TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Bobby Rader /Opening Prayer by: Robert Ward

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#214 Have You Seen Jesus, My Lord?
#47 Holy, Holy, Holy

Scripture Reading by: Joseph Girard

#902 Nothing But the Blood of Jesus

Lord's Supper and Contribution

#238 You Are the Song That I Sing

Sermon: "By Invitation of Jesus"
Luke 14:7-14

#517 Heaven Came Down

#966 Amen

Closing Prayer by: Andre Jones

Welcome by: Bobby Rader

Evening Assembly Song Leader: Michael Simmons

#417 Where He Lead's I'll Follow
#719 Love One Another

Scripture Reading: Brooks McKelroy
Opening Prayer: Wayne Noonkester
#852 When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

Sermon: "One Word: Atonement"
Isaiah 53:1-5

#349 Ten Thousand Angels
#875 Home of the Soul

Closing Prayer: Tristan 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

Dec. 1, 2019

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 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 among those with whom he is pleased!" **(Luke 2:8-14)**

Edmund Hamilton Sears was born on April 6, 1810 in Sandisfield, Massachusetts. After graduating from Harvard Divinity School in 1837, he began to serve in Unitarian churches in Massachusetts. He worked with the congregation in Wayland before moving on to a larger church in Lancaster. After 7 years of work there, he suffered a breakdown and returned to Wayland, where he served as a part-time preacher.

At Christmas of 1849, Sears was greatly troubled by the state of the world. The recent US-Mexican War was fresh in his mind. There was news of revolution in Europe. Tensions were increasing between North and South, which finally erupted into Civil War only about a decade later. He was distressed because the message of the angelic chorus, of "peace on earth, goodwill to men" seemed to be completely unheeded.

In response, he wrote "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear," one of the earliest Christmas carols written in the United States. Some accounts say that it was sung by church members in his home on Christmas Eve; others, that he composed it for the Sunday School of the Unitarian church in nearby Quincy. At any rate, it was published on December 29 of that year in the *Christian Register* in Boston and has been included in virtually every hymnal produced since the late 19th century.

It is somewhat surprising that a Unitarian would write a text about the events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Today, the Unitarian Universalist Association does not even consider itself to be a Christian group, drawing influences from other world religions as well as humanism. Though

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Derrick Loften is at home and doing better.

Larry Hicks is in Rollingbrook Rehabilitation in Baytown.

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

Deacons meet today at 4:45 p.m.

Elders, Deacons, Minister meeting Monday, Dec. 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Dec 3rd at 8:00 a.m.

Teen Year End Party on Saturday, Dec. 7th at 5:00 p.m. at the Perkins' house. Bring a gift under $10.00.

Primetimers will be having a Potluck meal on Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 6:30 p.m. Followed by a gift exchange and a great time. Gifts no more then $10 please. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.

The Year End Party is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 15th after evening service. More information to come.

Gift Basket Assembly, Saturday, Dec. 14th at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship room. See Abbey Perkins for more information.

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.

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575
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Privilege to Serve
Sunday, Dec. 1st

Communion Preparation: Gloria McKelroy
Nursery Attendants: Jane Tinkle, Rita Upton

Communion Preparation for Sunday, Dec. 8th:: Jennifer McKelroy
Nursery Attendants for Sunday, Dec. 8th: Debra Faneros, Melony Hicks

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both of its predecessor organizations emerged from professing Christian denominations, (the Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church), even in the 19th century, Unitarians were highly unorthodox. But Sears always believed and taught the Divinity of Christ, even writing a book on the Gospel of John.

In response to concerns about that background, however, some editions have rewritten the final verse to make it more explicitly Christian, noting that the text never actually refers directly to Jesus. The original lyrics reference the age to come, *When peace shall over all the earth, its ancient splendors fling/And the whole world give back the song, which now the angels sing.* Many times now you will find that first line written instead as *When the new Heaven and Earth shall own, the Prince of Peace their King*.

While well-intentioned, this ignores the context of the passage in **Luke** which proclaims the angel song: they are singing about peace on earth precisely because *unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* Jesus defeated all the dark powers of this world amassed against him, showing that their ultimate weapon, death, no longer has any power over him or his people. Even if peace does not reign now, one day it will, when God makes all things new. This hymn, then, causes us to not only look back to the birth of our Lord, but to look forward to his glorious return and the eternal Kingdom of God.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord… The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. **(Isaiah 11:1-2, 6-9)**

Bryant Perkins