TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Morning Assembly Song Leader: Bryant Perkins

#797 Lord, We Come Before Thee Now
#432 How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts?

Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch
Night, with Ebon Pinion
Lord's Supper and Contribution

In Christ Alone
#869 We're Marching to Zion
Sermon by: Guest Speaker : Tim Perkins
Kindness
Ephesians 4:31-32

#911 Bring Christ Your Broken Life
#702 Fellowship Medley

Closing Prayer by: Wayne Noonkester

We will not be having evening service tonight.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

Sunday: 9:00am — Bible Study Classes, 10:00am — Worship, 5:00pm — Worship
Wednesday: 6:30pm — Bible Study Classes

October 24, 2021

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Blest Be the Tie

John Fawcett was an 18th century British preacher, theologian, and hymn writer. He was born in Lidget Green, Yorkshire in 1739 to impoverished parents; by the age of 12, he was an orphan. He was then apprenticed to a tailor in the city of Bradford, where he worked long, hard hours. But in his spare time, he learned to read, eventually completing John Bunyan's devotional classic *Pilgrim's Progress.*

A short time later, at 16 years old, he was alongside about 20,000 others in an open field to hear the great Methodist revivalist George Whitfield preach. Under his influence, Fawcett determined to become a preacher himself, allegedly securing Whitfield's blessing. After initially joining the Methodist church, he became a Baptist 3 years later.

In 1765, Fawcett accepted a call to serve the Wainsgate Baptist Church in West Yorkshire, far in the north of England. The situation there was typical of many in rural districts in that day. The hymnologist Albert Bailey describes the congregation: "The people were all farmers and shepherds, poor as Job's turkey; an uncouth lot whose speech one could hardly understand, unable to read or write; most of them pagans cursed with vice and ignorance and wild tempers. The Established Church had never touched them; only the humble Baptists had sent an itinerant preacher there and he had made a good beginning." But Fawcett and his wife, Mary, set to work; through their efforts in engaging families door-to-door, the church eventually grew to the point that the humble meetinghouse had to be enlarged.

Nevertheless, times were hard, and the community was poor. The church could only afford to pay him a meager salary—25 pounds, the equivalent of perhaps $10,000 today—supplemented with donations of wool and potatoes and such. Meanwhile, over the course of the next 7 years, the Fawcett family grew to include 4 children; the situation seemed to be untenable. And when the large and influential Carter's Lane Baptist Church in London came calling, with a salary to match their prestige, it only made good sense for him to accept.

The announcement was made to the church and a farewell sermon was preached. On the day of their scheduled departure, the members of the congregation all gathered around the wagon, loaded down with their belongings; men, women, and children openly wept at their parting. It was more than Mary could endure: "John, I cannot bear to leave. I know not how to go!" Fawcett replied, "Lord help me Mary, nor can I stand it! We will unload the wagon." They told the crowd that they had changed their minds and to unpack their things, at which point joyous chaos broke out through the crowd.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Virginia Cole, Glenda Wiggins' sister, is recovering from a broken leg and a broken elbow.

Gary Nielsen will be meeting with a transplant team on Nov. 2nd.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Gwen Pettit, Gary Nielsen, Harold & Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Frank & Tina Garcia, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Winston Leifester, Caitlin Smith, Jo Ann Modisette, Ka'Leisha Jones, Mike Little, Jackie David, Oscar Cantu

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh

Our Missionaries

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

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, Oct. 25th at 5:30 p.m.

We will have a Houston Food Bank truck on Tuesday, Nov. 2nd at 8:00 a.m.

Homecoming today. We will have a meal after morning service. The meal will be catered and we need to provide desserts.

Baby Shower for Ellie Vazquez on Sunday, Nov. 14th from 2-4 p.m. She is registered at babylist.com.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Daniel Balch	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Danny Balch	
Don Taylor	Phillip Strickhausen	
Robert Ward		

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"
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Out of genuine love, Fawcett stayed and ministered to those people until he died, some 45 years later. But his most lasting legacy is the hymn he wrote in response to these events, first published under the title "Brotherly Love":

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

This glorious hope revives
our courage by the way;
while each in expectation lives
and waits to see the day.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin, we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

Today, we celebrate our 84th annual Homecoming, prompted by this same spirit of Christian love that binds us together. Thank you for joining us. May God bless you.

Bryant Perkins