

TODAY’S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader /Opening Prayer by: Don Taylor

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#121 Come Let Us All Unite to Sing

#71 As The Deer

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#349 Ten Thousand Angels

Lord’s Supper and Contribution

#587 Sing and Be Happy

Sermon: Peace With God

Ephesians 2:14-17

#470 Victory in Jesus

#611 Heavenly Sunlight

Closing Prayer by: James Scott

Congregational Singing

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

Dec. 15, 2019

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

Galatians 5:1

O Come, All Ye Faithful

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-5, 14)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” is one of the most popular of all hymns typically associated with Christmas: it appeared in nearly every hymnal produced from the late 20th century; it is likely one of the oldest carols that is in common use. Yet, curiously, its origins are lost in the mists of time.

We do know that it was first written in Latin. We have probably heard it that way from time to time—Bing Crosby recorded a version of the original Latin hymn, “Adeste Fideles,” for instance. Perhaps for that reason, it has been attributed to everyone from the 12th century Franciscan friar St. Bonaventure to King John IV of Portugal in the 17th century, with a lot of anonymous Cistercian monks from various countries in between.

Most contemporary English song books, including our own, ascribe it to John Francis Wade in the year 1751. Wade was an English Catholic living in exile in France and working as a professional scribe. In particular, he specialized in copying musical manuscripts by hand, and was in great demand by choir leaders and institutions of higher learning. Wade was known for his beautiful hand, and thus often signed his copies, perhaps because his clients requested it.

In 1751, he published a collection of his manuscript copies, *Cantus Diversi pro Dominicis et Festis per annum* (Songs for Sundays and Holidays Through the Year). This is the first printed source for “Adeste Fideles.” It is possible that Wade composed it himself, but, given his occupation, it is probably more likely that he was copying someone else’s work—it has been said that the lyrics were sung in France before Wade was born—though there is no evidence of it.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Derrick Lofton is at home recovering from burns.

Michael and Vanessa Simmons were in a car accident and are at home recovering.

Continued Prayers

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Dayla Hale, Doris Trahan, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Barry Johnson

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks, Mark Wilcox, Bill Lunceford, J. P. Williams

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 and **egg cartons**. A barrel is in the foyer.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, Dec. 16th at 7:00 p.m.

The Year End Party is today, Dec. 15th after evening service. Please bring finger foods.

We have a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, Dec. 19th at 8:00 a.m.

The Youth and Families group will have their annual caroling event on Thursday December 19. We will meet at the church at 5:45 and take the bus to Magnolia Place, and probably make a couple of stops afterwards. This is always a good time and everyone is invited to join in!

Holiday Schedule

There will be **no services** on Christmas Night, Wednesday, Dec. 25th.

The office will be closed Dec. 25th and 26th.

Ladies Bible Class will not meet again until Jan. 8th.

Nursery Help Needed

We need help in the nursery during worship service, please let Barbara Cantu know if you can help next year. We are working on a new schedule.

Privilege to Serve Sunday, Dec. 15th

Communion Preparation: Jo Ella McKewen

Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Dec. 22nd: Debby McKinzie

Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Dec. 22nd: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

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In 1795, the Duke of Leeds heard a version of it being sung at the Portuguese Embassy in London. The Duke was the Master of Music at court and so introduced it to a group of concert singers he conducted. It is accordingly sometimes known as the “Portuguese Hymn,” and the most commonly attributed Portuguese author is the aforementioned John IV, the “Musician King.” John was, in fact, a composer, and 2 manuscripts of the “Portuguese Hymn” have been found in his palace and dated to 1640, a century before Wade’s work. Nevertheless, some musicologists argue for Wade’s authorship of the version we are familiar with.

What is certain is that it was translated into the English version we all know by Frederick Oakley, a Catholic priest, in 1841. Like the Latin original, the refrain of Oakley’s text calls repeatedly *venite adoremus*—O come, let us adore him!—Christ the Lord, the *Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing*, a reference to the prologue to John’s gospel.

That exhortation, hinging on the word “adore,” is significant, because adore is such an interesting word. We typically use it for things that are delightful, maybe even too cutesy for their own good: *oh, isn’t that just adorable*. And based on that normal usage, we might be inclined to think we are being called to Bethlehem to oooh and ahhh over the bouncing baby Jesus, because *isn’t he totes adorbs?*

But adore has a much more serious origin. As you can tell from *adoremus*, it comes to English from the Latin verb *adorare*, “to approach a god as a worshipper, treat with reverence; to pray or beseech.” This is not an invitation to admire the baby; it is an urgent appeal, to drop everything—come!—and gather round, fall on your knees, and worship him, *born the king of angels*.

Adoration is, fundamentally, the joyful response humans make when overwhelmed by the majesty of God. It is the only suitable reaction to what he has done in Christ.

“Stand Firm in...Liberty”

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