

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 14, 2025

Song: **379** – Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Song: **7** – All Things Bright and Beautiful

First prayer: **Shane Upton**

Song: **922** – My Jesus I Love Thee

Communion servers: **Brian Zumalt & Mark Brandt**

Prayer for giving: **Mernie Ray**

Song: **86** – Savior, Like a Shepherd

Sermon: "From Heaven or of Men?" – **Jerry Brewer**

Invitation song: **446** – While We Pray, and While We Plead

Closing song: **568** – Take the Name of Jesus with You

Closing prayer: **Chrishawn Thompson**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Jerry – biopsy results
- Tony Lopez, Starlyn Cooper, Carmen Lawson, Kim Nguyen – cancer
- Brian & Kim (health issues)
- Marjorie Trammel (Alyssa's friend) – cancer
- Shane, Alyssa, & Addison – adoption process
- Kevin Lively (Mark's friend)
- Mernie's sisters-in-law: Kathy Ray (eyesight) and Fannie Ray
- Kim's cousin's son (Isaac Wood) – hole in heart caused by stroke (upcoming surgery)
- Our members with health issues: Kim, David

Please continue to remember: Connie Townsend, Lucinda, Vipin & family, India work, Aruna Kavali, Marinda Breeding, Holley Brewer, Kevin Brewer, Dylan Walker

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- "Precept Upon Precept" is a YouTube channel with many sermons/articles from faithful brethren (www.youtube.com/@preceptuponprecept8495)

RECORD FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 7, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Bible Class – 11 AM Worship – 11 Sun PM – 9 DBR – 5 Wed (12/10) – 12

Contribution – \$1525

Yukon Church of Christ

THE LABORER

702 South Ranchwood Blvd., Yukon, OK 73099 (405) 354-0238

Preacher: David Ray Web Site: www.yukoncofc.com

Sunday Bible class: 9am Worship 10am & 12:30pm **Wednesday** Bible class: 7pm

Matthew 9:37-38 "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

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NERO'S 100 GLADIATORS

Tertullian (a.d. 155-230) was the first historian to call Nero the "first persecutor of Christians" through wicked, vile, and merciless means. Nero was Roman Emperor from a.d. 54 to 68. Tradition says that he had the apostles Peter and Paul killed. History tells of how he would take bodies of Christians (alive or dead), stuff their shirts with wax, and set their bodies afire to provide light in his gardens at night when he was throwing one of his great parties. Tradition says there were 100 gladiators who served under Nero. These men carried out barbarous acts of murder against the enemies of Nero. Following the Roman games these gladiators walked the streets chanting: "One-hundred gladiators, Fighters for the Emperor, Fighting for the victor's crown."

Tradition says that Nero found out there were Christians in his household. An edict was prepared, "All Christians will be found and put to death." The man in charge of Nero's gladiators halfheartedly asked his men, "Are there any Christians in our number?" To his surprise, forty men stepped forward. The leader was surprised and saddened. These were among his most loyal and devout men. At first, he failed to report this to the Emperor. However, pressure finally compelled him to ask again, "Are there any Christians among us?" The same forty men stepped forward, again.

They were offered the chance to deny Christ and pledge allegiance to Nero. They refused to denounce Christ. The leader did not have the heart to kill his loyal men. He ordered the forty men to take off their clothes and to walk out into

the middle of a freezing lake. They were ordered to stay there until they froze to death. Guards were posted all around the lake to insure that none of the gladiators would escape. All night long the guards keeping vigil could hear the gladiators chanting: "Forty gladiators, Fighters for Christ, Fighting for the Victor's crown." Over and over this chant was heard, although growing weaker. Then, out of the darkness, into the warm glow of the fire, crawled one of the gladiators. He came denouncing Jesus Christ and pledged his allegiance to Nero. Then, the voices in the lake started to chant: "Thirty-nine gladiators, Fighters for Christ, Fighters for the Victor's Crown." Upon hearing this, the leader of the group tore off his clothes, waded out into the cold water. There was a moment of silence. There was a splash in the water. Then, one voice, sounding much stronger than the others was heard: "Forty gladiators, Fighters for Christ, Fighting for the Victor's crown." With the coming of dawn, there were no more voices to be heard. Forty men had perished in the darkness of the freezing icy waters of the night.

That is the tradition. Is it true? Is it not true? We know not, but I do know what the apostle Paul wrote:

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

Second Timothy 4:6 is rendered in the *Englishman's Greek New Testament* in this fashion: "For I already am being poured out." The Greek text fully supports this translation. The word for *offered* is defined by Thayer as meaning, "poured out." In Exodus 29:12 we recall: "And thou shalt take of the blood of the bullock, and put *it* upon the horns of the altar with thy finger, and **pour all the blood** beside the bottom of the altar." Paul wrote to Timothy from prison in Rome, just prior to his beheading, "all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12).

All Christians must be found faithful unto (even if it means the point of) death (cf. Jam. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10). As a child of God's each day, can you and I say that we are "Fighters for Christ, Fighting for the Victor's crown?"

Jess Whitlock

HOW THE CHURCH VOTED

(SOMEWHERE IN TEXAS...)

The church on the corner took a series of votes on matters of importance to the congregation and the results were not just surprising, but alarming. Listed below are some of the issues that were voted on, along with the final tallies:

| SHOULD THE CHURCH: | FOR | AGAINST |
|-------------------------------|-----|---------|
| Sing during the worship? | 90% | 10% |
| Partake of communion weekly? | 78% | 22% |
| Worship on Sunday evening? | 49% | 51% |
| Attend Wednesday Bible Class? | 39% | 61% |
| Give generously to the Lord? | 20% | 80% |
| Visit the sick in hospitals? | 15% | 85% |
| Visit those in nursing homes? | 12% | 88% |

When asked how the votes were taken, the elders replied that the members were not asked their opinions on these matters, nor were they asked what the Bible taught. Instead of asking for a show of hands, the congregation voted with their feet! In other words, if their feet brought them to services on Wednesday they voted "for" attending Wednesday evening services. If their feet did not carry them to Wednesday Bible Class, they voted "against." They also voted with their voices (singing), participation (communion), and wallets (giving). The elders felt that a show of hands would have produced a result more in keeping with the guidance of Scripture, but taking the votes in this manner allowed them to find out how the members lived, and not just claimed to believe. If your vote had been tallied, how would you have voted: For or Against?

Author Unknown

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. [HEAR THE WORD](#) Romans 10:17
2. [BELIEVE IN JESUS](#) John 3:16; 8:24
3. [REPENT OF YOUR SINS](#) Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; 2 Corinthians 7:10
4. [CONFESS THAT JESUS IS LORD](#) Romans 10:9-10 (cf. Acts 8:37)
5. [BE BAPTIZED FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS](#) Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
6. [REMAIN FAITHFUL](#) 1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 1:23; Revelation 2:10