TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch/Opening Prayer by: Jerry Mallernee
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#867 To Canaan's Land
#742 When Upon Life's Billows
Scripture Reading by: Parker Balch
#509 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
Communion Devotional by: Jerry Mallernee
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#480 Blessed Assurance
Sermon: "Perfect Timing"
Acts 27

#924 Just As I Am
#881 Mansion Over the Hilltop
Closing Prayer by: Walden David

Tonight is our
3rd Sunday Evening
Singing

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

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

Dec. 18, 2022

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

For Unto Us a Child is Born

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
Isaiah 9:6-7

Abbey and I went to see the Houston Symphony's "Very Merry Pops" earlier this week. They put this show on every year at Christmas—always with different music, of course—and it is enjoyable every time.

Another show they perform annually in December, like many symphonies, is Handel's "Messiah," in particular part one, which covers the prophecies of Jesus' birth up to the event itself. The best-known section of the work as a standalone piece is probably the "Hallelujah Chorus," which actually appears in our hymnals. But the other bit you might have heard independently on some Christmas albums comes directly from the text in Isaiah quoted above: "For unto us a child is born."

Isaiah says that *unto us a son is given.* Consider the significance of that word "given": seven hundred years before it happened, Isaiah said Jesus would be a special gift from God to us. Isn't that precisely what **John 3:16** says?

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

Gary Nielsen is in Methodist Hospital.

J. C. Whitfield, Gayle Coleman's sister, will be having gall bladder surgery soon.

Gayle Coleman will be having a MRI on her knee Monday and eye surgery on Friday.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Geri Cryer, Steve Ward, Oscar Cantu, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ka'Leisha Jones, Linda Frank, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Susan McCain

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, Myrtle Sheffield, Catherine Parker, Peggy McIntosh, Lois Watts, Willo Dean Ellis

Our Missionaries

Aaron & Marisa Bailey in Montepuez, Mozambique , Rod Kyle in the South Pacific

Upcoming Activities

Elders, Minister meeting Monday, Dec. 19th at 5:30 p.m..

Primetimers will have a Christmas party on Tuesday, Dec. 20th at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship room. Bring a $10 gift to exchange. It will be a potluck dinner.

Everyone is invited to go caroling on Tuesday Dec. 20th at 5:00 p.m. For more information see Daniel Balch.

We will **not** have Bible class on Sunday, Dec. 25th. We will have our regular service at 10:00 a.m. and no evening service.

Elders	Deacons	Minister
Ken Coleman	Zach Arthur	Bryant Perkins
Bobby Rader	Daniel Balch	
Don Taylor	Danny Balch	
Robert Ward	Walden David	
	Gus Tristan	

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

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In **Acts 4,** Peter and John have just healed the lame man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. A huge crowd gathered in response, and they used the opportunity to preach Jesus. That greatly annoyed the chief priests, who had them arrested and held an inquisition, demanding to know by what authority this was done. Peter boldly declared it was by Jesus' authority: *In no one else can salvation be found. For in all the world no other name has been given to men but this, and it is by this name that we must be saved!* (**Acts 4:12 Phillips**)

In **2 Corinthians 9**, Paul is writing about human gifts. The church in Corinth is taking up offerings to send to the poor saints in Jerusalem, and he commends them for their eagerness to help, reminding them that those who sow sparingly will also reap sparingly, but that those who sow bountifully will reap bountifully. That prompts him to expound upon the way that God so generously blesses us until he comes to his greatest gift: sending Jesus to earth for us. Words fail to fully express that! So Paul abruptly exclaims, *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!* **(2 Cor 9:15)**

Musicians have composed some of their greatest music on this theme, from Handel to some of the most beautiful hymns we know: "Joy to the World," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Silent Night." Poets, painters, and sculptors have all taken up the tools of their trade to pay tribute to Jesus, the gift of God's love. Ultimately, it is indescribable; it is wonderful beyond our ability to convey it.

But what is most important for us to remember is that God has given it to us. God has, in fact, given himself to us. And we ought not to only remember that for a few weeks in December every year. That is what calls us together week by week. To us, a child is born; to us, a son is given. *Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord* (**Lk 2:11).** Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Bryant Perkins