



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

## 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

Claude Yiu

Prelude

Sharon Poon

Call to Worship

Mark Heath/Dn Joel Wong

\*Hymn

**HOP 8** Now Thank We All Our God

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalm 91:1-8

Holy Communion

[Michael, Stephen, Adrian, Robert, Mark]

Hymn

**HOP 92** O Sacred Head, Now Wounded!

**HOP 185** According to Thy Gracious Word

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

\*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

Hymn

**HOP 126** Breathe On Me, Breath of God

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Rev Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong

## The Church's Master Plan

\*Hymn

**HOP 178** The Church's One Foundation

\*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

\*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 3

\*Congregation Standing



Theme for 2016: "SANCTIFIED, AND MEET FOR THE MASTER'S USE" (2 Timothy 2:21)

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# WORDS FROM OUR FOUNDING PASTOR

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My dear readers,

*(Excerpts from Building Firm Foundations, Dr SH Tow).*

## **1. A year crowned with goodness**

*“Happy New Year”* for the unbeliever is but an empty wish. Far from ensuring happiness, the New Year merely hastens on his ultimate doom, without God and without Christ. No amount of New Year wishes can improve matters for him.

For the believer, every year is a good year. You and I enter the New Year with confidence that *“another year with Jesus is better than the year before”*. With Him in charge and ourselves following in His steps, it cannot be otherwise.

Like the Psalmist, the New Year is an occasion for praise unto the Lord. He alone deserves the glory and we alone have the desire to praise Him, for those who know Him not, praise Him not. *“Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion”* (Psa 65:1): it is in His church and among His people that true praise is heard and offered. Let all His saints bless and adore Him, the God of our salvation. New Year is a time for praise!

We praise Him for good reasons: Who but our God hears our prayer? *“O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come”* (Ps 65:2). For our God is ready to hear us, and to grant us our petitions. Our God is able to do for us *“exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think ...”* (Eph 3:20).

We praise Him for He is a God who pardons our sins. *“... as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away”* (Ps 65:3). Our sins oppress and bind us, and in our helpless state we are ready to despair. But God in Christ reached down and took away our sins, washed us

in His own blood, and made us new. Our Lord, “... when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high” (Heb 1:3).

We praise Him for He welcomes us with fatherly love. “*Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple*” (Ps 65:4). The New Year brings us one year nearer that day, when we shall dwell with God forever!

We praise Him for His power. Our prayers would be futile, if the one we pray to have no means of granting our requests. But our God, “*by terrible things in righteousness will answer us*” (Ps 65:5). He is our only confidence, the God of our salvation. He has our interests at heart. To those who put their trust in Him, He says, “*I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye*” (Ps 32:8).

“*Thou crownest the year with thy goodness...*” (Ps 65:11).

## **2. Redeeming time**

Time is like money but with a difference. It comes to every person – man, woman and child – free. You cannot buy time or sell it.

You cannot accumulate time or refuse it. Every day God’s TIME BANK credits each one of us with 24 hours of time, equally. Think of it as money: \$1,440 every day (1,440 minutes each day) to your account. One rule governs this precious gift: you must spend all of it in one day. No balances are allowed, and no overdrafts. How shall we spend the \$1,440?

The answer is: in good buys and wise investments. Every dollar must be carefully spent, and to good purpose. For the way we spend our

time may affect others and certainly it will affect our own lives for eternity. How do you spend your time each day? Have you ever written out a budget or time-table for your 24 hours, allotting the minutes and hours to the tasks and demands of the day? Do a little “time-accounting” and see how your 1,440 minutes are spent each day and it is likely to give a few rude shocks.

Time once past is beyond recall. How then can we “buy back” or redeem time? For this is what the Apostle Paul exhorts us all to do. *“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil”* (Eph 5:15-16). What is Paul saying to you and me? Paul sees the evil and corruption of the times and exhorts believers to *“walk circumspectly”* or to live lives of maximum usefulness for God. Our \$1,440 must be spent with eternity in view.

Look into your own life and see how many dollars you have carelessly or thoughtlessly thrown away. You may have done it for years, perhaps for all your life. The Apostle says, “Buy back those precious hours! Redeem the time!” For years you have wasted hours daily doing useless, inconsequential or even harmful things: aimlessly killing time, reading worldly books and magazines, watching TV for hours, polluting the mind, indulging in questionable pastimes, and doing a host of other unprofitable things. With a little judicious time-accounting it will become clear where you may buy back many valuable hours.

Let every minute and every hour be used for God! Cut out every harmful, unprofitable pursuit and transfer the time to godly and spiritually edifying activities. *“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”* (Eph 5:17). Fill your day doing God’s will. Do it while the year is still young!

Yesterday is a cancelled cheque. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is the only cash you have. Spend it wisely!

## **New Year's Blessings**

God bless thy year  
Thy coming in, thy going out,  
Thy rest, thy travelling about,  
The rough, the smooth,  
The bright, the drear;  
God bless thy year!

– *Prayers collected from "Scouter's 5 Cutouts" The Leader magazine*

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION**

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- 1. The Session:** wishes all worshippers 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. Church Calendar 2016:** is available on the foyer table, please take one, and prayerfully participate in the planned activities. May God's name be exalted and glorified in all the meetings.
- 4. Seniors' Fellowship:** on the 16th January (Saturday) at 10.30 am at church. Rev Joseph will be speaking. There will be a steamboat lunch fellowship after the meeting. More details will follow. All are warmly welcome.
- 5. Reminders:** If your service at church involves children, please make sure you have a valid working with children check for 2016. For those who are attending the Berrington nursing home ministry, a valid National Police certificate is required by the nursing home.
- 6. Rev Joseph:** is in the process of moving to 1/70 Glenelg Street, just 1 lane away from Jeremiah's place. Do give him a call first before before you drop by Jeremiah's place if you needed to see him in person.

- 7. FEBC Online Courses:** These courses start tomorrow. There is still time to register, please see Mark Heath. We will be screening Revelation on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm at church. All worshippers are welcome to attend.
- 8.** Please pray and participate in the program planned for January.

DATE		TIME	PROGRAM
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Saturday	10.30am	Seniors' Fellowship followed by steamboat lunch fellowship
23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Saturday	9am - 12pm	Church Busy Bee (lunch provided)
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tuesday	TBA	Australia Day Outreach

**9. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for His faithfulness, grace, and preservation for the year that has passed.
- Thank God for the Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service, the chairing, welcomer and usher training session last week.
- Thank God for preserving Brother Stephen Cheng during his recent health problems. May God continue to be gracious and help him during this time.
- Pray for spiritual revival of BPCWA.
- Pray for the pulpit ministry and worship services.
- Pray for the church Session that they may serve God faithfully.
- Pray for the church programs and activities planned for this year.
- Pray for the planning and preparation of the Mandarin Church Family Camp (Dates: 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> March 2016). Pray for the brethren and friends who can understand Mandarin, that they may be willing to join the camp to learn God's Word.
- Pray for the redevelopment of Nehemiah's Place.
- God's will and leading on restarting the Mandarin Sunday Worship Service.
- Pray for protection in and around the church and homes of worshippers.

SERVICE DUTY	3/1 COMBINED - Holy Communion	10/1 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Rev Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong	Rev Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Mark Heath/Dn Joel Wong	Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Claude Yiu	Allan Ang
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Ruth Wong
Welcomers	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Bernie Clarke	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Jonathan Woo, *Claude Yiu, Kenny Chia, Yan Wei, Kenny Tan	*Eddie Foo, *Albert Ho, Allan Ang, Adrian Ng, Dn Stephen Chia
Ushers	Kenny Chia, Yi San Chieng, Ruth Wong	Adrian Ng, Lilian Cheo, Ellainne Cheng
P.A. System	Adrian Ng	Yi Choong Liew
Kitchen Duties	Lilian Cheo, Irene Yap, Yi Jye Chieng, Valerie Wan, Edward Ee	Yi Min Chieng, Yi San Chieng, Lily Liow, Shuin Ning Jong
JSS Singspiration	Holy Communion	Karen Ee/Rowena Cheng
Toddler Class Assistant	Lee Lee Yong/Lilian Yong	Yi Jye Chieng/Victoria Lew
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

### Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Edward Ee (Karen Ee)	Rev Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)
South Perth	Hall A: Kenny Tan Hall B: Mark Heath	Hall A: Allan Ang Hall B: Jason Tey
Bayswater	Kenny Tan	Allan Ang
Berrington	Mark Heath	Rev Joseph Poon

### APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	5/1	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Rev Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong, Kenny Tan, Karen Ee
Wednesday	6/1	7:30 pm	FEBC Online Course Screening: Revelation
Friday	8/1	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	10/1	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:15 pm	Church Van Depart
		2:00 pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Ben Ritcher Lodge – 480 Guildford Road, Bayswater Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (27/12)

Attendance: 191 (Combined-161; JSS-30); Prayer Meeting: 50; Watchnight Thanksgiving Worship Service (31/12): 83  
 Offerings in Total: \$5242; General Fund: \$3643.35 (#3972-\$200-Thanksgiving);  
 Watchnight: \$1598.65 (#3973-\$200-Thanksgiving)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What do we pray for in the fifth petition?** In the fifth petition, which is, *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors*, we pray that God, for Christ's sake, would freely pardon all our sins (Ps 51:1-2, 7, 9; Dan 9:17-19; 1 John 1:7); which we are the rather encouraged to ask, because by his grace we are enabled from the heart to forgive others (Matt 18:21-35; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13).