

## TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#882 No Tears In Heaven

#867 To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way

Scripture Reading by: Cameron Cantu

#387 Years I Spend in Vanity

**Lord's Supper and Contribution**

#869 We're Marching to Zion

**Sermon: "No One Ever Cared for Me like Jesus"**

**Mark 1:40-42**

#907 Hark the Gentle Voice

#881 Mansions Over the Hilltop

Closing Prayer by: Tommy Cary

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#827 Sweet Hour of Prayer

#837 I Need Thee Every Hour

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Prayer by: David Smith

#784 Far and Near

**Sermon: "One Word: :Peace"**

**Philippians 4:6-9**

#940 Only a Step

#808 Abide With Me

Closing Prayer by: Bobby Rader

### 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 24, 2019

## *“Stand Firm in...Liberty”*

Galatians 5:1

### Singing with the Spirit

*I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. (1 Corinthians 14:15)*

Congregational singing is one of the most distinctive aspects of our public worship in churches of Christ. It's certainly the one that stands out to visitors to our services because it is relatively unusual in contemporary Western Christianity; most religious groups over the last 150 or so years have moved to featuring various instruments in their assemblies. That immediately draws attention to our practice in comparison – attention that can be either good or bad depending on the quality of our song service. Whether we like it or not, whether it is Scripturally or theologically appropriate or not, our public worship is what makes a first impression on outsiders. Our song service is a big part of that. What impression will we make?

Of course, there are far more weighty reasons to be concerned about singing in our assemblies. There are two dimensions to our hymns: vertical and horizontal. That is, our singing is directed toward God in praise – it is worship! – and toward one another in instruction. Both of these aspects are critically important.

In singing, we praise God for who he is and for his mighty acts. We confess our faith in him. We have an excellent practical example of that, outside of the worship assembly, from the jail cell in Philippi where *at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God (Acts 16:25)*. The Hebrews writer talks about our praising God in song: *Through Him therefore let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name (Hebrews 13:15, AMP)*. A number of Psalms also make this connection between worship and singing, not only in that they are songs themselves, but in their content: *For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to your name (Psalms 18:49)*.

But even though our singing is offered to God as worship, there is also a benefit to us. There is a conversation going on here. As Paul puts it in **Colossians 3:16**, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God*. The parallel passage in **Ephesians 5:19** reminds us that we are *speaking to one another*.

# Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Privilege to Serve**  
**Sunday, Mar. 24<sup>h</sup>**

**Our Sick**

**Joe Edd Stiffemire** is at home and cannot have visitors.

**Gloria McKelroy** had knee replacement surgery and is at her daughter's house.

**Tem Meigs** is having health problems.

**Ronnie Rubit** had surgery this past week.

**Continued Prayers**

**(Need cards, phone calls & visits)**

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Eric Davis, Mark Wilcox, Dayla Hale, Phillip Cottle, Tim Watts, Minny Owen, J. P. Williams, Doris Trahan, Willo Dean Ellis

**Shut Ins**

**(Need cards, phone calls & visits)**

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, Joe Leonard, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks

**Our Missionaries**

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

**Upcoming Activities**

**Elders, Minister** meeting Monday at 7:00pm.

We will be having a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, April 2nd at 8:00am.

**"Singing with the Spirit" May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.**

A workshop to enhance our appreciation and practice of singing for both the church and song leaders. There are Friday and Saturday sessions as well as a congregational singing Saturday evening. A detailed schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

We are in the process of starting a new church recipe book. Please be thinking of recipes you would like to share. Here is the email address for the recipes: [liberty.ladiesministry@aol.com](mailto:liberty.ladiesministry@aol.com) We are collecting recipes through the end of May.

<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: Mickey Noonkester  
 Nursery Attendants: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>: Abbey Perkins  
 Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Mar. 31<sup>st</sup>: Debra Faneros, Melony Hicks

**continued from front page**

You see, it is possible to sing a hymn, hit every note perfectly, and still miss the point. The focus isn't on the music – it's on the words. Words that should teach about God and his mighty acts. Words that should instruct us in how to live lives that please God. Words that should exhort us in our responsibilities to one another. Conversely, you can sing a song, miss every single note, and worship God with every word you sing. The focus isn't on the quality of the sound – it's on the quality of the heart.

With all of that said, 6 weeks from now – May 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> – we are having a workshop to hopefully enhance both our appreciation and quality of our worship in song. Myron Bruce will be conducting sessions on Friday night and Saturday morning, as well as teaching during our regular times on Sunday. There will also be an area-wide singing on Saturday night. A full schedule with more details is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

In some cases, particularly Saturday morning, he will be working with song leaders. But even those sessions, and particularly the ones on Friday evening, are designed to benefit the church as a whole. Though he will be teaching some simple mechanics, this is not a technical singing school with a focus on reading music. Rather, the emphasis is on training the heart: understanding what we do when we sing, appreciating the message of songs, and using the heart as well as the voice to communicate in song. It is on singing with the spirit and singing with the mind also.

Mark it down on your calendar. Make your plans to be here for every session. Invite your friends and neighbors – we will have more details on that in the next week or so. Keep this effort in your prayers. And be sure to sing out this morning!

***Bryant Perkins***

**"Stand Firm in...Liberty"**

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575  
 Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;  
 Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737  
 Website: [libertycofc.org](http://libertycofc.org) Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ