

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Don Taylor

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#121 Come Let Us All Unite to Sing

#570 A Beautiful Life

Scripture Reading by: Brandon Smith

#313 The Old Rugged Cross

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#742 When Upon Life's Billows

Sermon: "Jesus Wept"

John 11:33-35

#940 Only a Step

#875 Home of the Soul

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#853 When We All Get to Heaven

#786 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy

Prayer by: Bob Parker

#676 Living for Jesus

Sermon: "Seeking God"

2 Chronicles 33:12-13

Let Him Have His Way with Thee

#712 Jesus Is Coming Soon

Closing Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 6:00pm — Worship

Wednesday: 10:00am — Ladies Bible Class, 7:00pm — Bible Study Classes

March 18, 2018

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

St. Patrick's Day

Yesterday was St. Patrick's Day. Rather than being a day to wear green, have a parade, and celebrate all things Irish, St. Patrick's Day was originally a commemoration of the life and death of Patrick of Berniae, who brought Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century.

Patrick had a very religious upbringing. He, however, was not particularly devout; as a young man, he practically renounced his faith. But when he was 16, while out working in his father's field in Roman Britain, Irish militia raided the land. He was kidnapped and enslaved in Ireland for 6 years as a herdsman. During that time, his faith grew and he prayed daily. One day, he escaped by stowing away on a ship, traveling more than 200 miles home. He eventually became a Bishop in the church. In the latter half of his life, Patrick became a missionary to the land in which he had been a slave.

One legend states that Patrick relied on a simple illustration to teach the doctrine of the Trinity or Godhead, the Father, Son, and Spirit as one entity: he used a shamrock, or 3-leaf clover, to explain the nature of God. Each leaf is separate and distinct, yet part of a whole. By making that simple comparison, he persuaded many. Thus, Saint Patrick's Day is supposed to be a celebration both of the life of Patrick himself and of the birth of Christianity in Ireland.

We would, no doubt, disagree with much of what Patrick taught. But I think we have to admire his success. He faced a great deal of opposition, being imprisoned and beaten at times. Ireland was a field where others had tried and failed.

We are not likely to be responsible for bringing Christianity to a country that rejected it for centuries. But we are all similarly responsible for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world around us: *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18-20).*

This mission was given to every follower of Jesus, not just to preachers or missionaries. It belongs to the whole church and to each one of us individually. And it is not optional – if you belong to God's family, then this mission is mandatory.

Our Sick

Dana Wiggins is taking chemo treatments.
Doris Trahan is taking radiation treatments.
Frances Petree is in Health South Rehab in Humble.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meet Monday, March 19th at 7:00 pm.
 We are having a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, March 22nd at 9:00 am.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, James Scott, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Gerald Lucy, Steve Ward, Teresa McKewen, Jackie David, Patricia Padon, Frank & Tina Garcia, Ronnie Davis, Bill Lunceford, Phillip Cottle, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Stacie Copeland, Wayne Howser, Jo Ella McKewen

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Ouida Cauthorn, Joe Leonard

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Mwanza, Africa,
 Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Family Egg Hunt for all ages, Saturday, March 31st at 11:00 am on the church grounds. There will be hot dogs, chips and drinks. For more information see Susan McCain.

Blood Drive

We are having a **Blood Drive**, Monday, March 19th from 4-8 pm. Let your friends and neighbors know so they can be here to give blood.

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>	<u>Minister</u>
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bob Parker	Danny Balch	
Bobby Rader	Shannon Smith	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

Communion Preparation: Pat Hobbs
 Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader
 Children's Bible Hour: Emily Nance
 Teen Helpers: Jennifer & Brooks McKelroy

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Mar. 25th: Judy Jones
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Mar. 25th: Pat Hobbs
 Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, Mar. 25th: Daisy Cary

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The Greek verb translated “go” here is actually not a command, but a present participle. It would more literally be translated “going.” In other words, we aren’t commanded to travel the world. In fact, the only imperative in these verses is “make disciples.” Essentially, Jesus says, “Wherever you are going, make disciples.” No matter who we are or where we are, we can do that – we *must* do that. We ought to share the gospel of Christ with those around us.

That said, although we have the same faith in Jesus and the same responsibility to share it, we don’t always do that in the same way. Some of us might be most comfortable with an intellectual approach, where we use reason and logic to persuade others. That’s essentially what Patrick did with the polytheists of Ireland. I think of how Peter encourages us to prepare for such opportunities, *always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you (1 Peter 3:15)*.

Others of us might use the invitational approach. Think about Phillip in **John 1**: he doesn’t argue with Nathaniel or give a reasoned defense of Jesus. He simply says, *come and see*. We can all make an effort to invite friends or relatives to church with us.

Or we might consider the interpersonal approach, telling others about the difference the Lord has made in our own lives. Paul does something like this in **Acts 22**, recounting his life both before and after he came to faith in Jesus. Sharing our own story is an essential part of sharing our faith.

This is difficult, and sometimes it is hard to see results. Some of us have probably been practicing one or all of these methods without success. Jesus warned us that not every heart is fertile soil. But our responsibility is to keep planting the seed to the best of our ability. Let’s all continue to practice these methods of spreading the good news, whichever suits our talents and the situation best.

Bryant Perkins

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”
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