



Did you know D. L. Moody...

Dwight Lyman Moody was born in 1837 in Northfield, Massachusetts. After his father died, his widowed mother could not afford to keep all her eight children. Dwight went to the workhouse, where he was fed porridge and milk every day, three times a day. At age seventeen, he left Northfield for Boston. There, his uncle gave Dwight a job in his shoe store, but the job came with a condition: he must attend a Congregational church. There, a year later, Edward Kimball—Dwight's Sunday School teacher—led him to the Lord.

Moving to Chicago, Dwight became a very successful shoe salesman. He also established a church school for slum children in that city. During the Civil War, Dwight did not fight in the Army, but he did serve with the YMCA, accompanying the Union troops throughout the war. After the war, he became president of the Chicago YMCA, and he also helped to revive the Sunday School Union.

In about 1870, Moody joined that long line of evangelistic preachers that have blessed the United States. He and his music leader, Ira Sankey, led crusades that reached millions of people in both Great Britain and the United States. Moody's evangelistic headquarters were in his hometown of Northfield, where he established Northfield Seminary for Girls and Mount Hermon School for boys. His Chicago Bible Institute continues today as Moody Bible Institute. At the 1889 meeting of the National Council of Congregational Churches, Moody was heralded as "the most successful evangelist of our time."

...was a Congregationalist?

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Call To Worship

L: Redeem the time, O God, before it's gone and lost

C: When hearty pilgrim souls measured the cost

L: And made the long voyage with hopes of something new

C: We come to worship expecting something new!

Invocation (in unison)

As we celebrate our heritage, gracious God, teach us to be people who move fences and walls. Teach us to open doors and hearts to You and to Your people; to those who are the other, the strangers. Teach us to see You in the faces of those who do not look like us, who worship and pray from different texts and in different postures, and in different sacred spaces than we do. Teach us to move or remove fences that we might truly know those beyond our borders, borders that are made by humanity. This we pray in order that we might truly know people, who, in all their differences, seek dignity and peace. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Robert Hellam

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard