

## TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#587 Sing and Be Happy

#878 Sweet By & By

Scripture Reading by: Joseph Girard

#574 Oh, How I Love Jesus

**Lord's Supper and Contribution**

#528 I Know That My Redeemer Lives

**Sermon: "The Indescribable Gift"**

**2 Corinthians 9:11-15**

#945 Kneel at the Cross

#535 The Glory-Land Way

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Shannon Smith

#595 I Come to the Garden Alone

#611 Heavenly Sunlight

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy

Prayer by: Ken Coleman

#517 Heaven Came Down

**Sermon: "The Parables of Jesus: Justice and Grace"**

**Matthew 20:1-8**

#523 I Know the Lord Will Find a Way

#959 Just a Little Talk with Jesus

Closing Prayer by: David Warren

### **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

December 2, 2018

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

Galatians 5:1

### **Silent Night**

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:13-14)*

Joseph Mohr was born in Salzburg, Austria in 1792. In 1815, he was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church and served in a number of parishes in the Salzburg area. As of Christmas 1818, he was the assistant priest at St. Nicholas church in the small village of Obernorf.

Mohr and Franz Gruber, the church organist and schoolmaster in a nearby village, had been talking about Christmas hymns, lamenting that the perfect one had yet to be written. With a special Christmas Eve mass approaching, Mohr cast his mind back to a poem he had written a couple of years before that he thought would make an appropriate song. He tidied it up and took the lyrics to Gruber, asking him to compose an appropriate melody. When Gruber first read the words, he exclaimed, "Friend Mohr, you have found it – the right song – God be praised!"

Gruber accomplished his part of the work, his simple tune complementing Mohr's words perfectly. When they presented it on Christmas Eve, it evidently made a deep impact on the parishioners. But the two men never intended that their hymn would be used outside their village.

It happened, however, that within a few days of the Christmas Eve mass, Karl Mauracher, an organ builder who was repairing the instrument in Obernorf, heard the song and took a copy back home with him. From there, it spread throughout the entire region and became a popular Tyrolean folk song. Before long, traveling folk singers started including the tune in their shows. In 1838, it appeared in a German hymnal; a year later, it was performed for the first time in the United States when a family of Tyrolean singers toured the country. Soon it was translated into English as "Silent Night." Over the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became a cherished hymn for both German and English speakers.

That brings us to Christmas Eve 1914. The "War to End All Wars" had begun with optimism back in the summer, with soldiers convinced they would make quick work of things and be home by Christmas. But military tactics had not kept pace with the exponential growth of technology; by the end of the year, the Western Front had become locked into a stalemate of trench warfare, with already a million combined lives lost. In some cases, the German and Allied lines

# Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Our Sick

**Tim Watts**, Lois Watts' grandson, has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

**Phillip Cottle** is in Methodist Hospital in ICU and not doing well.

**Jean Blackburn** had test run last week.

**Wayne Howser** had surgery last week.

**Frank Longoria**, a Liberty Police officer is in the hospital and not doing well.

## Continued Prayers

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

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Bill Lunceford, Eric Davis, J. P. Williams, Mark Wilcox, Dayla Hale, Ann Rogers

## Shut Ins

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

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

## Our Missionaries

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

## Upcoming Activities

**Deacons** meet today at 4:45pm.

**Elders, Deacons, Minister** meeting Monday, Dec. 3rd at 7pm.

We will have a **Houston Food Bank truck** Tuesday, Dec. 4th at 10:00 am.

**Movie Night** on Saturday, Dec. 8th. We will have snacks at 5:00 pm with the movie at 6:00pm in the family life center.

We will be having a Ornament Exchange on Saturday, Dec. 15th at 2:00pm in the fellowship room. Bring a wrapped ornament and finger food and snacks.

If you are interested in helping in the nursery next year, please let the office know. A new schedule will be coming out in December.

The cold and flu season is upon us. Please remember to throw your used tissues in the trash and not leave them in the pews.

## Privilege to Serve Sunday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Communion Preparation: Patti Davis

Nursery Attendants: Pat Hobbs

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Lynette Ward, Debra Faneros

Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>: Willo Dean Ellis

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were separated by a "no-man's land" of as little as 100 feet. They could hear the conversations of the enemy. They could smell them cooking. And, periodically, one side or the other would be ordered to go up and over the trench in a fruitless frontal assault.

The Pope, Benedict XV, had called for a truce around Christmas time. But political leaders on both sides ignored him – it's not easy to mindlessly kill the man on the other side when you realize he is just like you. But a curious thing happened: all along the Western Front, small pockets of men began making their own Christmas truce. It did not come from the top down, but from the bottom up, and it seems to have happened almost spontaneously and simultaneously at different points all along the 400+ mile line. One account comes to us from Albert Moren, stationed in the front line near the French village of La Chapelle d'Armentieres:

*It was a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere,—and about seven or eight in the evening there was a lot of commotion in the German trenches and there were these lights -I don't know what they were. And then they sang 'Silent Night' -'Stille Nacht'. I shall never forget it, it was one of the highlights of my life. I thought, what a beautiful tune.*

The next day, men crossed into no-man's land. They exchanged gifts. They sang songs and ate together. They even played soccer. And then, at the end of it all, they went back to their trenches.

In some places, the truce lasted only through the day; in others, through the New Year. But in every case, they went back to killing one another. And by the next Christmas, with another year of horror behind them, there was no truce. But for just a brief moment, we have a glimpse of what the world could be. All calm, all bright. All because Christ, the Savior, is born.

May we all carry that great truth with us throughout every day of our lives instead of thinking about it once a year before going back to business as usual.

*Bryant Perkins*

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

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