



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

November 20th, 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

Kenny Tan

Prelude

Lydia Pui

Call to Worship

Dn Michael Lee/Yew Jinn Chieng

*Hymn

HOP 2 To God Be the Glory

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Psalms 119:12-24

Hymn

HOP 394 Is Your All on the Altar?

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:6-7

Hymn

HOP 110 I Serve a Risen Savior

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip

Biblical Love

*Hymn

HOP 243 I Would Be True

*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 3

*Congregation Standing

2 Doxology

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures
here below;
Praise Him above,
ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and
Holy Ghost, Amen.

3 The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and
keep you, The Lord lift His
countenance upon you,
and give you peace,
And give you peace,
The Lord make His face to
shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you,
be gracious, the Lord be
gracious, gracious unto
you. Amen.



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

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PASTORAL LETTER

Dear BPCWAians, We have just witnessed infant baptisms last Lord's Day. So what is the meaning of, and why is infant baptism practiced?

Biblical Covenantal Command. In Genesis 17:10-11, as part of His covenant with His people, God commanded Abraham, *"this [is] my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you"*. Circumcision was a token of the covenant i.e., a covenantal sign. In the New Testament, circumcision is replaced by water baptism as Paul stated in Colossians 2:11-12, *"In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."* This "circumcision made without hands" in verse 11 is explained in verse 12 to be "baptism". So the New Testament (NT) Jews accepted this change of Old Testament (OT) circumcision to the NT covenantal sign of water baptism. Paul hence did not require Jews or Gentiles to be circumcised, but to be water baptised. But some challenge, saying "How can you say that baptism replace circumcision, since females were not circumcised in the OT?" Well, it is clear that the covenantal signs and seals are implemented differently in the OT and NT. It is up to God to administer as He wishes for OT and NT.

Covenant of Grace through faith in Christ

Old Testament Sign & Administration	New Testament Sign & Administration
Circumcision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males only • Uncircumcised will be cut off (Gen 17:14) 	Baptism (Col 2:11-12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Males and females • No warnings given
Passover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No warnings given 	Holy Communion (Lk 22:13-20) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One who partakes unworthily may fall sick or die (1 Cor 11:27-34)
Before Christ: Bloody	After Christ's death & resurrection: Non bloody

Hence recognising that infant baptism is God's covenantal sign between Him and our family, and we must obey His command to have our infants baptised.

Familial Covenantal Promise. When God covenants with believers, He takes a familial interest in their families too. God has an interest in setting apart believers' children, *"For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy"* (1 Cor 7:14). "Holy" means "set apart" as its root meaning implies. That is why it is great insult to God when any family refuses to circumcise their child. It is a rejection of God's gracious gesture of familial care towards the believer's children. Hence God angrily pronounces in Gen 17:14 *"And the uncircumcised man child whose*

flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant". "Cut off" literally means to be left out of the Jewish community, and even death. Moses almost lost his child (Ex 4:24-26) when he failed to circumcise him. It is a great affront to God to reject and refuse such a covenantal care. So, infant baptism is the parents gratefully accepting God's promise of covenantal care for their child. Hence it is much more than just a dedication of the child to God, but receiving God's covenantal promises. Infant baptism does not mean the infant is a Christian. When God commanded Abraham to circumcise the eight day old infants, it did not mean that these infants were believers. In fact, some grew up and rejected Jehovah to worship other gods instead. Neither does infant baptism give salvation to the child. The Roman Catholics' erroneous baptismal regeneration for baptising their infants does not make infant baptism wrong. Just like their false teachings about the Holy Communion do not make Holy Communion evil. We still partake of the Holy Communion as Protestants, but with the right understanding and motives. The same applies for infant baptism.

Familial Covenantal Commitment. And while the parents claim God's covenantal promises, they also enter into a covenant with God. As parents bringing your child forward for infant baptism, you are also covenanting with Him that you will bring up the child as God's people. You do not know if the child will grow up to be saved. But you promise to bring it up as one belonging to God. This was exactly what the OT parents did. They exemplified godly examples at home, taught the child God's way (Deut 6:7), brought him to the temple and kept him from idols and pagan beliefs. You

too are making a covenant with God that you will do your part to “set apart” the child for God. You are making a vow to bring him up as godly seed for Him. Without this understanding, many parents simply go through infant baptism as a ritual and wrongly think that infant baptism confirms the child’s salvation. Some think infant baptism is the end target for God’s blessing for the child. Conversely, it is just the beginning of a lifelong commitment on your part to bring teach the child diligently in God’s Word, to bring your child to church to be part of its covenantal siblings, and to preach the gospel to your child. But sadly, most parents disappear with the child after infant baptism. The children are not found in the midst of God’s people at church. It only means the parent either did not understand the meaning, or have chosen to ignore their vows to God. But for those who do, God promises to help you as you live this commitment.

I invite you to look for me if you need more explanation if needed. It is my prayer that with the Biblical clarification of infant baptism, parents will do the right thing. And with this understanding, parents will also know how to live after your child is baptised.

Yours in our Lord’s service,
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

- 1. Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge:** A new series of classes began this morning at 9 am in the library. This is required for those who desire to be baptized or to have their memberships transferred to BPCWA. Those who are interested or have questions about this class can speak with Pastor or Brother Yew Jinn.
- 2. Young Adults Summer Camp:** Transport arrangements are now available in the church foyer. Please contact your driver to coordinate departure time from church.
- 3. Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting (27th Nov):** will be held next Sunday evening at the home of Elder James and Sister Choon Fang Wong. Address: 22 Stuart Court, Bateman. Elder James will share on the last message of the series, 'Jesus Said, "I am..."' taken from the gospel of John. Dinner will start at 6 pm with the meeting commencing at 7 pm. Please bring a dish to share. We warmly welcome everyone and their friends to join, learn and be encouraged by God's Word and the fellowship.
- 4. Lunch Fellowship:** Next Sunday after the worship service. Visitors travelling to Perth for the camp will also be joining us at this fellowship lunch. These young adults are from BP churches in Australia, Singapore and Malaysia. We encourage everyone to stay back to get to know them and help to welcome them into our midst. Please bring a dish to share to show our hospitality. All are welcome to join.
- 5. Men's and Ladies' Fellowship:** Will be held on Sunday the 4th of December. Details to follow next Sunday.

6. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for seeing FEBC through another semester, and for seeing the online students through their exams.
- Thank God for the return of Brother Yew Jinn back to our midst during his FEBC holidays. Pray for his service at BPCWA during this time.
- Pray that the Lord will grant the messages to Pr Joshua and Pastor for the YA Camp. Pray for wisdom for the camp committee, campers to be drawn to a closer walk with the Lord, and also the building up of spiritual bonds in Christ between campers.
- Pray for the Mandarin Family Care Group meeting to encourage and build up saints in the unity of the faith
- Pray for all parents who have had their children baptised, that they will continually live out their vows to be godly examples for their children and to raise godly seed.
- Pray for the editorial and design team of BPCWA's 30th Anniversary Thanksgiving magazine as they compile it for publication.
- Pray for those seeking employment and the spiritually discouraged to find direction, grace and joy in our Lord and His Word.
- Pray for the students preparing for their examinations to lean on God and not neglect their walk at this time.
- Pray that God will continue to uphold the faithful BP churches to be true to His Word and to be a testimony for Him in this age of apostasy.
- Pray that the Lord will lead more souls to Himself in the Nursing homes, encourage the believers there, and keep the doors open for this outreach.
- Pray for continued unity of BPCWA. Pray that God will call a full time resident Chinese Minister to BPCWA according to His will and timing.

SERVICE DUTY	20/11 COMBINED	27/11 COMBINED - Lunch Fellowship
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pr Joshua Yong/Yew Jinn Chieng
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Dn Michael Lee/Yew Jinn Chieng	Elder James Wong/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Kenny Tan	Jason Tey
Musician(s)	Lydia Pui	Sharon Poon
Welcomers (Foyer)	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Dn Michael Lee, Irene Lee, Lily Liow
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Alex Luu, *Kenny Tan, Mark Heath Pei Shion Chai, Allan Ang Dn Stephen Chia	*Eddie Foo, *Albert Ho, Jason Tey Caleb Cheng, Kenny Tan, Dn Adrian Cheng
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Edward Ee, Yi Jye Chieng, Yi Mey Tan	Caleb Cheng, Rowena Cheng, Shie Tian Wong
P.A. System	Yi Choong Liew	Kenny Chia
Kitchen Duties	Yi San Chieng, Margaret Ng, Christine Chia, Ming Ming Th'ng Mable Soon	Lilian Cheo, Irene Yap, Yi Jye Chieng Valerie Wan, Edward Ee
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Edward Ee (Ruth Wong)	Recess Due to YA Summer Camp
South Perth	Hall A: Yew Jinn Chieng Hall B: Kenny Tan	
Berrington	Edward Ee	
Bull Creek	Yew Jinn Chieng	

APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	22/11	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Yew Jinn Chieng, Ellainne Cheng
Friday	25/11	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Sunday	27/11	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English & Mandarin Sunday School/English & Mandarin Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:00 pm	Mandarin Choir
		12:15 pm	Church Van Depart
		2:00 pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth (Recess) Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco (Recess)
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont (Recess) Bull Creek – RAAFA Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149 (Recess)
		6:00 pm	Mandarin Family Care Group Meeting Address: 22 Stuart Court, Bateman

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (13/11)

Attendance: 241 (Combined-204; JSS-37); Prayer Meeting: 65

Offerings in Total: \$7725.15; General Fund: \$7725.15

(#4138-\$220.00; #4139-\$65.00; #4140-\$223.20; #4141-\$30.55; #4142-Youth Camp Fees-\$94.00)

SHORTER CATECHISM: Which is the first commandment? The first commandment is, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* (Exodus 20:3, Deuteronomy 5:7)