

## TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Don Taylor /Opening Prayer by: Bob Parker

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Kelly McCain

#96 I Stand in Awe

#122 The Love of God

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch

#342 We Saw Thee Not

**Lord's Supper and Contribution**

#286 Wonderful Story of Love

**Sermon: "After the Easter Parade"**

**John 21:4-6**

#406 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

#517 Heaven Came Down

Closing Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Kelly McCain

#613 Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

#616 The Way of the Cross

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy

Prayer by: Phillip Strickhausen

#626 Christ for the World We Sing

**Sermon: "Worship in Song: A Better Land"**

**Revelation 21:3-4**

#684 Nearer My God to Thee

#628 Will You Not Tell It Today?

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

April 8, 2018

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

Galatians 5:1

### **Do Not Grow Weary**

Baseball season is now underway, and the World Champion Houston Astros unveiled their banner at the home opener this past Monday. Even if you were not watching the game, you probably saw it on the news – things did not go smoothly. But, to be fair, they had no prior experience in unveiling a World Championship banner.

I am new to this area, but not to Astros fandom. One of my earliest memories in sports is attending a game at the Dome in the late 80s with Nolan Ryan on the mound. I had a set of commemorative baseballs on display in my room as a boy, featuring four of the stars of the early 90s – Craig Biggio and Jeff Bagwell, of course, but also Doug Drabek and, I believe, Greg Swindell. I scrapped together enough money as a college student to drive over from Austin and catch a game of the NLDS against the Braves when they made the World Series in '05.

The point is, I know how long the journey to unveiling that banner was. Along the way, there were some really good teams who suffered heartbreaking near-misses. More recently, there was period of 3 years, 2011-2013, when the Astros lost more than 100 games every season. Their cumulative winning percentage for those 3 seasons was the worst for any team in half a century; they even accomplished the rare feat of being the worst team in baseball in each of those 3 seasons individually, an achievement matched only 4 times before.

They were not just bad. They were historically bad.

But there was a plan in place throughout all of those long years. Trading away any and all major league assets allowed them to restock the farm system. Their losing record allowed them to pick at the top of the draft. They were laying the foundation for better things ahead. The rallying cry for fans during those years was "Trust the Process." And those who were faithful and loyal and did not lose hope were rewarded for their endurance with a World Series victory at last.

There is a lesson in this for the people of God. In our individual lives, we will all experience peaks and valleys. The church as a whole goes through highs and lows, good times and bad times. But in the midst of these ups and downs, we have the exhortation of Paul: *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9).*

# Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Our Sick

**Dana Wiggins** is in MD Anderson Hospital.

**Phillip Cottle** will be having knee surgery on Monday, April. 16th.

**Leah Smith** is in Northeast Memorial in Humble.

**Shirley Morris** has been declared cancer free.

## 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

## 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 9th at 7:00 pm.

We will be having a VBS meeting immediately after morning service on today. For more information see Kristi Burgess.

**Singing at** Magnolia Place Health Care today at 4:00 pm.

**Primetimers** will be going to The Ranch Hand Café on Tuesday, April 10th at 4:45 pm. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** is Saturday, April 21st at 8:00 am in the family life center.

## Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Sewilla Scott and her family on the death of her sister. The funeral was Saturday in Hitchcock.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Ouida Cauthorn. Ouida passed away Wednesday night. The funeral was Saturday.

## Privilege to Serve Sunday, Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>

Communion Preparation: Sharon Lartigue  
Nursery Attendants: Raven & Sharon Lartigue  
Children's Bible Hour: Ashley Balch  
Teen Helpers: Brandon Smith, Dylan Balch

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>: Susan McCain  
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>: Tania Balch, Catherine Parker  
Children's Bible Hour for Sunday, Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>: Emily Nance

## continued from front page

Paul reveals one of the secrets of a life spent in service to the Lord: he refused to quit. He kept going, even in the midst of adversity, when others had fallen aside. The weariness Paul experienced was temporary; the hope he expresses is eternal. *In due season, we will reap.*

It reminds me of how he winds up the great chapter on resurrection, **1 Corinthians 15**. After reminding his readers of his preaching on the resurrection, of the fact that Christ was raised from the dead and given a kingdom, and that one day, we will be raised like him, he reaches his conclusion. *Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).* Christ has been raised – the victory has been won! Your work is not wasted. So get to it.

May we all remain faithful and loyal even in the midst of adversity. May we all hold on to the hope that we have in Christ, confident that victory awaits us. May we all endeavor to build for God's kingdom, knowing that it will produce results both here and hereafter.

Let's get to work.

*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