

Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Doors



Handley

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Gifts & Presence Sunday, August 19, 2018

Total Worship.....51
Total Sunday School.....19
Budget\$2390



Sunday Hymn selections from you continue this week!!

Bruce's Bible Study

This week we continue to look at the history of Christian worship (and music!), explaining why we do what we do in our services. Last week I noted that we first begin to know what music sounded like from what used to be called "Gregorian" chant (plain chant is the preferred name today, since there were several different families, of which Gregorian [Roman] was only one). It was the singers of chant who began to develop a system of musical notation that has enabled us to know what music actually sounded like, although it had been around for centuries, with no notation system available. In Europe, things really began to take off with "church music" in the 10th and 11th centuries, with two or more lines of music instead of one (regarded as terribly radical back then). In the 14th century, the French composer Guillaume de Machaut was the first to set the text of the Roman Catholic mass (their worship service) to music (it's available on CD today), and he marked the beginning of lots of church music coming from northern France and Burgundy (which is now part of France, of course, but it wasn't then). There are recordings of this music around, and some of it sounds rather weird to us---sort of hollow, with just about no rhythm except for the rhythm of the words). If you're interested, listen to some of the music of Dufay or Ockeghem (who was Flemish). The Franco-Flemish-Burgundian school of music was very important all the way up into the 16th century, and sometimes people came to church just to hear the music. To be honest, worship had become sort of a "spectator sport" for lots of people even apart from the music, since the priests "did everything" while the congregation watched or joined in the [Latin] responses, which many didn't understand. As the Renaissance era developed, there were some magnificent composers in England, Spain, and Italy, in addition to the Franco-Flemish Burgundian school, and it was even easier for worship to become a spectator sport, sort of like going to a concert. By the way, I have lots of CD's of music from this era! Composers like Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (Italy), Thomas Tallis (England), Orlando di Lasso (Belgian by birth), and Tomas Luis de Victoria (Spain) wrote some really fantastic stuff. .

The problem: when worship becomes a "spectator sport" it loses some of its spiritual importance. This is one reason why Augustine (d. 430) was suspicious of music in church (although he loved music), and why John Calvin insisted that all church music should be sung by the congregation

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in unison, lest people be distracted from the words by the beauty of the music. Now, I bring this up because we still have this problem today; some people love to be "entertained" by the music in worship. Don't get me wrong; I love good music, and I can understand the great excitement it can generate, but if it becomes an end in itself, it may frustrate the purpose of worship. I've been in terrific, lively, worship services and have been blessed by them--but I've also been in very quiet, reflective services (applause-free) that were immensely moving and that made it very easy to concentrate on what worship was all about. My two favorite examples are the 2 wonderful Christmas Eve services I was able to attend at Kings College Chapel--itself a worship experience, with its superb stained glass and wonderful Gothic architecture--at the University of Cambridge, England. It is very reverential and often quiet, but they left me awash with tears both times and wanting to pray! Now, I'm not an either/or person----I'm a both/and person, and as long as the text is a good one and is understood by the hearers/performers, I can say, "Go for it!" Do you remember the old lady in the Wendy's hamburgers commercials back in the 1980's; she said, "WHERE'S THE BEEF?" That's what I'm after in church music! But I have serious problems (I'm being honest) about the worship-as-entertainment syndrome; it should be a lot more. I have spoken!

More next week.

Bruce

Regular Needs for Eastside Community Assistance

For Families:

**Canned Fruit
Pasta**

Baby Items:

Diapers, Baby Formula

Homeless & Family Food:

**Small Pull-top Meats &
Drinks, Canned Fruit,
Snacks, Mac & Cheese**

Clothing Items:

Men's Shoes

**Children's items:
including Infant 0-18 mos.
Towels & Sheets**

Feminine Hygiene:

Pads or Tampons

Other Items:

**Powdered Laundry Soap
Quart Zip-lock Bags**

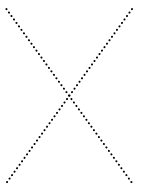


We haven't set the date, but please be thinking about bringing nice items or gift baskets for silent bidding. There will be a quilt, too!

Handley Happenings

August 20, 2018

2929 Forest Ave
Ft. Worth, Texas 76112



Address Service Requested

Church Office: 817-451-4321
Church Fax: 817-446-4013

Handley United Methodist Church

www.handleyumc.org
handleyumc@sbcglobal.net

Meetings & Events Schedule



August 22
Wonderful Wednesday Lunch

August 28
Mail Out Newsletter
& Calendar

August 29
Backpack Buddies???
Wonderful Wednesday Lunch



September 2
Communion set-up by
Choirs

September 3
Office Closed for
Labor Day
No Police Captains' meeting

September 5
Backpack Buddies
Wonderful Wednesday Lunch

September 10
Handley Neighborhood Assoc.

September 11
Mail Out Newsletter

Usher Schedule

08/26—Nedia Dryden's Group
09/02—Mike Williams' Group

Sunday's Service:

"The Full Armor of God"
Ephesians 6:10-20

