



## Did you know Edward Taylor...

Edward Taylor was born in England in 1642, immigrating to Massachusetts in 1668. His two marriages produced fourteen children, although five died in childhood. Reverend Taylor was pastor of the Congregational church in Westfield, Massachusetts from 1679 until the year of his death (1729).

Taylor's personal library consisted of about two hundred books. Because he could not afford to buy many volumes, a large number of his were copied painstakingly by hand. He himself was a writer, producing not only sermons but also books and tracts on theological issues and controversies. He opposed the view of Rev. Jonathan Stoddard that anyone—whether believer or not, whether unrepentant sinner or not—was eligible to take Communion.

Taylor is remembered nowadays for his poetry. He did not want to be remembered in that way, obviously, because he instructed his heirs not to allow his poems to be published. His grandson, Ezra Stiles (a future president of Yale), honored Taylor's wish. It was not until 1939 that any of Pastor Taylor's poems were published, and not until 1960 that a complete collection was in print. "The Reflection" describes a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Communion table:

*Once at Thy feast, I saw Thee pearl-like stand  
'Tween heaven and earth, where heaven's bright glory all  
In streams fell on Thee, as a floodgate, and  
Like sunbeams through Thee on the world to fall.*

### ...was a Congregationalist?

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# 400 YEARS OF *Faith* AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALISM SINCE 1620

## Call To Worship

L: Hear ye hear ye, descendants of the Pilgrims

**C: This is the appointed time to assemble in this meetinghouse**

L: To praise God in the remembrances of our spiritual ancestors

**C: So shall we sing and pray this hour, in thanks-giving for the men and women of our past**

L: God continues to give us a pilgrim's heart

**C: Praise the Lord!**

## Invocation (in unison)

Let Your holy presence be among us, O Lord, in this year of remembrance, that we, being made aware of the conviction and character of those before us, may enter into our inheritance, standing firm in the convictions for which they ventured to this new world freedom. Let our forebears' dedication to freedom and righteousness be their gift to us this day, and all our tomorrows. Amen

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