

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Walden David

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#452 Standing on the Promises

#611 Heavenly Sunlight

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch

#480 Blessed Assurance

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#881 Mansion Over the Hilltop

Sermon: "Let Us Examine Ourselves"

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

#934 Softly and Tenderly

#851 I'll Fly Away

Closing Prayer by: Tommy Cary

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#595 I Come to the Garden Alone

#753 Farther Along

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy

Prayer by: Ken Coleman

#535 The Glory-Land Way

Sermon: "Worship in Song: Speak Up"

Acts 4:18-20

#945 Kneel at the Cross

#853 When We All Get to Heaven

Closing Prayer by: Bob Parker

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

April 22, 2018

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Overtight Halos

Brennan Manning was an American author and former Franciscan priest, best known for his 1990 work *The Ragamuffin Gospel*. It contains an illustration about a man who walks into his doctor's office complaining of an intense headache that he cannot get rid of. The doctor questions him about his lifestyle – smoking, drinking, carousing – with the man growing increasingly indignant in his denials. Finally, the doctor announces his diagnosis: "Your trouble is you have your halo on too tight. All we need to do is loosen it up a bit."

The point of the story is to poke fun at Christians who wear their piety with pride as a self-righteous badge. There are some people who do good works, and they make absolutely certain that everyone else knows it. It's all about image, about looking good. Jesus talks about people like that in **Matthew 6**.

There were three cardinal disciplines practiced in the synagogue: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Jesus addresses them in this chapter. While he has no objection to any of those items – all three were, after all, taken up in Christian practice – he does take issue with the way they were often performed.

There's an expression in the advertising industry: "Doing business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark. You know what you are doing, but nobody else does." But what is good for business is deadly for spirituality. It turns humility into pride, altruism into egotism, piety into hypocrisy. *Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them (Matthew 6:1)*. When we advertise our good deeds, our halo is too tight.

Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others (v. 2). When we do something good, we are not to go around tooting our own horn. In that case, if we receive the applause of people, we have our reward.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Dana Wiggins is taking chemo treatments.

Phillip Cottle had knee surgery last week.

Mark Wilcox is in Kingwood Hospital room 323. He is having test run.

Donny Thomas, son of Jo Thomas, a friend of the quilters group, had a heart attack last week.

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, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Stacie Copeland, Jo Ella McKewen, Leah Smith

Shut Ins

(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Pauline Taylor, Winona Angelle, Pat Henley, Myrtle Sheffield, Ronnie Rubit, 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.

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meet Monday, April 23rd at 7:00 pm.

Crawfish Boil, Saturday, May 5th at the building. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. See Phillip or Nancy for more information.

Thank You

To the Liberty Church of Christ:

We want to thank you all for the cards, flowers, pants and food you gave us before, during and after the passing of Ouida.

You overwhelmed us with your comforting words and support. The love we felt is so appreciated and will never be forgotten!

Our prayer is that God will continue to wrap his loving arms around this kind and wonderful congregation.

Again, thank you so much.

With much love,

Kent and Carolyn, Kyle, Miranda & Jayden, Deen Cauthorn

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the beautiful plant, during my hospital stay. Also for the wonderful meal after my return home. Mostly, thank you for your prayers on my behalf during my extended illness. I hope to be back on my feet soon. Please continue to pray for me and my family.

Love,

Leah Smith

Privilege to Serve Sunday, Apr. 22nd

Communion Preparation: Gloria McKelroy
Nursery Attendants: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton
Children's Bible Hour: Tania Balch
Teen Helpers: River Lucy, Annie McKelroy

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Apr. 29th: Jennifer McKelroy
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Apr. 29th: Marsha Rader
Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, Apr. 29th: Daisy Cary

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And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others (v. 5). Prayer is to be a sincere matter between us and God. For Jesus, prayer was an intensely personal conversation with his Father. He told the disciples to pray in private and that God would see and reward their prayers. Of course, Jesus is not condemning all public prayer. It is not wrong to pray in public. It is problematic at best to pray in public if we are not in the habit of praying in private, however.

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others (v. 16). It was mandatory to fast on the Day of Atonement, but all other fasting was voluntary. Many of the Pharisees fasted twice a week on Mondays and Thursday, which also happened to be the market days. There would be farmers, merchants and shoppers everywhere – a larger admiring audience. The hypocrite would walk in the crowd, drawing attention by not having washed his hair, wearing torn clothes, putting dirt and ashes on his face. Jesus said that when we fast, we are to comb our hair, wash our faces, and put on clean clothes. Our fasting is to be between us and God.

In all of these things, Jesus' point is that our good deeds are to be done for God and for his glory, not for our own glory and the "attaboys" of men. That applies to whatever we do: preaching, teaching, singing, praying, fasting, charity.

How tight is your halo?

Bryant Perkins