

## TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#346 He Lives

#470 Victory in Jesus

#286 Wonderful Story of Love

Scripture Reading by: Cameron Cantu

#344 Low in the Grave He Lay

**Lord's Supper and Contribution**

#648 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

**Sermon: "This Changes Everything"**

**Matthew 27:63-66**

#947 Jesus is Tenderly Calling

#300 Praise Him, Praise Him

Closing Prayer by: David Smith

Welcome by: Don Taylor

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#414 Anywhere with Jesus

#800 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy

Prayer by: Ken Coleman

#508 A Wonderful Savior

**Sermon: "One Word: Resurrection"**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

#904 Have You Been to Jesus

#615 He Keeps Me Singing

Closing Prayer by: Phillip Strickhausen

### 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 21, 2019

## *“Stand Firm in...Liberty”*

Galatians 5:1

### Because He Lives

One of the most beautiful songs in our books, in my opinion, is “Because He Lives” by Bill and Gloria Gaither. The hymn’s theme – the hope we have as Christians due to the resurrection of Jesus – comes from **John 14:19**: *Because I live, you also will live*. But as edifying as the lyrics are, I always found the second verse a bit puzzling; it just seemed out of place.

*How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still, the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain day because He lives.*

It was only when I learned the story behind the writing of the hymn that the verse made sense. Far from being misplaced, it’s probably the most meaningful of all.

The song was written in 1971, in the midst of turbulent times. Racial tensions had torn the country apart over the previous decade, resulting in riots and murders. The Vietnam War was still dragging on and was increasingly unpopular; some dodged the draft by any means necessary, and those who served returned to feel deserted by their own country. A younger generation was rejecting many of the tenets of their parents – in some cases, rightly – but went looking for answers to their questions in the wrong places, in particular new designer drugs and promiscuity.

Against that background, the Gaithers were writing and singing songs about real purpose and direction, a commitment to the lordship of Christ as the solution for a troubled world. But then that trouble hit close to home, shaking their convictions. Bill’s sister went through a devastating divorce, the first time their family had been touched with the issue; Gloria unexpectedly became pregnant with their third child only 3 months after the birth of their second, a shock both to her body and the couple; Bill contracted mononucleosis, leaving him exhausted; finally, a close friend turned on them.

# Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

## Our Sick

J. P. Williams is in Kingwood Hospital room 3312.

## Continued Prayers

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

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Jackie David, Frank & Tina Garcia, Eric Davis, Dayla Hale, Minny Owen, Doris Trahan, Willo Dean Ellis, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Tem Meigs, Phillip Cottle, Gloria McKelroy

## Shut Ins

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

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Dr. Ronald Davis, Larry Hicks, Mark Wilcox

## Our Missionaries

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

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.

## Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00pm.

## Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Don Taylor and his family on the passing of mother, Pauline Taylor. She passed away last Saturday. April 13th and the funeral was Friday.

### “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.

## New Phone Directory

We are in the process of updating our directory. Please check the list on the bulletin board to make sure your address, phone number and email are correct.

## Privilege to Serve Sunday, Apr. 21<sup>st</sup>

Communion Preparation: Barbara Pringle  
Nursery Attendants: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Communion Preparation for Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>: Marsha Rader  
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>: Debra Faneros, Melony Hicks

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The illness, discouraging family problems, and general anxiety about the world sent Bill into a deep depression. He couldn't pray. He worried about their unborn child: if the world was like this now, what would it be like for this baby down the road?

One day in early Spring, Bill's dad, George, came into the office, beckoning him and Gloria to go outside. Back in the fall, they had paved the parking lot behind the building, and he pointed them to the middle of it: there, poking up through all the layers of crushed stone, sand, and blacktop, was a tiny blade of grass. That green shoot taught a great truth, an object lesson in the power of life. Bill started to gradually feel better.

That summer, Gloria gave birth to a boy. They had not written a song for quite a while, but they felt that God had been teaching them through all of their trials: the world is not and has never been stable, but we bring life into the world because of our faith in him. Resurrection is fundamentally about God setting things right, and a life lived in the light of that hope is one that trusts God, confident that victory has already been won. And with that lesson in their hearts, the song poured out of them – the second verse first. It is the entire reason the hymn exists.

Life brings us all sorts of uncertainty. We might have anxiety about what our children will face. We might experience financial setbacks. We might lose our jobs. We might be diagnosed with a debilitating disease. We inevitably will say goodbye – at least temporarily – to those we love. But,

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*

### ***“Stand Firm in...Liberty”***

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***Bryant Perkins***