



# **NEW LIFE**

## **BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)*

Vol. 25 No. 27

**LORD’S DAY 04 JULY 2021**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

	<i>Morning Service – 11am</i>	<i>Afternoon Service – 3pm</i>
<i>Call to Worship</i>	Psalm 100	Psalm 43
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson
<i>Opening Hymn</i>	RHC 17 – “Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme”	---
<i>Responsive Reading</i>	Psalm 119	---
<i>Scriptural Text</i>	Jeremiah 23	Song of Solomon 5
<i>Pastoral Prayer</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson
<i>Sermon Message</i>	<i>A Prophecy For Today</i>	<i>Christian Sloth</i>
<i>Closing Hymn</i>	RHC 359 – “My Faith Looks Up To Thee”	---
<i>Benediction</i>	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson

### **SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 70**

**Q: Which is the Seventh Commandment?**

*A: The Seventh Commandment is, THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.*

Scriptural Reference:

*“Thou shalt not commit adultery.” Exodus 20:14*

### **MEMORY VERSE**

#### **Last Week**

*“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

**Isaiah 40:31**

#### **This Week**

*“For in him we live, and move, and have our being.”*

**Acts 17:28**

#### **Next Week**

*“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”*

**Zechariah 14:9**

# A BRIEF TREATISE OF THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM

## **3. THE BEING OF GOD**

**Q3: What do the Scriptures principally teach?**

A: The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

**Q4: What is God?**

A: God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Here is, [I] Something implied. That there is a God.

[I] *Implied.* That there is a God. The question, *What is God?* takes for granted that there is a God. The belief of God's essence is the foundation of all religious worship. Heb.11:6 — *"He that comes to God must believe that he is."* There must be a first cause, which gives being to all things besides.

We know that there is a God: -

(a) *By the book of nature.* The notion of a Deity is engraved on man's heart; it is demonstrable by the light of nature. Man cannot in his judgment believe there is no God, unless by accumulated sin his conscience be seared, and he has such a lethargy upon him, that he has sinned away his very sense and reason.

(b) *By his works.* This is so evident a demonstration of a Godhead, that the most atheistical spirits, when they have considered these works, have been forced to acknowledge some wise and supreme maker of these things. Sure, there must be some architect or first cause. The world could not make itself. To imagine that the work of the creation was not framed by God, is as if we should conceive a curious landscape to be drawn by a pencil without the hand of an artist. Acts 17:24 — *"God that made the world, and all things therein."*

To create is proper to the Deity. The wise government of all things evinces there is a God. God is the great superintendent of the world, he holds the reins of government in his hand, guiding all things most regularly and harmoniously to their proper end. When we see the excellent order and harmony in the universe, the sun, that great luminary, dispensing its light and heat to the world, without which the world were but a grave or a prison; the rivers sending forth their streams to refresh the bodies of men, and prevent a drought; and every creature acting within its sphere, and keeping its due bounds; we must needs acknowledge there is a God, who wisely orders and governs all these things.

Man is a microcosm or lesser world. Psa. 139:15 — I was *"curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth."* The human body is endowed with a noble soul. Who but God could make such a union of different substances as flesh and spirit? *"In him we live, and move, and have our being"* (Acts 17:28). Understanding, Will, Affections are a glass of the Trinity, says Plato. The matter of the soul is spiritual, is immortal, as 'the soul does not wax old' (Sacliger), it lives for ever. Who could create a soul ennobled with such rare angelic properties but God? *"It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves"* (Psa. 100:3).

(c) *By our conscience.* Conscience is God's deputy or vicegerent. Conscience is a witness of a Deity. If there were no Bible to tell us there is a God, yet conscience might. Conscience, as the apostle says, "*either accuseth*" or "*excuseth*" (Rom. 2:15). It acts in order to a higher judicatory. Natural conscience, being kept free from gross sin, excuses. Those who are above human laws are subject to the checks of their own conscience. The soul, being sensible of its immortal nature, trembles at God who never ceases to live, and therefore will never cease to punish.

(d) *By the consent of nations.* By the universal vote and suffrage of all men. Though the heathen did not worship the true God, yet they worshipped a god. They set up an altar, "*To the unknown God*" (Acts 17:23). They knew a God should be worshipped, though they knew not the God whom they ought to worship. Rather than not worship something, they would worship anything.

(e) *By his prediction of future things.* He who can foretell things which shall surely come to pass is the true God. God foretold, that a virgin should conceive; he prefixed the time when the Messiah should be cut off (Dan. 9:26). He foretold the captivity of the Jews in Babylon, and who should be their deliverer (Isa. 45:1). God himself uses this argument to prove he is the true God, and that all the gods of the heathens are fictions and nullities (Isa. 45:23). To foretell things contingent, which depend upon no natural causes, is peculiar to Deity.

(f) *By his unlimited power and sovereignty.* He who can work, and none can hinder, is the true God; but God can so. Isa. 43:13 — "*I will work, and who shall let it?*" Nothing can hinder action but some superior power; but there is no power above God; all power that is, is by him, therefore all power is under him; he has "*a mighty arm*" (Psa. 89:13). He acts according to his pleasure, he "*doeth according to his will*" (Dan. 4:35).

(g) *By the existence of devils.* Atheists cannot deny but there are devils, and then they must grant there is a God. We read of many possessed of the devil. Socrates, a heathen, when accused at his death, confessed, that as he thought there was an evil spirit, so he thought there was a good spirit.

### **Applications:**

Seeing there is a God, it reproves such atheistical fools as deny it. Epicurus denied there was a Providence, saying that all things fell out by chance. Psa. 14:1 — "*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*" He durst not speak it with his tongue, but says it in his heart: he wishes it. Sure none can be speculative atheists.

Seeing there is a God, he will deal righteously, and give just rewards to men. Evil men enjoy all the good, and good men endure all the evil. But God will deal righteously with men. Gen. 18:25 — "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" Offenders must come to punishment. God will abundantly compensate and give glorious rewards to the faithful service of his people (Psa. 58:11).

Seeing there is a God, let us worship and serve him as God. It was an indictment brought against some in Rom. 1:21 — "*They glorified him not as God.*" Let us pray to him as to God. Pray with fervency. James 5:16 — "*An effectual fervent prayer availeth much.*" Let us love him as God. Deut. 6:5 — "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart.*" It means to give him precedence in your love; to love him appreciatively and intensively as much as you can. Let us obey him as God. All creatures and nature obey him (Mark 4:41). Much more should man, whom God has endued with a principle of reason. God has a sovereignty over us, so we must receive a law from him, and submit to his will in all things.

- adapted and edited from Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pp 39-45

## **CHURCH NOTICE**

Dear fellow worshippers and friends,

We are pleased to inform the worshippers and visitors of New Life Bible Presbyterian Church that the church will resume holding worship services in the Church premise on Sunday mornings.

The church activities will take place as follows:

- Sunday Morning Worship Service, 11am – Church Premises & Online
- Sunday Afternoon Worship Service, 3pm – Online only

Provided that there is no worsening of the pandemic in London, we hope to start holding the Afternoon Worship Service and Fortnightly Bible Study within the church premises in the coming months.

### **Changes introduced to the Worship Services held at the church premises**

In compliance with the current Government guidelines, the following changes have been introduced:

- Worship services will be limited to 60 minutes duration.
- No singing and offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- All Bibles and hymn books will be kept and unavailable for use. Please bring your own Bible and remember to take it away with you after worship service.
- Adopt a 2-metre social distancing seating arrangement (household members may sit with each other).
- Face coverings to be worn in the church **at all times** out of consideration for all worshippers. For young children under the age of 11, the use of face covering is optional. **Please ensure you bring your own face covering.**
- No socialising with anyone outside of your household or support bubble within the Church premises.
- No socialising outside the Church premises.
- No food and drinks will be made available (Fellowship Lunch has been temporarily suspended).
- No access to non-essential areas of the church – this includes the Fellowship Hall and kitchen.
- New movement arrangements to be adopted (please follow directions).
- Temperature measurements will be taken for every worshipper and visitor.
- Worshippers and visitors are required to complete the contact details slip for the NHS Test & Trace service. These details will be kept securely in church for 21 days and then destroyed. They will only be submitted to Test & Trace if a Covid-19 case occurs.
- Alternatively, please download the NHS COVID-19 Mobile App and scan one of the QR codes in the Church entrance to check-in.

To join our online services or to obtain further updates, please visit the church website ([www.newlifebpc.org.uk](http://www.newlifebpc.org.uk)) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim  
Task Force Members

**NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dear Worshippers, as the Church Premises reopens for Morning Worship Service please note that there will be strict social distancing measures put in place. Face coverings must be worn in the church at all times out of consideration for all worshippers.**

**For the time being, the 3:00pm Afternoon Worship Service will still be conducted online.**

If you require the link to our online zoom services, or have any questions or require further clarity, please call the church manse, or email us at admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk.

**Tithes & Offerings** – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

**Worship Service Collections: 21/06/21 - £825.00**

**Church Maintenance Fund Total: £7,030.50**

**RHC 17 – Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme**

Begin, my tongue, some heav'nly theme  
And speak some boundless thing -  
The mighty works or mightier name  
Of our eternal King.

Tell of His wondrous faithfulness  
And sound His pow'r abroad;  
Sing the sweet promise of His grace,  
The love and truth of God.

His very word of grace is strong  
As that which built the skies;  
The voice that rolls the stars along  
Speaks all the promises.

O might I hear Thy heav'nly tongue  
But whisper, "Thou art Mine!"  
Those gentle words shall raise my song  
To notes almost divine.

*Issac Watts*

**RHC 359 My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

My faith looks up to thee,  
Thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Saviour divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
Take all my guilt away,  
O let me from this day  
Be wholly thine.

May thy rich grace impart  
Strength to my fainting heart,  
My zeal inspire;  
As thou hast died for me,  
O may my love to thee  
Pure, warm, and changeless be,  
A living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread,  
And griefs around me spread,  
Be thou my guide;  
Bid darkness turn to day,  
Wipe sorrow's tears away,  
Nor let me ever stray  
From thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
When death's cold sullen stream  
Shall o'er me roll;  
Blest Saviour, then, in love,  
Fear and distrust remove;  
O bear me safe above,  
A ransomed soul!

*Ray Palmer*