TODAY'S ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome by: Daniel Balch / Opening Prayer by: Bobby Rader
Morning Assembly Song Leader: Danny Balch

#480 Blessed Assurance
#144 O Worship the King

Scripture Reading by: Rock Cary
Communion Devotional by: Robert Ward

#214 Have You Seen Jesus My Lord
Lord's Supper and Contribution

#300 Praise Him! Praise Him!
Sermon: "People of the Nativity: Mary"
Luke 1:26-38

#904 Have You Been to Jesus?
#738 Take the Name of Jesus with You
Closing Prayer by: Gus Tristan

Our Small Groups will meet tonight.
Bobby Rader's group will meet
at the building at 5:00 p.m.

Other Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

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

Dec. 10, 2023

"Stand Firm in…Liberty"

Galatians 5:1

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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. **(Luke 2:8-10)**

Charles Wesley was born in 1707 in Epworth, Lincolnshire, England, the 18th child of Samuel and Susana Wesley. His father was a rector in the Church of England, and his mother's father was a minister as well. Susana in particular had a profound influence on her children: in each case, the day after their fifth birthday, they began schooling under her instruction. They were expected to learn the alphabet by the end of the first day. All of the children learned Greek and Latin as well as the traditional classical studies.

More importantly, she educated them spiritually. She taught all of them to read primarily using Scripture as the textbook. On one occasion, Susana and Samuel were separated for over a year due to a dispute they were having. She wrote to her estranged husband, *I am a woman, but I am also the mistress of a large family…in your long absence I cannot but look upon every soul you leave under my charge as a talent committed to me under a trust. I am not a man nor a minister, yet as a mother and a mistress I felt I ought to do more than I had yet done. I resolved to begin with my own children…I take such a proportion of time as I can spare every night to discourse with each child apart.*

Charles took these lessons to heart. He attended Oxford University, where he and some like-minded students formed a prayer group in 1727. Two years later his older brother, John, joined, quickly becoming the leader of the club. They primarily focused on Bible study and living holy lives. Other students mocked them, calling them the "Holy Club" or "Methodists" because of their systematic study and disciplined lifestyle.

Family News & Notes

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Our Sick

May Belle Sibley is in HCA Hospital in Conroe. She is in room 116.

Continued Prayers
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Steve Ward, Oscar Cantu, Caitlin Smith, Virginia Cole, Ken Coleman, Joe Edd Stifflemire, Donna Wilson, Patricia Prater, Edna Semien, Betty Spencer, Willie Spencer, James Wilson, Jo Ella McKewen, Kelly McCain, Wayne Noonkester

Shut Ins
(Need cards, phone calls & visits)

Jim Smith, Winona Angelle, 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. 11th at 5:30 p.m.

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

Gift Bags

We will be delivering our goodie bags as a group and caroling on Sunday, December 17. This is intended for all youth and for any adults who would like to participate. Please meet at the church building at 5 pm.

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"
is the weekly bulletin of the Liberty Church of Christ 3201 North Main, Liberty Texas 77575
Office Phone Number (936) 336-2213; Fax (936) 334-8280;
Minister's (Bryant Perkins) Cell Phone Number (903)407-5737
Website: libertycofc.org Facebook page: Liberty Church of Christ

After graduating, Charles was ordained in the Church of England. He and John went on a mission to the American colonies to evangelize Native Americans in Georgia. This was unsuccessful, and the Wesleys returned to England after less than a year. John and their friend and fellow-member of the Holy Club, George Whitefield, soon began to preach in the outdoors to ordinary people in urban areas, sparking a great spiritual revival in England.

Charles contributed primarily by beginning to write hymns. In total, he composed some 6,500 over the course of his life. While many of those have, of course, faded into obscurity, it is remarkable how many are timeless classics: "Soldiers of Christ, Arise," "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing" and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," among others. Convinced that, as Paul put it, we are *teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs* **(Colossians 3:16),** he utilized these to instruct the crowds in London, Liverpool, and Birmingham every bit as much as the preaching did.

We normally think of "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" as a Christmas carol. But like so many hymns written by Wesley, it is full of biblical doctrine in nearly every line. The first verse tells the story of the angels' announcement to the shepherds watching their flocks. But consider the verses you have probably heard but not given too much thought to, because we do not know them so well:

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold him come,
Offpsring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel!

Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Here we have such important truths as the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, and the resurrection taught. Wesley's hymns are not only beautiful and stirring; they educate and edify, as all hymns should. May we all give greater attention to the words that we sing in our worship to God.

Bryant Perkins