

W
 The
 Westworth
 Word



WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord. If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Your prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. At the close of service, please put your card in the contribution box at the front of the auditorium as you exit. Or you can hand it to any member.

During the service we will celebrate communion. (Sacraments are available on the table in the entry foyer.) This is a time that we partake of unleavened bread and juice from the fruit of the vine to remind us what Jesus has done for us. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is the source of our hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.

Address: 5728 White Settlement Road
 Westworth Village, TX 76114

Office Phone: 817-738-7536

Services: Sunday 10:00 am

Bible Study: Wednesday 7:00 pm

Website: www.westworthcoc.org

Email: Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net

Facebook Group: Westworth Church of Christ

Trustees: Curtis Dunson, Randy Fetters, Brian Flaherty,
 Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson

Minister: John Jewell **Email** johnjewell96@att.net

- **Women's Bible Study (virtual)** —PAUSED until after the holidays
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The Christmas Slave

When one thinks about candidates for the honor, or horror, of being the Christmas slave one might think of St. Nick. Almost everything we know about St. Nicholas is legend. He saved three Greek girls from becoming prostitutes. He dropped one bag of gold through their window on three consecutive nights thereby giving their father a dowery for each. Such was the beginning of Santa Claus. A fine act but does not make him a slave.

Maybe, we think we are slaves to Christmas. Presents seem to be expected if not required to have peace in the family. The same goes for the decorations, and the family Christmas meal. When you stand back and look at the cost in time and money it would be easy to equate Christmas with bondage. However, a slave loses the power to choose. So, when you peel back the cultural expectations we can still choose. We can control the amount we spend, whether we go or stay, and if we celebrate at all. That is not slavery.

Since I have been trying to look at slavery through the lens of the scripture, I came across this passage.

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. Luke 1:38 NASB

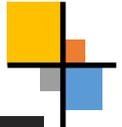
The word translated as "bondslave," doulee, is the Greek word for female slave. After learning exactly what slavery meant Mary's statement made me shiver. She sacrificed all of her future hopes and dreams for the uncertainty of tomorrow. Would they stone her? What would Joseph do? God did not say everything would be all right. Before this conversation she was young and engaged facing an honorable future with a good husband. She had visions of her children growing up and presenting her with many grandchildren. Her future was bright. When she surrendered to God, however, she lost her freedom, and her dreams of the future. The care and protection of God's son would become the primary focus of her life. That she was God's slave was probably to some extent comforting, but Moses was God's servant and the

Israelites wanted to stone him. So, on second thought being God’s servant could be unhealthy. Her first problem was that she was an unmarried pregnant teenager, and according to the law she should have been stoned to death. We know how the story ended, but she did not. She was living the story. As far as we know God only spoke to Mary once. He did not communicate with her again. It is interesting to note that God communicated with Joseph three times (Mt.1:20-23, 2:13, 2:20). That is appropriate since Joseph was the head of the family.

This makes me feel sorry for Mary. God told her she was having His son, and then silence, silence, and more silence. But this shows the strength of Mary’s commitment and faith in God. She consented to change the course of her life on a conversation that lasted less than ninety seconds. God’s dreams became her dreams. That is the unwavering faith of the Christmas Slave.

She is my new hero in Faith. She did not make one request. She just said “yes” to God. Perhaps that should be our attitude as well. Just say “yes” to God without reservation, not focusing on our future success, or wellbeing. Instead focus on His will for our lives.

David Keller



Celebrate

December Birthdays

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---|----------------|--------|
| Joe Campbell | Dec 1 |  | Darla Thornton | Dec 25 |
| Bill Belich | Dec 3 | | Christy Snell | Dec 26 |
| Curtis Thompson | Dec 4 | | Jack Lisle | Dec 29 |
| David Burris | Dec 24 | | | |

December Anniversaries



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|---------------------|--------|
| Bob & Betty Lane | Dec 23 |
| Max & Nita Parker | Dec 25 |
| Bill & Sherry Jones | Dec 30 |

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

| Date | Today— December 26 |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Open | David Keller |
| Usher | Bill Jones |
| Songs/Close | Curtis Dunson |
| Communion | John Jewell |
| Prayer | Mike Lisle |
| Bible Story | Max Lisle |
| Reading | Andy Jewell |
| Lesson/Sermon | TBD |
| A/V | Christi Kreger |

COMING WEEKS

| Date | Jan 2 | Jan 9 | Jan 16 |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Open | Curtis Thompson | Brian Flaherty | Curtis Dunson |
| Usher | Brian Flaherty | Eric Kreger | Eric Kreger |
| Songs/Close | Eric Kreger | Samuel Flaherty | Christian Lindsey |
| Communion | Bill Jones | Mike Lisle | Johnny Box |
| Prayer | Ernie Brawley | David Keller | Max Lisle |
| Bible Story | Curtis Dunson | Curtis Thompson | Eric Kreger |
| Reading | James Kreger | Andy Jewell | Marty Montgomery |
| Lesson | John Jewell | John Jewell | TBD |
| A/V | Susan Flaherty | Randy Fetters | Christi Kreger |

Communion Preparation January: Janice Stanfield

If you have updated address, phone or email info please note on 3x5 and place in designated box in North foyer. Thank You.