



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## CHRISTMAS 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

Sharon Poon

Call to Worship

Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong

\*Hymn

**HOP 76** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 1

Responsive Reading

Isaiah 11:1-5

Hymn

**HOP 69** Joy to the World!

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

\*Doxology 2/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6

Hymn

**HOP 81** What Child Is This?

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng

## Unto Us a Child Is Born

\*Hymn

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

\*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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## PASTORAL LETTER

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Dear BPCWAians, Blessed Christmas greetings! “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

When Isaiah penned these inspired Words, it was a time of impending darker and more difficult times for Israel. There were going to be battles, troubles, bloody conflicts, and attacks upon them by their enemies. But here in this chapter, God gives a bright promise in the midst of doom and gloom. The promise was of a child that would be born to them, a Son given to them. When a family is told that they are going to have child, it would bring much joy. Even relatives would rejoice. It is something to look forward to. It would brighten up their lives.

But God does not only speak of just any son. Here, He describes the Names this Son would be known by. To assure them, He wanted His people to take note of Who He truly is. These Names describe the character, power, and position of this Child. These titles point to His pre-eminence and His supremacy. And before presenting these Names, Isaiah adds that “the government shall be upon his shoulder”. It meant this Son will be the Ruler, the King, and the Sovereign One. Of course, this would refer to the Son of God who will become the Son of Man. This ought to bring tremendous hope and joy in the midst of dimness and oppression.

Why did God give Israel this promised prophecy at this point? Because Israel was in distress and also began to turn to other nations for help, instead of depending upon God. They looked for deliverance from elsewhere. God had to remind them that the Lord Christ is their Ruler. He is infinitely above all nations in power and authority. They needed to lean upon His Son and trust in Him instead. This is why He not only assured them of a promised child, but that this son would be no ordinary child. He is the Sovereign God. This is the same child born of a virgin in Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Another name was given, Immanuel, which in Hebrew means God with us. Yet at the same time, God did not want them to think that Israel's Ruler is just a future one. But Jehovah has been, is, and will always be their King. God will come in the flesh one day, but He has already been ruling the world and nations all the while and will continue to do so in the future. Israel needed to be reminded of this in their sin, misery, and fear during dark times. They already have a living Ruler, their Almighty God, who will never fail them because He is not only Sovereignly Supreme and All Powerful, but He is a loving King who will protect and save them.

This is the same reminder for us today. In our times of troubles, we easily forget who God is. We turn to the world, we trust in our jobs, and we lean upon our finances. Maybe some of us trust in our health and our children to take care of us. The Israelites

may have known about a Promised Son, but to them He has not come yet. Today, we know about the Risen Son, but in the minds of some, He has already gone back to heaven. Some erroneously look at this Child as a perpetually helpless baby in Mary's arms. But this Christmas, we must be reminded, Christ is not just the baby in the manger, but is the same awe inspiring Almighty God from eternity to eternity. He is all wise to counsel through His Word, He is from everlasting to everlasting, and He brought reconciled man to God. Christmas reminds us of the coming of our God, as He promised. Let us adore Him, not as a baby, but according to the Titles He is known by. As we do so, let us therefore no longer trust in ourselves, in the help of man, or in material things, but rise in faith to see Who this Son is that was born two thousand over years ago. If you do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, why will you not turn to Him today? He came to become Man to pay for the penalty of sin, which is eternal punishment in hell. He died and rose again to give eternal life to those who put their trust in Him. Seek His forgiveness in repentance today Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved!

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

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1. The Session wishes worshippers a blessed and joyous Christmas. May the gift of God's only begotten Son as our Saviour fill our hearts with praise for His wondrous plan of salvation.
2. **Christmas Service:** All worshippers are cordially invited to stay back for the Christmas lunch in the fellowship hall after the Worship Service today. Photographs of the Service and the children's Christmas song item will be published on our church facebook page (Bible-Presbyterian Church of WA (BPCWA)).
3. **Far Eastern Bible College Online courses:** Today is the closing day for registration. If you would like to register for one of these courses, please complete the registration form in the foyer and hand to Mark Heath with the fees today.
4. **Watchnight Service:** Will be held this Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> December 7:30 pm. As the year draws to a close, do come to give thanks and praise to God for His preservation through this year, and for seeing BPCWA through 30 years, and to seek His blessing upon us for 2017.
5. **The Lord Is In His Holy Temple:** The Worship leader will announce for the congregation to sing this before the start of each Worship Service. The words can be found inside the front cover of the hymnal. This is meant to prepare our hearts and minds as we enter into the presence of the Thrice Holy God to worship Him, the Almighty God.
6. **Holy Communion:** Will be observed next Sunday, New Year's Day. Please prepare your hearts to partake in this Sacrament.
7. **2017 Church Theme** is from Philippians 1:27 "... stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

## 8. Programs planned for January:

DATE		TIME	PROGRAM
21/1	Saturday	9:00 am	Busy Bee
26/1	Thursday	2:00 pm	Australia Day Outreach
29/1	Sunday	3:30 pm	Adelphe Bible Study

## 9. Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:

- Thank God for the fellowship around His Word at the Mandarin Care Group meeting. May this series of messages build up the saints to stand strong for our Lord.
- Thank God for those that came for Friday's Christmas Gospel Meeting and Carolling. May the Gospel seed sown lead unbelievers to trust in Christ as their personal Saviour.
- Thank God for His guidance at the Session meeting. Pray for wisdom as the Session meets again to discuss renovation and redevelopment plans.
- Thank God for His blessing of children in our midst. May the children be brought up to be strong Christians for God's kingdom.
- Pray for the Watchnight and New Year's Service to give thanks to God and for each of us to seek to serve Him in truth and with greater dedication in the coming year.
- Pray for wisdom upon the various committee leads as they finalize planning for 2017 activities to help the spiritual growth of God's sheep.
- Pray for bro Yew Jinn as he returns to Singapore this week to continue his studies for his full time ministry in Far Eastern Bible College.

SERVICE DUTY	25/12 CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE	1/1 COMBINED - Holy Communion
Speaker/Interpreter	Pstr Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pstr Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Dn Michael Lee/Dn Joel Wong	Dn Adrian Cheng/Dn Joel Wong
Prep Hymns	Jason Tey	Kenny Tan
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Sharon Poon
Welcomers (Foyer)	Eddie Foo, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Terry Chong, Lydia Chong, Yi San Chieng
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Caleb Cheng, *Kenny Chia, Jason Tey Eddie Foo, Pei Shion Chai Dn Stephen Chia	*Alex Luu, *Caleb Cheng, Kenny Chia Yan Wei, Kenny Tan, Mark Heath
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Edward Ee, Yi Jye Chieng, Yi Mey Tan	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Lilian Cheo
P.A. System	Yi Choong Liew	Caleb Cheng
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Yi San Chieng Lily Liow, Shuin Ning Jong	Victoria Lew, Mable Soon, Shuin Ning Jong
Transport	Eugene Leong (0401 155 386) / Allan Ang (0433 032 709)	

### Old Folks' Home Ministry

Subiaco	Yew Jinn Chieng (Hannah Th'ng)	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
South Perth	Hall A: Pstr Joseph Poon Hall B: Allan Ang	Hall A: Caleb Cheng Hall B: Kenny Tan
Berrington	Yew Jinn Chieng (Hannah Th'ng)	Mark Heath (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Caleb Cheng

### APPOINTMENTS OF THE WEEK

Tuesday	27/12	7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pstr Joseph Poon/Dn Joel Wong, Allan Ang, Ellainne Cheng
Friday	30/12	7:30 pm	Fellowship Meeting: Regen/Youth 180°/CYAF/CYPG
Saturday	31/12	7:30 pm	Watchnight Service
Sunday	1/1	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: Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont Bull Creek – RAAFA Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (18/12)

Attendance: 176 (Combined-148; JSS-28); Prayer Meeting: 70; Gospel Meeting: 151

Offerings in Total: \$7663.60; General Fund: \$7663.60

(#4158-\$83.50; #4159-\$219.05; #4160-\$42.00; #4161-\$385.50; #4162-\$100.00)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What is required in the second commandment?** The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath appointed in his Word. (Deuteronomy 12:32, Matthew 28:20)

## **RESPONSIVE READING - ISAIAH 11:1-5**

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- 1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
- 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;
- 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:
- 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.
- 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

## **SCRIPTURE READING - ISAIAH 9:6**

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- 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.