TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#744 God's Family
#589 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch

#878 Sweet By and By

Lord's Supper and Contribution

Why Did My Savior Come to Earth?

Sermon: "A Song of Thanksgiving: Psalm 23"
Psalm 23

Let Him Have His Way with Thee

#945 Kneel at the Cross

Closing Prayer by: James Scott

Welcome by: Daniel Balch

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#112 Wonderful Grace of Jesus
#535 The Glory-Land Way

Scripture Reading: Tristan Strickhausen
Opening Prayer: Bobby Rader
#453 Love Lifted me

Sermon: "One Word: Propitiation"
Romans 3:23-26

#313 The Old Rugged Cross
#947 Jesus Is Tenderly Calling

Closing Prayer: Brooks McKelroy

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

Nov. 17, 2019

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Count Your Blessings

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **(1 Thess 5:18)**

Paul exhorts us to give thanks to God regardless of our circumstances in life. But that's hard. Sometimes conditions are less than ideal; at other times, they're downright bad. We all feel overwhelmed by life at times. In those instances, we are so close to our own problems that we think they must be greater than anyone else's. It seems impossible to carry such a heavy burden. Even so, we are encouraged to look for something for which to be thankful. How can we do that?

Johnson Oatman was born in 1856 near Medford, New Jersey. His father happened to have a rich, powerful voice, widely regarded as the best in town; young Johnson delighted to sit next to him and hear him sing the songs of the church. He could never sing as well as his father, but he longed to make some musical contribution of his own. He was ordained to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church in his 20s, all the while working side by side with the old man in the family business.

But at 36, he realized that he did have musical talent after all: he had a gift for writing songs. So he began writing, hundreds every year, totaling more than 5,000 by the time of his death in 1922. Through these, though never more than a bivocational local minister, he spread the gospel to literally millions of people. Some of his hymns are classics we still sing today: "No Not One (There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus);" "Higher Ground." But perhaps his best known song is "Count Your Blessings." This was the favorite of my great-grandfather, not because of its tune or its poetic language, but because of the message it conveys. That message is powerful and worthy of reflection.

It is imperative to notice what this song does **not** say. It is not a denial that we are having problems. It does not mean to have a stiff upper lip and everything will be alright. The song frankly acknowledges that those trials are real, confronting them rather than ignoring them.

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged thinking all is lost…

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Derrick Loften is at home and doing better.

Phillip Cottle is having surgery in the next week.

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, Doris Trahan, Joe Edd Stifflemire, J. P. Williams

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

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

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 meeting Monday, Nov. 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Early Bird Singing today at 5:00 p.m.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Thursday, Nov. 21st at 8:00 a.m.

Nursery Help Needed

If you are interested in helping in the nursery during worship service, please let Barbara Cantu know. We are working on a new schedule for next year and it will be mailed out in December.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Doyle Owen and his family on the death of his mother, Minny Owen. She passed away Wednesday. Funeral arrangements are pending.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for all the cards, calls and prayers during Derrick's stay in the hospital. They were very much appreciated.
In Christ,
Derrick & Tacy Loften

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Privilege to Serve
Sunday, Nov 17th

Communion Preparation: Marsha LaFour
Nursery Attendants: Marsha Rader, Lynette Ward

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Nov. 24th: Susan McCain
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Nov 24th: Tania Balch, Pat Hobbs

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Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?

Instead, we are encouraged to look to God in the midst of those problems. That does not mean they will automatically cease to exist. As the last verse sums it up:

So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;

It is easy to become preoccupied with our problems. A sore toe or a toothache dominates the whole body. It's a small part, and it may not even be seriously injured. But it makes us forget about all of the more intricate parts of the body that are functioning normally and concentrate on the minor hurt. A flat tire immobilizes an entire car. It may be a new car, even an expensive car, but if it has a flat tire it will not go.

The same principle applies in other areas. The news that we hear and read, day and night, emphasizes the problems of our society to the point that we often feel overwhelmed. Advertising emphasizes what we do not have. Surfing the internet or watching television leaves us with the feeling that what we already own is out of date, old fashioned, and inadequate

The point simply is that it is quite easy for us to focus our lives on what we do not have, or on weighty decisions that are on our shoulders, or problems which press upon us, to the exclusion of the things that we do have and the blessings of our lives. If we allow our focus of life to be on the negative, we will constantly be unhappy and miserable.

Our problems may be real; our needs may be legitimate. We dare not minimize them. But how has God blessed us? What has he done in our lives? Consider not only the physical blessings, but the even greater spiritual ones. If we count those, even in the midst of our troubles, *it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

Bryant Perkins