

TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Ken Coleman

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

- #23 Our God, He Is Alive
#738 Take the Name of Jesus with You
#841 Hide Me, O My Savior
#742 When Upon Life's Billows
- → → **Medley**

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary

#361 Nailed to the Cross

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#827 Sweet Hour of Prayer

Sermon: "No One Cares For My Soul"

Psalm 142

- #948 I Am Resolved
#875 Home of the Soul

Closing Prayer by: Chris Young

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

- #610 I Love My Savior, Too
#837 I Need Thee Every Hour

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen

Opening Prayer: Don Taylor

#332 Lead Me to Calvary

Sermon: "One Word: Father"

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

- #317 Heaven Came Down
#622 Ring Out the Message

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

June 23, 2019

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

You Never Mentioned Him to Me

So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. (Ezekiel 33:7-8)

James Rowe is one of the more prolific composers featured in our hymnals, and yet most of us have probably not heard of him. He was born in Devonshire and worked for the Irish government before immigrating to the United States in his late 20s. Eventually he became a full-time writer, composing hymns and editing music journals for publishers in Tennessee and Texas. Among his best-known works are, "Home of the Soul," "Ring Out the Message," Redeemed," and "Love Lifted Me."

My favorite composition of his is unfortunately not featured in our current songbook, though it has frequently appeared in hymnals in the past. I seldom have heard it sung in other congregations even when in the book, but I imagine that many of us know it. It is entitled, "You Never Mentioned Him to Me," and it speaks directly to the concept that emerges from the text in Ezekiel above.

*When in the better land before the bar we stand,
How deeply grieved our souls will be;
If any lost one there should cry in deep despair,
"You never mentioned Him to me."*

The song pictures Judgment Day, as we stand ready to hear our fate pronounced. But before our appearance at the bench, another is condemned to eternal death. He cries out an accusation toward us, expanded on in the chorus:

*"You never mentioned Him to me,
You helped me not the light to see;
You met me day by day and knew I was astray,
Yet never mentioned Him to me."*

Our Sick

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

Bill Lunceford is in Magnolia Place Health Care room 606 for rehab.

Jo Ella McKewen is in Bayshore Hospital.

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, 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

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday at 7:00 pm.

Early Bird Singing, today at 5:00 pm.

VBS is July 8-11th from 9:00am to 11:30 am. Make your plans to attend. The theme this year is "The Faith Force of Godly Living". Ages 2-6th grade. Invite your friends to come and have fun learning.

Help Wanted: Primetimers

We need a volunteer to step up to organize this work for our more mature members (age 55 and up). The primary duty involves planning the monthly meal together either at a local restaurant or the church building. If you are interested, please contact the church office and/or the elders.

VBS Signs

VBS yard signs are in and in the fellowship room. Please take one or two and put them in your yard.

Plastic Bags

The Food Bank is in need of plastic grocery bags. A barrel is in the foyer.

Communion Preparation: Jane Tinkle

Nursery Attendants: Debra Faneros, Melony Hicks

Communion Preparation for Sunday, June 30th: Rita Upton

Nursery Attendants for Sunday, June 30th: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

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That is a harrowing thought – and, perhaps, that is why the song is sung so infrequently. It makes us uncomfortable. But the hymn isn't intended to make us feel guilty about our shortcomings in talking about Jesus as an end in itself; that traumatic scene is designed to motivate us to avoid such a possibility. Notice the second and third verses:

*O let us spread the word where'er it may be heard,
Help groping souls the light to see,
That yonder none may say, "You showed me not the way,
You never mentioned Him to me."*

*A few sweet words may guide a lost one to his side,
Or turn sad eyes on Calvary;
So work as days go by, that yonder none may cry,
"You never mentioned Him to me."*

The song reminds us that we are watchmen. Scripture charges us to take the good news about Jesus to others, to sow the seed. Now, we know that not all soil is fertile; the responsibility to respond to the gospel lies with the hearers, not with us. As Ezekiel continues, *But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. (Ezekiel 33:9)* Our charge is to be faithful – to plant and water, but to leave the growth to God (cf. **1 Corinthians 3:6-7**).

I have occasionally encountered objections to this song from those who do not appreciate poetic license – Scripture never indicates anything like this can or will happen at Judgment. Perhaps not. But the imagery reminds us of what is happening in reality every day of our lives. If we are faithful to our commission, whether we are successful in our efforts or not, this hymn should be an encouragement. But if we are not, songs like this should be a powerful appeal to redouble our efforts. Which is it for us?

"Stand Firm in...Liberty"

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