

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader /Opening Prayer by: Walden David

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Myron Bruce

- #2 We Praise Thee, O God
- #238 You are the Words and Music
- #315 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#354 I Gave My Life for Thee

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch

#23 Our God He Is Alive

Sermon: "Congratulations! You're Forgiven"

Psalm 32:1-5

- #934 Softly and Tenderly
- # Hilltops of Glory

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Bobby Rader

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Myron Bruce

#843 As the Deer

Prayer by: Phillip Strickhausen

Sermon: "Why I Choose Acappella"

- #436 Nearer, Still Nearer
- #937 I Stand in Awe

Closing Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

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

May 5, 2019

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Why Sing?

Most of us are probably familiar with Martin Luther. When you hear the name, you probably think of him first and foremost as the spark that ignited the Protestant Reformation by nailing his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg. What you might not know about Luther is that, among all the changes he made, he was responsible for reintroducing congregational singing into worship. A Jesuit priest once complained he, "has murdered more souls with his songs than with his writings and sermons." Luther himself wrote, "The Devil flees from the sound of music almost as much as from the word of God."

You see, what both Luther and his Jesuit critic realized is that singing is potent. We raise our voices to praise God and to instruct each other. That is powerful! That understanding is in part what prompted us to host "Singing with the Spirit" this weekend. We appreciate Bro. Myron Bruce coming to present it and I know that we will all grow in our appreciation of singing as we carry these lessons with us. Hopefully I will not step on his toes too much here – this article is intended to complement his work, though it is possible there will be some reduplication, since we are working from the same textbook, so to speak. But I would like for us to briefly consider what makes our congregational singing significant.

1. Singing is a way of preaching and teaching Christ. Christ is both the ground and the content of our songs as Christians. In other words, Christians sing about Christ. If we praise God, it is especially for what he has done in and through Christ. If we sing about the Holy Spirit, it is as the gift of the risen Christ. If we instruct one another, it is in the new life we live in Christ. So when we, as the body of Christ, sing about him, we are preaching Christ. Our opening song this morning makes this point emphatically: *We praise Thee, O God, for the Son of Thy love, for Jesus who died, and is now gone above. Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen!*

We often think of our singing as primarily vertical in orientation – that is, that it is directed to God. But there is a horizontal component, too, that is at least as heavily emphasized in the NT as the vertical: we are having a conversation with each other. Paul refers to *addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart* to the church in Ephesus (**Ephesians 5:19**). In the parallel passage in Colossians, there is an explicit mention of *teaching and admonishing* in song (**Colossians 3:16**). We can think of a number of songs that not only teach but admonish us. *I gave My life for thee, my precious blood I shed, that thou might'st ransomed be, and quickened from the dead; I gave, I gave My life for the, what hast thou giv'n for Me?*

Our Sick

J. P. Williams is in Liberty Health Care room 605B for rehab.

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

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

Please Join Us In Celebrating Hardin High School Graduate

Dylan Balch

**Friends and Family BBQ
Saturday, May 25th Noon-??**

Chicken, Sausage and sides
RSVP by text to 936-402-5250

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Deacons, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00pm.

Deacons meet today at 4:45 pm.

We are having a meal after morning service today in the family life center.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, May 7th at 8:00am.

Crawfish Boil Saturday, May 11th at 12:00 pm at the church pavilion. See Phillip Strickhausen for more information.

Bridal Shower

Trenton Smith and Madyson Shemehorn will be getting married in June.

Please join them for a bridal shower honoring Madysen Shemehorn, May 19, 2019 at 2 p.m. at Hardin United Methodist Church.

VBS July 8-12

Help is needed! Please be thinking how you can contribute to VBS.

The following help is needed: Teachers: 2 year old-pre/k, Kindergarten-2nd grade, & 3rd-5th grade, Teen helpers, Craft Coordinator, Outside Game Coordinator, Registration, Artist/Bible Classroom Decorators, Face Painter
If you're interested in helping, there will be a VBS meeting Sunday, May 19th after morning service.

Privilege to Serve Sunday, May 5th

Communion Preparation: Ann Rogers
Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

Communion Preparation for Sunday, May 12th: Vanessa Simmons
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, May 12th: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

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2. Singing is a confession of faith. Consider what the Hebrews writer says: *Through Him therefore let us constantly and at all times offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that thankfully acknowledge and confess and glorify His name. (Hebrews 13:15 AMP)* When we sing, we acknowledge God by praising him, telling of his mighty acts, confessing our faith in him, and expressing gratitude for what he has done for us. *There is a God, He is alive, in Him we live, and we survive; from dust our God created man, He is our God, the great I Am.* These songs of praise and adoration pay tribute to our God. They are a spiritual sacrifice, one of the offerings that replaces those of the Law of Moses.

3. Singing exemplifies the unity of the church. Raising our voices together expresses and symbolizes that we are all one people of God, *that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:6).* Not only does our singing express that we are united to the Lord and each other, it actually helps to accomplish unity. There's a reason why schools, clubs, and even nations have songs: they create a sense of solidarity, reinforcing who we are and what we believe. Consider a song we sang last night that inspires that dedication. *I'm not ashamed to own my Lord, nor to defend his cause; maintain the honors of His Word, the glory of his cross.*

4. Singing involves the whole person. It involves our spirits and our minds (**1 Corinthians 14:26**). It involves words with the heart (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16**) and the lips (**Hebrews 13:15**). So our minds, hearts, and speech organs – the intellect, the emotions, and the physical self – are all involved in singing. The tongue is the instrument, created by God, on which he is praised from the heart. It is a reminder of our complete and total dedication to him. *You are the words and the music. You are the song that I sing. You are the melody, You are the harmony, praise to Your name I will bring. You are the Lord of lords, You are the mighty God, You are the King of all kings. So now I give back to You the songs that You gave to me, You are the song that I sing.*

May we all feel a deeper appreciation for the songs we sing. May our singing be a blessing to us and a pleasing offering to God.

For these doctrinal points, I am heavily indebted to Everett Ferguson, "The Church of Christ: A Biblical Ecclesiology for Today."

Bryant Perkins

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

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