan Wei, Kenny Tan
Ushers	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng, Shie Tian Wong	Kenny Chia, Yi San Chieng, Ruth Wong
P.A. System	Kenny Chia	Adrian Ng
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Lily Liow, Shuin Ning Jong	Lilian Cheo, Irene Yap, Yi Jye Chieng, Valerie Wan, Edward Ee
JSS Singspiration	Esther Yiu/Yi Mey Tan	Holy Communion
Toddler Class Assistant	Yi Mey Tan/Lilian Yong	Lee Lee Yong/Lilian Yong
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

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

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	29/12	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong, Dn Adrian Cheng, Ruth Wong
Wednesday	30/12	7:30pm	FEBC Inter Semester Course: Leviticus
Thursday	31/12	7:30pm	Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service
Friday	1/1	10:00am	Chairing Training
		1:00pm	Welcomer & Usher Training
		7:30pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	3/1	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 (20/12)

Attendance: 195 (Combined-165; JSS-30); Prayer Meeting: 56; Christmas Gospel Meeting (18/12): 115; Christmas Day Worship Service (25/12): 227 (Combined-201; JSS-26)
Offerings in Total: \$10454; General Fund: \$7451.25 (#3970-\$200); Christmas: \$3002.75 (#3971-\$100)

SHORTER CATECHISM: What do we pray for in the fourth petition? In the fourth petition, which is, *Give us this day our daily bread*, we pray that of God's free gift we may receive a competent portion of the good things of this life, and enjoy his blessing with them (Pro 30:8-9; Matt 6:31-34; Phil 4:11, 19; 1 Tim 6:6-8).

SERVICE DUTY	31/12 WATCHNIGHT THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE - Tea Fellowship
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Mark Heath/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymn	Kenny Tan
Prelude	Ruth Wong
Welcomers	Alex Luu, Grace Luu
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Alex Luu, *Adrian Ng, Edward Ee, Kenny Tan, Terry Chong
Ushers	Edward Ee, Karen Ee
P.A. System	Kenny Chia
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min & Team