



School Can Be Fun



FOLLOWERS OF JESUS features the Gathering Place with its all-school centers for worship and music, fellowship, storytelling, serving and discovery.

The front cover photo is by Hedgecoth Photographers. The text, Matthew 10:31b RSV, is from the Gospel for the Day.

The illustrations above are from the 1975 VCS course, "Followers of Jesus."

Weekly Church Bulletin Service
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FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, children often do not look at school as a "fun" experience. Rules, schedules, confinement, impatient teachers—there are all kinds of reasons why children cheer when vacation comes. Saddest of all is the reason of underlying insecurity, and even fear, that haunts some youngsters in sociological situations where race tensions and gang bullies make any enjoyment of school experiences just about impossible.

The Vacation Church School is the exception. In a setting where geniality comes easily and where there is usually no "pressure to learn," the youngsters find that school can be fun.

Last year, for example, a great many LCA churches established a New Testament "marketplace." Pupils and teachers all enjoyed the color and wonder of the ancient mid-East street setting where things were always happening.

This year, a great many schools will follow that up with a "Gathering Place" concept where grade levels can mix and where exciting things will be going on.

Most Vacation Church Schools place a strong emphasis on Bible study in informal settings. The central message for many this year comes from the Book of Acts, where learners can find out about "Followers of Jesus" in the young churches after His death and Resurrection.

The VCS comes to many congregations as a kind of breath of life. The two-week period (sometimes more) fills the church with activity, with people, with joy and laughter. It is very often a highlight of the year!

*"You are
of more value
than many sparrows."*



The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost • June 22, 1975

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
Santa Maria, California

Clifton M. Weihe, Pastor

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
June 22, 1975

Organ Prelude
Hymn 426 Sandy Stinar
The Confession of Sins "All Hail the Power"
CELEBRATE, P.1

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

The Psalmody & Gloria Patri CELEBRATE, P.2
The Kyrie SERVICE BOOK, P.2 or 18
Gloria in Excelsis " " P.3 or 19
The Prayer of the Day CELEBRATE, P.2
The First Lesson: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Hymn 375 "My faith looks up to thee"
The Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-15
The Alleluia SERVICE BOOK, P. 4 or 24
The Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33
The Apostles' Creed SERVICE BOOK, p.5

Hymn 516 "Faith of our fathers!"

THE SERMON: Walter H. Capps

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings
The Offertory SERVICE BOOK, P.27
The Benediction
The Prayer of the Church CELEBRATE, P.4
The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 195 "On our way rejoicing"
The Postlude - - - - - Sandy Stinar

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of
God by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hall.

WELCOME to Mr. Walter H. Capps, our chancel guest today. He is a teacher of religion at UCSB. Also welcome to the Rev. J. Milton Grimsrud who will be doing the liturgy. Pastor Grimsrud is an ALC Pastor in Springfield, Oregon and the father-in-law of Mr. Capps. Thanks to both of them for coming to be with us today.

THE CONGREGATION is invited to attend the wedding of Miss Marilyn Budd and Mr. Tris Colman, Saturday, the 28th of June at 11:30a.m. at Gloria Dei. Reception following.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL meets today at noon.
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL staffs meets this evening at 7 p.m.

New member reception will be July 6, with orientation for new (and present) members the day before from 10-12 a.m. Please note your intentions on back of card.

Gloria Dei needs youth/adults to greet the public as friends at the County Fair Lutheran booth. Teams of two are asked to give two hours on one day. Please note willingness to do so on back of card.

Those reading "Because We Have Good News" are asked to complete same by Sunday, the 29th when we will discuss high points, useful points and questions (1) after Service; or (2) at 7 p.m.



Script, drawings for settings, music, and production instructions at the drawing-board stage for the new Davey and Goliath television production, "To the Rescue."

INTERDEPENDENCE . . .

Many hands, minds, and hearts work together in the production of a Davey and Goliath program. Initial consultations among staff members of various Lutheran Church in America agencies are supplemented with the input of experienced writers, musicians, and consultants to produce a theme and the simple message that are part of every program, plus some story possibilities which will best support theme and message.

Then the staff of the LCA's Department of Press, Radio and Television—some of whom have been connected with this project in one way or another since the 1958 experiment that led to the debut of Davey and his canine pal Goliath before U.S. and Canadian television audiences in 1961—go into close working relations with the writer and theological consultants from the Division for Parish Services.

Once the story is decided upon and the message is clearly articulated, the writer produces a script. Meanwhile, PRT staff have been coordinating funding and payments with the Office for Communications management committee, the Office for Administration and Finance, lawyers, and union representatives. Then come negotiations on the West Coast with Clokey Productions, Inc., which has studios in Glendale, California.

Simultaneously the script is being drafted and redrafted, and being shared with the management committee, educators, child psychologists, pastors, minority interest representatives, and

parents, particularly those with children in the program's target audience, 3-12 years.

Suggestions and criticisms are incorporated into the script. Other specialists develop settings, costumes, and music to help Davey and his friends work their magic: making what has been achieved up to this point come alive on the screen.

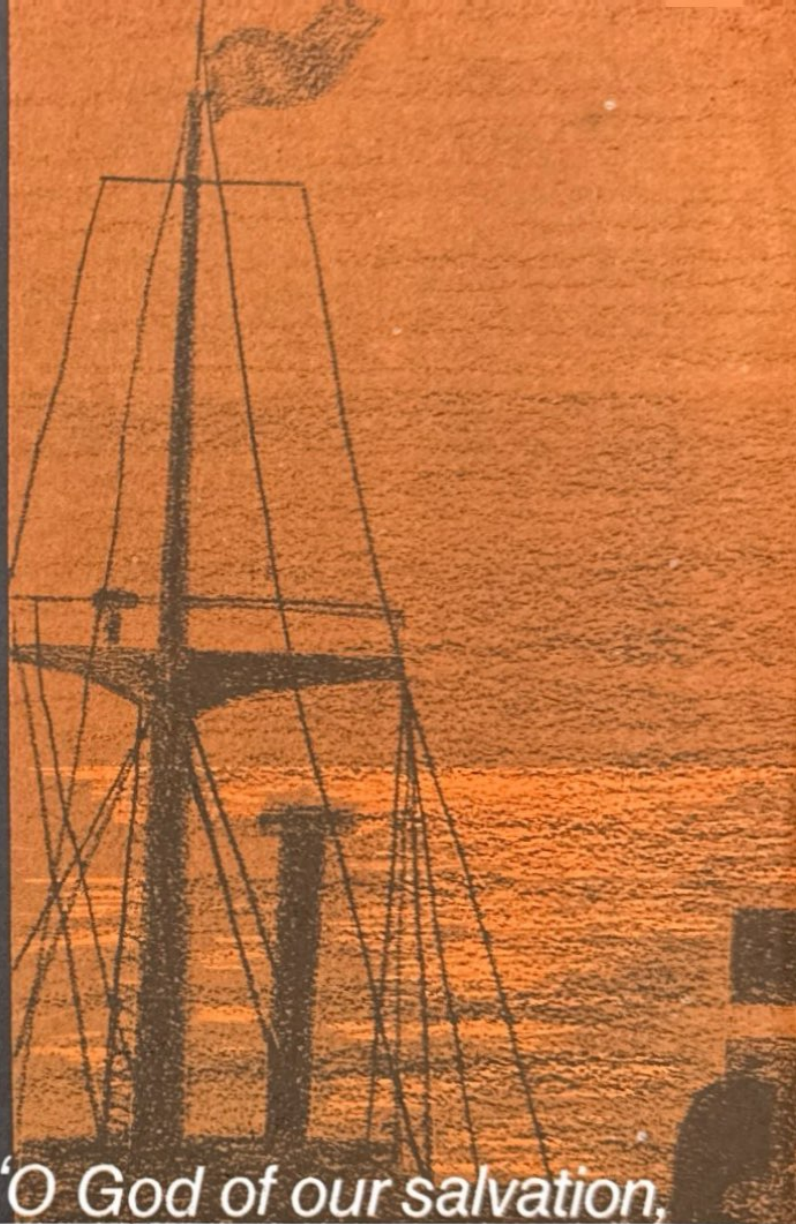
This work is tedious. Davey and the other characters stand about seven inches tall. Through a complicated mechanism installed within each figure, they are made to move up to a half-inch at a time. Two pictures are made on 16-mm color movie film, and then the process is repeated. It requires 720 pictures, each shot twice, to make one minute of film with this stop-motion animation technique. Now there is need for the efforts of film lab technicians, editors, and sound engineers. Voices, previously recorded, are co-mingled with sound effects and music.

At every stage, the individual dedication of the worker shows through. Brilliant touches come from persons who have long had their hearts in their creative talents.

Interdependence . . . people and people, people and nature . . . is the theme of "To the Rescue," the latest Davey and Goliath 30-minute TV special, distributed for use by over 125 TV stations this summer.

At the rustic outdoor chapel, one of the youngsters recalls the Psalm: "The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord; the earth and all who live on it are His" (Psalm 24:1 TEV). And when the children help the forest ranger by planting seedlings to replace trees destroyed by fire, they offer a practical demonstration of the program's theme.

Pastor Jack, Miss Lindsey, Goliath, Ross, and Davey share experiences together at Roaring River Church Camp.



"O God of our salvation,
who art the hope
of all the ends of the earth,
and of the farthest seas."

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST • JULY 13, 1975

BETHANIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Solvang, California

Pastor - Carlo Petersen

July 13, 1975

Organists

Mrs. Peter Knoles
Mrs. John Larsen

Mrs. Johannes Jaeger
Mrs. Jerry McConnell

Choir Directors

Mrs. Peter Knoles

Mrs. Carlo Petersen

Welcome to our worship. May you find here that the Lord is speaking to you through His Word and that you in turn are speaking to Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

The flowers in the church today are placed by Anine Mogensen in memory of her husband and son Hans.

Ushers: Jerry & Jeff McConnell

HOLY COMMUNION: We invite every baptized Christian with a heartfelt desire to come to the Lord's Table. If it is not possible for you to kneel at the communion rail, please just stand or sit in the front pew and communion will be brought to you.

TONIGHT - 6:00 p.m. Sandwich/Salad supper followed by Congregational Meeting. Please bring World Hunger Appeal boxes or contribution. HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH will serve at the meeting. Be there at 5:30. Afterwards there will be sharing of ideas for future activities. Bring sandwiches or salad.

MONDAY - 8:00 p.m. Church Council will meet

THURSDAY - 1:00 p.m. Bethania Guild potluck lunch.
Amanda Meisgeier and Mabel Sweeley co-hostesses.

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 1975

9:30 a.m. Church Sunday School for pre-kindergarten thru second grade

9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Dr. Walter Capps, Professor of religion at UCSB will preach. Lessons from Isa. 44: 6-8 and Rom. 8: 26-27. Gospel from Matt. 13: 24-30 (36-43). Hymns 374, 363 and 195. Ushers: Jerry & Jeff McConnell.

Hall Painter - Flom removed

Vacation - Leticia

The Lord is in His Holy Temple: Let all the earth keep silent before Him.

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Opening Prayer

Hymn No. 374

Altar Service

"The Lord be with you."

"And with Thy Spirit."

"Let us all pray."

Collect for the Day

"Amen."

Lessons - Isa. 55: 10-11 and Rom. 8: 18-23

*The Gloria Patri

*The Confession of Faith

*The Response - "Let not the world lead us astray,
That we our Christian faith betray,
But grant that all our longings be,
O' Lord forever unto Thee."

Hymn No. 196

*The Gospel - Matt. 13: 1-9 (18-23)

The Sermon

*The Apostolic Benediction

*The Offertory - "Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not
away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit
from me: Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit."

The Offering

Announcements

Hymn No. 273

Holy Communion - Hymn No. 155 (Last Table)

*The Benediction

*Three-fold Amen

*Silent Meditation

*Communion Prayer

*Congregation Standing

Between Us and Words

Between our lack of words
and God's understanding,
Between our inhumanity
and God's great love for each of us,
Between our continual warfare
and God's plan for peace,
Between our craving and hoarding
and God's desire for us to share,
Between our alienation and separation
and God's wish for community —

In our times of despair without tears,
In our times of frustration without action,
In our times of loneliness without friends,
In our times of perception without courage,
In our times of prayers without articulation —

Here is the Spirit of God, bridging the gap
between what is and what ought to be,
between what is and what can be.
God Himself intercedes for us!



The front cover art is by Cary L. Turner.
The text, Romans 8:26b TEV, is from today's Second Lesson.
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*The Spirit Himself
pleads With God
for us.*



THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 20, 1975

BETHANIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
Solvang, California

Pastor - Carlo Petersen

July 20, 1975

Organists

Mrs. Peter Knoles

Mrs. Johannes Jaeger

Mrs. John Larsen

Mrs. Jerry McConnell

Choir Directors

Mrs. Peter Knoles

Mrs. Carlo Petersen

Welcome to our worship. May you find here that the
Lord is speaking to Him in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

Flowers in the church today are placed by Mr. &

Mrs. John Christensen in memory of her mother Ida Rossum.

Ushers: Jerry & Jeff McConnell

A "THANK YOU" to Dr. Walter Capp for having the
service today.

TONIGHT - HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH potluck. Volley ball at
5:30; will eat at 6:30. Please bring a salad or dessert.

TUESDAY - Happy Seniors meeting has been cancelled due
to the Recovery Residence 'Hearing' to be held at the Upper
School Band room (610 Atterdag Rd.) at 2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY - 8:00 p.m. Danish Songfest

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1975

9:30 a.m. Church Sunday School for pre-kindergarten
thru 2nd grade.

9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Lessons from 1 Kings 3:
5-12 and Rom. 8: 28-30. The Gospel will be from Matt. 13
44-52. Hymns 374, 599 and 168. Ushers: Jerry & Jeff
McConnell. Terry Moe, Intern at Grace Lutheran Church,
will preach.

ENTER TO WORSHIP

DEPART TO SERVE

The Lord is in His Holy Temple: Let all the
earth keep silent before Him.

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Prelude

Call to Worship

The Opening Prayer

Hymn No. 374

Altar Service

"The Lord be with you."

"And with Thy Spirit."

"Let us all pray."

Collect for the Day

"Amen."

Lessons - Isa. 44: 6-8 and Rom. 8: 26-27

*The Gloria Patri

*The Confession of Faith

*The Response - "Let not the world lead us astray,
That we our Christian faith betray,
But grant that all our longings be,
O' Lord forever unto Thee."

Hymn No. 363

*The Gospel - Matt. 13: 24-30 (36-43)

The Sermon

*The Apostolic Benediction

*The Offertory - "Create in me a clean heart, O God;
and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not
away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit
from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit."

The Offering

Announcements

Hymn No. 195

Altar Service

"The Lord be with you."

"And with Thy Spirit."

"Let us all pray."

Prayer of the Church

*The Benediction

*Three-fold Amen

*Silent Meditation

*Congregation Standing

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let him proclaim it,
let him declare and set it forth before
me.
Who has announced from of old the
things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Fear not, nor be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and
declared it?
And you are my witnesses!
Is there a God besides me?
There is no Rock; I know not any."

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:26-27

St. Paul writes:

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30 [36-43]

Another parable *Jesus* put before the crowds, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and

went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then has it weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No; lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " . . .

[Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world, and the good seed means the sons of the kingdom; the weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."]

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 86:11-17; Antiphon, verse 11a

May be used responsively or antiphonally

Antiphon (leader): Teach me thy way, O Lord, that I may walk in thy truth.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, that I may walk in thy truth;
unite my heart to fear thy name.

I give thanks to thee, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify thy name for ever.

For great is thy steadfast love toward me;
thou hast delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life,
and they do not set thee before them.

But thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and
abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and take pity on me; give thy strength to thy servant, and save the son
of thy handmaid.

Show me a sign of thy favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to
shame because thou, Lord, hast helped me and comforted me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Antiphon (unison): Teach me thy way, O Lord, that I may walk in thy truth.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, give us bread. Give us bread to nourish our
bodies, and in Christ give us the bread of eternal life, that in
him we may grow and thrive and serve; through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Prayer of Faith

WE cannot force the hand of God, but he has urged us to ask him for anything and everything. We may trust him to sort out our prayers, and to bless those that are within his will.

The author of the following lines is unknown:

He prayed for strength that he might achieve;

He was made weak that he might obey.

He prayed for wealth that he might do greater things;

He was given infirmity that he might do better things.

He prayed for riches that he might be happy;

He was given poverty that he might be wise.

He prayed for power that he might have the praise of men;

He was given infirmity that he might feel the need of God.

He prayed for all things that he might enjoy life;

He was given life that he might enjoy all things.

He had received nothing that he asked for—all that he hoped for;

His prayer was answered—he was most blessed.

To be sure, there are forces of evil and ignorance, within us and without, that may block out or delay God from always giving us that which is good. But we must trust him to find ways to bless us, even when things seem to go wrong. We trust him, and that's enough.

He who has died for us forgives us our sins, enfolds us in his love, and has an eternity of fullness awaiting us—we can trust him. He will make sure that our lives will have unexpected blessings. And we will thank him.

*Great is your faith!
Be it done for you
as you desire.*



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL

PORTLAND, OREGON

August: 24, 1975

C.P. Henke, M.D.	Hospital Director
Willard W. Bartlett	Chaplain (UCC)
Fred A. David (Part-Time)	Chaplain (Baptist)
Alfred A. Williams (Part-Time)	Chaplain (Catholic)
Peter Gunnestrup	Chairman, Escort Program
Cathy Taylor	Music, Coordinator

CHAPEL BUILDING 25, 2ND FLOOR

CHAPLAIN OFFICES

PROTESTANT BLDG. #3 (Rec Hall) PHONE 319

CATHOLIC BLDG. #25 (Chapel) PHONE 519

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Catholic Services	Bedside Ministration
Special Music	9:00 am
Protestant Worship	9:30 am
Communion Service	10:20 am
Fellowship Period	10:30 am
Bible Class	3:00 pm Recreation Hall
Afternoon Service	4:00 pm

Chapel - Rec. Hall Film: Sermons from Science.
Moody Institute of Science.

Communion on Wards During Day
Let the Chaplain know if you want Communion in
your room.

VOLUNTEER CHURCH ESCORTS

Each Sunday morning, for over 23 years, people from
different Lutheran Churches visit the wards and distribute
our bulletins. Let them know if you want help getting to
services. This week our visitors are from

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (LCA) Portland
Reverend Russell O. Luke Pastor

ORDER OF WORSHIP

9:30 A.M.

CALL TO WORSHIP CHAPLAIN BARTLETT

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF FAITH Holy, Holy, Holy 104

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE READING (HYMNAL) 506

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

PERIOD OF PRAYER

Silent Prayer and Meditation
Chaplain's Prayer
Lord's Prayer (Using Trespases)

SERMON FROM THE BIBLE (Bulletin Insert)

Old Testament Reading
New Testament Reading

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

SERMON FROM SCRIPTURES

HYMN OF HOPE What a Friend. 318

BENEDICTION

Notes: No offering is collected.

All Services broadcast; hospital earphones.

Devotional materials, especially LARGE PRINT
are available at the door.

Visits by special demoninational clergy can
be arranged. Contact Chaplains.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

THUS SAYS the LORD:
"Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.
And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
every one who keeps the sabbath,
and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered."

SECOND LESSON

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

NOW I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the

reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

AND JESUS went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, you warn us of the perils and futility of halfhearted commitment. Establish in us such faith that our lives will show in every way that we worship you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIRTEENTH AFTER PENTECOST

"Let the peoples praise thee, O God; let all the peoples praise thee!" (Psalm 67:5).

The refrain from this day's Psalm widens the call to worship to include nations beyond the covenant. The Canaanite woman's plea, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David," seems at first to be harshly answered. But persistent faith is recognized, and God's kingdom comes.

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving power among all nations" (Psalm 67:1, 2).

The kingdom was opened to the Gentiles. Nation, race, language, and boundaries no longer could contain the good news. The barriers were gone.



"I WILL GATHER YET OTHERS"

The First Lesson records a message from the Lord that must have been surprising to those who heard it first. "The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD . . . I will bring to my holy mountain . . . for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." In the long history of the covenant people, separateness had been the rule. Only in this way had they kept a remnant from the worship of the gods of surrounding nations. Foreigners were forbidden to eat of the Passover (Exodus 12:43). Ruth (2:10-11) was surprised at her welcome at Bethlehem in spite of the fact that she was a foreigner.

Now to this remnant of the nation, Isaiah brought the word of the Lord. Not alone to the foreigner, but also to the outcasts of Israel God now came in compassion. Those who joined in prayer and worship, who kept the Sabbath and held to the covenant would have acceptance before God. What the prophet proclaimed was a glimpse of the new covenant to come with the Messiah.

Today we hear this word of the Lord anew. On this day the people of God worship in hundreds of languages and dialects — from Arabic to Zulu. Their color and their customs vary. Their liturgy and their music differ widely. Some worship in large congregations of the faithful, and some in the company of two or three fellow believers. Some are fortunate and free. Some are hidden from hostile governments. Some occupy positions of leadership. Some are numbered among the outcasts. We need to hear this word of the Lord, for our fellow believers need to be remembered in our prayers and to be welcomed in our fellowship. "I will gather yet others," says the Lord.

Next Sunday's Lessons: Exodus 19:1-6; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31a; John 1:43-51

Scripture Text Bulletin Insert No. 7583A. The Scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, © 1946, 1952, and 1971, and are used by permission.

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The Captor

JESUS is the captor and we are the captured. He hunts us, we do not hunt him. In the profoundest sense, he chooses us, we do not choose him.

This was true of Peter and Andrew, Thomas and Paul. It was true of Augustine, of St. Francis, of Luther. It is true of us.

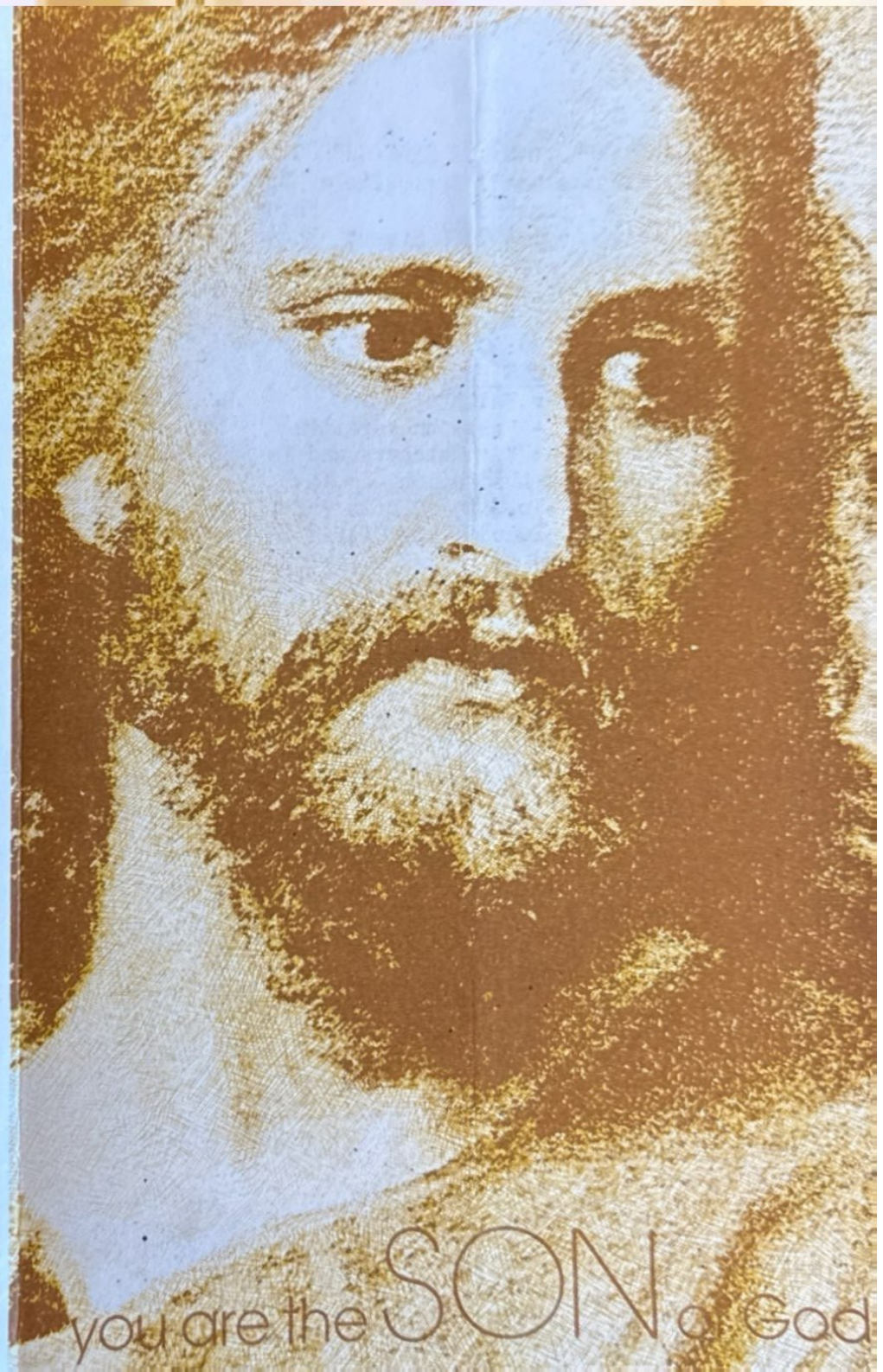
Jesus moved in on most of us in Holy Baptism, when we were yet babies. But whenever he comes, whether to a baby or to a grown person, it is always he who comes to us. He comes to capture us for his kingdom.

He is the most puzzling figure in all history. He simply does not fit in the parade of the world's great leaders or teachers. He had none of the usual credentials. He was not learned or rich or powerful. His one towering credential was a cross—a death and a resurrection. He haunts the world with this love that lays down its life.

We are captured by him; he enlists us in his way. It is the way of love. It is the way of giving and forgiving. It surrenders its rights, and fights for the rights of others. It turns from a career of accumulation to a career of distribution. It seeks out those in need, and gives itself to those needs. It is supremely the life of a servant.

It is not strange that we become cautious. Dare we plunge into this kind of involvement? If we do, what happens to our securities and safeties? Most of us do little more than get our toes wet. We haven't the courage to venture out into the deep.

Only to the degree that we do step out, out into the deep where our Lord is having himself a glorious time with loving and serving without limit—only to that degree will we know the splendor of really being captured.



you are the SON of God

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
6155 Thurston Road, Springfield, Oregon
Pastor J. Milton Grimsrud Phone 747-5231
Residence: 5978 F Street Phone 747-1764

St. Bartholomew, Apostle August 24, 1975

WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION

9:30 A. M.

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: "My Heart Ever Faithful" J.S. Bach
Flute solo - Mrs. John Martilla
Hymn of the Week No. 437 "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones"
Confession of Sin and Absolution - p. 15
Introit for the Day - p. 106 Gloria Patri - p. 17
Kyrie - p. 18. (In place of the Gloria in Excelsis:)
Hymn No. 305 "Thou Lord of Hosts" v. 1, 4, 5.
The Collect for the Day - p. 111.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

The First Lesson - Exodus 19:1-6
The Second Lesson - I Corinthians 12:27-31
"Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!"
Volunteer Singers: "So Send I You" J.W. Peterson
"Glory Be to Thee, O Lord!"
The Gospel - John 1:43-51
"Praise Be to Thee, O Christ!"
Our Confession of Faith - The Apostles' Creed p. 5
The Concerns of the Church - Parish Announcements
Hymn No. 516 "Faith of Our Fathers"
THE SERMON - "Jesus Talks to Nathaniel" John 1:43-51

GOD ACCEPTS US, OUR GIFTS, OUR THANKSGIVING

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
OFFERTORY PRAYER: "Create in Me a Clean Heart" p. 27

GOD GIVES HIMSELF IN THE SACRAMENT

THE COMMUNION SERVICE pages 29-36
(Hymn for Meditation: No. 470)
NUNC DIMITTIS - read responsively - p. 38
SALUTATION AND BLESSING
BENEDICTION AND THREE-FOLD AMEN p. 70
Hymn No. 326 "I Love to Tell the Story"
Postlude: "In an Old Cathedral" Foschini

I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED AND AM PERSUADED THAT HE IS
ABLE TO KEEP THAT WHICH I HAVE COMMITTED UNTO HIM !

THE REMEMBRANCE OF THINE APOSTLES - days of joy and
gladness to Thy Church. Grant that we may ever love
The^e Whom they loved!

WELCOME, in Him Who asks us to remember.

COMMUNION REGISTRATION CARDS are inside the Hymnal covers.

THANK YOU to the Watsons for another pleasant evening at
the pool, and about the picnic tables with them!

THERE IS STILL OPPORTUNITY to turn in your favorite hymn
suggestions. We sing, and worship to God's glory.

WE WOULD REMEMBER:

LABOR DAY WEEK-END "Family Camp" at Lutherwood Bible
Camp. Aug. 29- Sept. 1. "Family in Dialogue!"

FALL CLEAN-UP AND WORK-DAY at our Church, Friday, Sept.
5th. Come in the morning and help as long as you
can. (Bring cleaning supplies and garden hoes, too.)

FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS SEPT. 7. with WORSHIP at 10:30.
CHURCH SCHOOL at 9 A.M.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH RETREAT at St. Benedicts' Lodge,
McKenzie Bridge. Sept. 26, 27. Registration blanks
are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Total
cost is \$15. There is still room for more women.
A fine program of Bible Study, Inspiration, and
activity, rest and refreshment together!

OUR CONGREGATION RETREAT is set for October 17, 18 at the
St. Benedicts' Lodge.

NEXT SUNDAY - August 31, WORSHIP at 9:30 A.M. with our
Contemporary Service. Terry and Tim Titus will play
their instruments, and help us sing the "New Songs" !

REMEMBER THE BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION at Thurston High
at 7 Sunday evenings, led by Tom A. Titus.

SCRIPTURE TEXTS

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 19:1-6

ON THE third new moon after the people of Israel had gone forth out of the land of Egypt, on that day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. And when they set out from Rephidim and came into the wilderness of Sinai, they encamped in the wilderness; and there Israel encamped before the mountain. And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:27-31a

NOW you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are

ST. BARTHOLOMEW,
APOSTLE

all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

GOSPEL

John 1:43-51

THE NEXT day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself the cornerstone. Grant that by their teaching we may be joined together in the unity of the Spirit, so that we may be made a holy temple, acceptable to you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" asked Nathaniel of Philip. He had just shared with Nathaniel the hope that, in Jesus, Philip found fulfillment of ancient prophecy. It was the kind of question we occasionally pose in speaking of nondescript families. "What could you expect coming from that bunch?"

God sometimes confounds the wise, working his purposes in the least expected ways. Not only did the immortal God take on mortal flesh, he entered the world of mortal flesh in a cow's stall. He grew up in a town which, judging from Nathaniel's question, was not renowned for producing quality citizens. His life was cut short — too short for him to become a successful leader of men. He died the death of a criminal. Yet, despite all the inauspicious signs, he changed the course of history and transformed the world of human beings.

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

"Come and see," said Philip. Nathaniel went, and met the One who had been promised from the beginning.

"The promises of the LORD are promises that are pure" (Psalm 12:6a).



BREAKING THE BOXES

Bartholomew (Nathaniel) had some preset notions about Nazareth. These ideas had to be set aside before he opened himself to the call of Jesus. In much the same fashion the First and Second Lessons break preconceived notions.

The First Lesson, set in the wilderness of Sinai, brings a startling idea to people who were running from an oppressive nation. This scarcely organized group were to be a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation." To people who were trying to survive, these words gave a distant vision.

The Second Lesson breaks the boxes of pride and self-sufficiency. In the verses (4-26) just preceding this text, Paul stresses how different are the gifts and abilities possessed in one congregation or area of the church. Christians are not carbon copies of a common text. They are not spilled out of a common mold. They need not be alike, for in the variety of gifts the fellowship is strengthened. Most of all, Christians ought to appreciate the variety with which God has endowed each person — and one another.

Next Sunday's Lessons: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:21-26

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THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Minister:* Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all persons according to their needs.
- Assistant:* Let us pray for the church throughout the world, that it may be filled with zeal for the gospel, and make disciples among all nations. Lord, in your mercy,
- All:* **Hear our prayer.**
- Assistant:* Let us pray for all clergy and laity in the church, that like St. Bartholomew, they may witness for Christ and be faithful unto death. Lord, in your mercy,
- All:* **Hear our prayer.**
- Assistant:* Let us pray for our nation and its leaders, that together we may strive for justice, righteousness, and peace on earth. Lord, in your mercy,
- All:* **Hear our prayer.**
- Assistant:* Let us pray for the hungry, the oppressed, and those deprived of their rights, that God's love may move us to work for their relief. Lord, in your mercy,
- All:* **Hear our prayer.**

Here other petitions may be offered.

- Minister:* Into your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- All:* **Amen.**

To prepare for next Sunday (Pentecost XV), read Psalm 26; Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:21-26.



CELEBRATE

ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

• August 24, 1975

THE DAY

Today we honor the memory of St. Bartholomew, the apostle (known in John's Gospel as Nathanael). Tradition says that he traveled as a missionary in India and Armenia and that he was martyred by being skinned alive. "The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord." Upon that foundation we and the apostles depend for the vitality of our faith.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

- Minister:* Let us confess our sins before God and in the presence of one another.
- All:* **Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned both in our actions and in our failure to act.**

A brief silence for individual prayer.

- Assistant:* Our failure to follow the example of St. Bartholomew and all the other holy apostles and martyrs in witnessing to Christ, we confess to the Lord.
- All:* **Forgive us, Lord.**
- Assistant:* Our limited vision, which often makes us unable to see beyond the narrow limits of our parish and community to the great world which needs the witness of the gospel, we confess to the Lord.
- All:* **Forgive us, Lord.**
- Assistant:* Our unwillingness to give to others in the spirit of Christ, we confess to the Lord.
- All:* **Forgive us, Lord.**
- Assistant:* Our fearfulness and anxiety, and our failure to trust wholly in Christ and his promises, we confess to the Lord.
- All:* **Forgive us, Lord.**
- Minister:* God promises that, although we fail him, he loves and forgives us, and makes us his own. Accept his love and mercy, and live a new life as his holy people.

Or the minister may conclude:

We are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ our Lord. Therefore, let us be reconciled with one another and share the peace of the Lord.

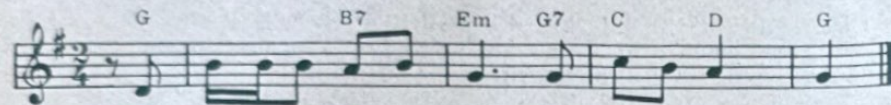
THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself the cornerstone. Grant that by their teaching we may be joined together in the unity of the Spirit, so that we may be made a holy temple, acceptable to you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PSALMODY

Psalm 12; Refrain, verse 6a

For singing: *The refrain (R) is introduced by choir or cantor. The congregation repeats the refrain. Choir or cantor sings psalm verses; congregation sings refrain as indicated. For reading: Indented lines are the responses. The refrain is read by the leader alone at the beginning and by all at the end.*



R. The prom-is-es of the Lord are pure as sil-ver.

Help, O Lord! for no one now is dutiful; faithfulness has vanished from among men.

Everyone speaks falsehood to his neighbor; with smooth lips they speak, and double heart. R.

May the Lord destroy all smooth lips, every boastful tongue.

Those who say, "We are heroes with our tongues; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?" R.

"Because they rob the afflicted, and the needy sigh, now will I arise," says the Lord; "I will grant safety to him who longs for it."

The promises of the Lord are sure, like tried silver, freed from dross, sevenfold refined. R.

You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation, While about us the wicked strut and in high place are the basest of men. R.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. R.

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THE LECTIONARY

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 19:1-6

IN THE THIRD MONTH after Israel had left Egypt, they came to the wilderness of Sinai. They set out from Rephidim and entered the wilderness of Sinai, where they encamped, pitching their tents opposite the mountain. Moses went up the mountain of God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "Speak thus to the house of Jacob, and tell this to the sons of Israel: You have seen with your own eyes what I did to Egypt, and how I have carried you on eagles' wings and brought you here to me. If only you will now listen to me and keep my covenant, then out of all peoples you shall become my special possession; for the whole earth is mine. You shall be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation. These are the words you shall speak to the Israelites. (NEB)

SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31a

ST. PAUL writes:

All of you, then, are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. In the church, then, God has put all in place: in the first place, apostles, in the second place, prophets, and in the third place, teachers; then those who perform miracles, followed by those who are given the power to heal, or to help others, or to direct them, or to speak in strange tongues. They are not all apostles, or prophets, or teachers. Not all have the power to work miracles, or to heal diseases, or to speak in strange tongues, or to explain what is said. Set your hearts, then, on the more important gifts. (TEV)

Sofia

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

THE NEXT DAY Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." (CB)

Again and Again, He Comes

ANOTHER Christmas is upon us. We return to Bethlehem. We join Mary and Joseph and the baby, the shepherds, the celestial company of angels. We turn our eyes to the manger and the wonder of the incarnation. God the Son has become one of us!

Down through the centuries we have surrounded this event with the best of art and music. Year after year, we have paused in our repetitious round of nights and days, to stand quiet and breathless, before the mystery of God becoming a baby.

Bethlehem was a little village, unnoticed among the cities of the world. But never again can it be commonplace. It has become the focus for the hopes and fears of all the years. It towers above New York, Tokyo, London, or New Delhi in the destinies of the world.

What is more wonderful, Jesus of Bethlehem lives in every city and hamlet and countryside. Wherever hearts will receive him, he enters again as he did long ago. The world itself has become a Bethlehem.

He comes as a great light to shatter the darkness of the world. He comes as a balm to forgive and heal the sins of the world. He has come as a finger to point people beyond the fear and despair that engulfs them, to the future that glows with promise.

His coming released among us a radical love and mercy. It established on the earth an imperishable kingdom. It restored people to the Father's great home.

The world has never been the same since. Heaven dipped down to earth, not only to touch the earth, but to lift the earth itself into an eternal empire, and make it again the dwelling place of the children of God.

The Lord is with you

Luke 1:28



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

6155 Thurston Road, Springfield, Oregon

Pastor J. Milton Grimsrud Phone 747-5231

Residence: 5978 F Street Phone 747-1764

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 21, 1975

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL COMMUNION SERVICE

10:30 A. M.

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS

Prelude: "Gesu Bambino" - Pietro Yon

Trombone: Tom Titus, Saxophone: Terry Titus

Hymn No. 28 "The Happy Christmas Comes Once More"

The Confession of Sin and Absolution page 15

WE WELCOME THE SAVIOR

The Introit for the Day - page 76

The Gloria Patri - page 17; The Kyrie - page 18

The Gloria in Excelsis - page 19; Salutation p. 23

The Collect (Prayer) for the Day - page 76

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

The First Lesson - II Samuel 7:8-11, 16

The Second Lesson - Romans 16:25-27

Anthem: "In Bethlehem Is Born a King" Czech Carol

Choir with Saxophone: Terry Titus

"Glory Be to Thee, O Lord!"

THE GOSPEL - Luke 1:26-38

"Praise Be to Thee, O Christ!"

We Confess Our Faith - The Apostles' Creed page 5

Parish Announcements and Concerns of the Church

Pulpit Hymn No. 22 "From Heaven Above to Earth"

THE SERMON - "Nothing Impossible with God" Luke 1:26

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

"To a Virgin Meek and Mild" Spanish Carol

OFFERTORY III - page 27 sung by Karen Link

THE SAVIOR GIVES HIMSELF TO US

The Thanksgiving - pages 29 - 36

The Communion (Children may come for the Blessing)

Post-Communion - page 38 - Responsive reading.

The Benediction and Three-fold Amen - page 70

Hymn No. 23 "It Came Upon the Mid-night Clear"

Postlude: "The Guardian Angel" - Gabriel Pierne

DROP DOWN, YE HEAVENS, FROM ABOVE, AND LET THE SKIES POUR
DOWN RIGHTEOUSNESS!

As He came to make us children of God; BLESSED BE HIS
NAME!

WELCOME - to all who come to worship God in Christ the Son!

COMMUNION REGISTRATION CARDS are inside the Hymnal covers.

BECAUSE "Christmas is for Children", we think of those at
the Choir party, at Confirmation Class, and those who
carolled with the Thurston League group on Saturday
evening, - with thankfulness to God.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHTING SERVICE at 11 P.M. Wednesday.

A Service of carols, Christmas Gospel readings, and
special music: two joint anthems by the Children's
Choir and Adults, a ladies' sextet; also instrumental
numbers, flute - Frieda Martilla, violin - Solveig
Grimsrud, and organ - Harleen Lillegren.

THE MESSAGE for Christmas Eve will be given by Walter
Capps who comes with his family from a Semester as
guest professor at Syracuse University, New York. He
is a faculty member of U. of Calif. at Santa Barbara,
and chairman of "The Institute of Religious Studies".

THERE ARE NO CONFIRMATION CLASS SESSIONS the next two Wed.
evenings, but daily Bible reading, "Christ in Our Home",
thoughts and talks about "How Christ loved the Church
and gave Himself for her", would be good for us all.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL will meet again on January 4th.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION is scheduled for
Sunday, January 18th. Reports are due by the 11th.

NEXT SUNDAY - December 28th, The First Sunday after Christ-
mas. Worship at 10:30, "STUDENT RECOGNITION SUNDAY".
Texts: Jeremiah 31:15-17; I Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 2:13-
18. THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR members are invited to go
to the 6:30 P.M. vespers at Good Samaritan Home in
Eugene, to sing their Christmas music. Pastor Grimsrud
is in charge of the Service there.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS for all! May we receive HIS PEACE !

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:8-11, 16

NOW therefore thus you shall say to my servant David, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever."

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

NOW TO him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

IN THE sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High;

and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;

and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,

and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

therefore the child to be born will be called holy,

the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord, and come. Remove the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the season of celebration, to receive you in joy and serve you forever. We pray to you, O Christ, one with the Father and the Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

In a few days we will sing and shout "Christmas" from mountain and valley, from city and prairie. But today we must whisper! In the Gospel we overhear "the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long years." The ancient longings and promises of the ages will be fulfilled. God's salvation is near.

A lovely, intimate moment in the life of the human race is the annunciation story of the Gospel. Read it with hushed tones: An angel, a maid, God! A Child is to be born of almighty power. And this child "will be called holy, the Son of God."

We stand on the brink of Christmas. We hold in our hearts the angelic secret and we feel a great excitement rise in us. The countdown has begun. The thrill of a new beginning for all people is only moments away. The greatest story ever to be told is about to begin. An unparalleled adventure in love is here announced. Never before and never again will we see such a life, such a death, such a resurrection. The secret is almost too much for us to bear.

"Let it be to me according to your word," Mary said to the angel. Because this wondrous birth is for us, we sigh with Mary, "Lord, let it be."

THE PROMISES OF GOD

The fulfillment of the promise to David is celebrated in this story of the annunciation. David's house and throne were made sure through Mary's child. But, ironically, the final house of God is built here and, not by David's plans, built by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is built in Mary's assent to the Word and promises of God. So the Word, dwelling in the assembly of God's people, still builds the house of God in the assent and obedience of the faith of Christians.

So the Word is to be preached and heard. The mystery of faith and God's promise is to be shared. The love of God is to be "made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith." We stand at the edge of an eternal mystery—that God should love us even now, as we are. And we rejoice in the promises of God.



Next Sunday's Lessons: Jeremiah 31:15-17; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 2:13-18

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THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

Grateful for the occasion -- music... Education committee sponsored... think together about hope...

the assignment in part for Advent: Advent = the season of hope...

Not easy — not even sure what the result ought to be... to hope instead of being hopeless?

to increase hope... so that hope abounds rather than being minimal...?

Or, are we to hope for something..... not just hope... but hoping for something...

Dr. Edmund Steimle: "Now Faith, Hope, and Love abide, and the greatest of these is love..." 2000 years later...

--- "...the greatest of these is hope." ---

Situations, or Conditions, of Hope —

(what must be if hope is to be.... out of what context does it come...? under what auspices...? for what purpose...?)

I. Hope has to do with Time...

Time = the context of hope.....

One hopes in time.... certainly... one hopes for something which will eventually come... hope is realized in time...

e.g. Someone is very sick... and the doctor says... "Take care, and in due time things will be better..."

Indeed, we even say "we hope for a time..." *best of time*

"we hope for a better time..." *wishy time*

Another twist to this: hope has to do with time tenses...

Past, Present, and Future....

We can't hope for the past.... Hope is cut off from the past...

Can we hope for the present...? Hardly, although we hope in the present, just as we hoped in the past...

But hope is directed toward the future...

- h. pointed toward the future...

some have said: h. = our access to the future

hope puts us into the future....

the three virtues: faith, love, and hope
past, present, and future...

II. Hope has to do with Oppression:

look over past history: where has hope been kept alive... in oppressed communities...

where people suffer indignities.... where people are put in bondage...

Two ways of reading history of the church.....

↑ religion of the establishment... with kings, nobles, priests, clergy, etc. and religion of

Calypso communities ...

(those who were waiting for the end to come...)

2nd group, not the first, has kept hope alive...

...in every case, a looking forward to a time when oppression would be overcome....when bondage would end...

~~when~~ freedom would occur...

Hope is something captives do...

Why such interest in it today...? Because of our ~~awareness~~ that all of us may be trapped...

that the future may bring annihilation instead of the fulfillment of our destiny....

footnote: hope usually not an individual phenomenon...but a group phenomenon...a community's stance...

A community hopes...

A group which manifests "we-feeling" hopes...

Corporate goals must be realized before individual ones can be...

Some NT Scholars: entire NT is written in the ~~new~~ mood of expectation...that something is going to happen... (elaborate III. Hope is Carried forward by DREAMS...

We tend to belittle our dream-life...

We say, "it was only a dream..."

Yet, it must be said, that the future is the product of somebody's dream (repeat this)

Somebody dreams it before it occurs....perhaps not in every detail...

Martin Luther King stands in front of the Washington Monument in our nation's ~~capitol~~ capitol, and declares, "I have a dream..." And the people standing there, know that the dream is real....

It's a dream, but the dream is real...

--
We're not ~~simply~~ simply talking about night dreams...
by but also about day-dreams...
the things we dream up in the daytime...

Johan Huizinga, Homo Ludens... civilization is the product of the play-element....

like children playing in the sandbox...carving out space, thinking up borders...making roads...
giving that field a ~~new~~ center, a point of orientation...that is how civilization ~~is~~ comes to be...

my example: walking around NEW Haven with a batch of problems:...

...what do you want most to happen...?

My reply: "I don't know; I've never thought of it that way..."

Point: Without dreams, hope has no direction...
Without dreams, hope has no focus...

IV. Hope has a peculiar Tie with Things that are NEW

... one doesn't hope for ~~x~~ old things...

(maybe, new hopes for old things...)

generally, hope reaches out for that which is not yet...

Yet, throughout the Bible, when hope is talked
about, the word new pops up again and again...

God is about to do a NEW THING...a WHOLE NEW THING...

The old things will pass away, and there will be
a "new heaven and a new earth..."

God said, "behold I make all things new..."

What does it mean....?

that old things are no good...? No, certainly
not that.....

~~that old things must be transformed before they take
any goodly or possibly~~

Maybe... that there is a certain dynamism to the
world...that it isn't static...

that it is moving onward...rushing forward
toward some destination....

that we haven't seen the end yet...

that maybe we're dreaming now...and when we awake
from our dream, what we'll have is more real
than what we're experiencing now...

Certain resonance between the Christian and the new -- which
is the mark of the Christian life....

Possibly, why the ~~ship~~ ship, or the ark...is a dominant
Christian symbol...

people destined for something that they
don't quite grasp..... (elaborate)...

I gave some talks on this subject once...got to the end...
someone asked: what is the purpose of theology...

I answered...to give style or structure to our speech
(elaborate)

Next question: what is it we want to say?

My answer: we want to find a way to say yes to
the world...

.. to be able to affirm its goodness...

I believe it...

Hope = an odd thing...

future directed...tied with the ~~dream~~ NEW...

linked with our dream-life...

has to do with our corporate destiny...

then, its chief function is to help us Say yes to the things that are....

We're not just saying YES to the things we hope for...
but we also want to affirm the things that are...

That's odd...

but odd like Advent...

Advent is not only odd; it's just ~~plain~~ plain queer...
and most of us go about mixed up through almost all of it...

Waiting for something which we know full well is going to happen...because it happened last year, and the year before...

joyful expectation, finally, of an event which really occurred some 2000 years ago...

And if we do get a kick out of Advent or Christmas, it is partly for reasons of nostalgia...we remember an earlier one ~~in~~ which was meaningful for us...

What I'd like to suggest is that the ADVENT MOOD is the proper year-around mood for Christians.....

that having the event of Christmas doesn't put an end to the anticipation of something that hasn't yet happened...

that the event of Christmas isn't really a past event... but the first event in the future...

the sign ~~that~~ of the reality of the future...

the sign that the future is real...that the NEW is real...

Advent = a kind of anticipation of the future...
and Christmas = the place in the present where the future is made real...if only for a time...

GLORY TO 'GOD IN THE
HIGHEST
AND
ON EARTH
PEACE
AMONG
MEN



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
6155 Thurston Road, Springfield, Oregon
Pastor J. Milton Grimsrud Phone 747-5231
Residence: 5978 F Street Phone 747-1764

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICE
11 P.M. December 24, 1975

Prelude: "Pastoral Symphony" (The Messiah) G.F. Handel
Flute: Frieda Martilla, Violin: Solveig Grimsrud
Organist: Harleen Lillegren
Hymn No. 42 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" stanzas 1 & 3

CHRISTMAS INTROIT: (Read responsively)

Pastor: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is
given:

AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER.

And His Name shall be called Wonderful

Counsellor, the Mighty God:

THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

O sing unto the Lord a new song:

FOR HE HATH DONE MARVELOUS THINGS.

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE - page 77

THE LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn No. 30 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

Anthem: "Come and Behold" - Keller arr. P. Christiansen
Children's Choir and Senior Choir

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-7

Sextet: "Still, Still, Still" German Carol arr. Wetzler
with flute obbligato

GOSPEL: Luke 2:8-14

Solo: "O Holy Night" - Adam, John Michael Link

GOSPEL: Luke 2:15-20

Hymn No. 27 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

THE SERMON - "Born to Us this Day"

Dr. Walter H. Capps, Institute of Religious Studies,
University of California, Santa Barbara

Offertory Anthem: "Boy-Child of Mary" African Carol arr.
by Lovelace. Children's Choir with Senior Choir
Drum.: Steve Lillegren

Hymn No. 16 "Silent Night, Holy Night"

LIGHTING OF THE INDIVIDUAL CANDLES (Please hold the
lighted candle up-right, and lean the one being lit
into the flame, so as not to drip wax.)

You are invited to come to the Altar, if you wish,
for silent prayer.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:25-32 - The "Nunc Dimittis"

Recessional Hymn No. 15 "Joy to the World"

You may carry your lighted candle out into the night,
to indicate our desire to share our Joy in the Good
News of Christmas with the whole world!

+ + +

THANK YOU to all who assisted with the Service tonight.
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

JACK DAVID HARTMAN was Baptized earlier this evening. He
is the son of Sargent and Mrs. Dennis Hartman, born
on October 3rd. Sponsors in his Baptism are his
Grandparents Jack and Sara Heacock, and Uncle Jeff.
We welcome him into the FAMILY of Our Lord, and of
Resurrection Lutheran Church; PRAY for his growth in
Christ and for his Parents!

NEXT SUNDAY, December 28th, STUDENT RECOGNITION SUNDAY,
Worship Service at 10:30 A.M. NO CHURCH SCHOOL.

ON EPIPHANY SUNDAY, January 4th, There will be Sunday
Church School Class sessions again at 9:15 A.M.

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR is invited to sing Christmas music
at Good Samaritan Service next Sunday at 6:30.

Christmas Eve == 1975

Scripture Reading: I John 1:1-4

This is a great night, an incredible night...a night very difficult to believe...

There are events we celebrate tonight that we don't
3fx even understand...

I know this is not the usual opener for a meditation on Christmas...

and I can assure you that I don't start this way just to capture your attention...

I really mean it... for I believe that all of us have been brought so close to Christmas for so many years that we simply assume that we understand what went on there that night of long ago in a faraway country of Israel in the city of Bethlehem...

But the reason that it is difficult to comprehend is that so much was happening at once....

And a lot happened whose significance has never been fathomed....

about which we only have glimpses of insight....

~~Let's~~ Let me explain what I mean...

all of this under the theme, "born unto us this day..."

First, he was born unto us this day in the city of Bethlehem...

It is a birthday that we celebrate...

It was the birth of a specific human being...

who lived at a certain time in a certain place...

in a specific locale...

was born to a specific mother, Mary, by name...

and the manger was a specific manger...

and the cattle lowing were specific cattle...

and the shepherds in the fields were real shepherds...
and the stars that shone were real stars... not just
story-stars... or make-believe...
or ideal stars... ideal cattle... ideal shep-
herds...

But this was a flesh-and-blood happening....

A baby was born that night...

And that baby grew up to be the most important
single influence upon ~~the western world~~
that the western world has ~~ever known~~
ever known...

So, whatever else people criticize about the Christian
faith...

they cannot criticize the factuality of the birth
of Jesus of Nazareth...

There really was such a person... He really did live
and die...

He knew the same experiences we know...

He knew what it was to be human ...

truly human...

-- not just an ideal type in human form...

but a truly human individual ...

a flesh-and-blood person...

That happened the first Christmas night...

A baby was born...

And the implication for us is rather profound: that the
meaning of life is to be found in specific things...
in flesh-and-blood happenings...

day by day ...

in this place.... not just anyplace...

in this time ... not just anytime...

The Christmas story tells us that meaning is to be found
in specific things .. right here ...

And we should be grateful for this, for this is where
we are and this is who we are...

If salvation had come in some other form, we may not
have been able to perceive it...

But if this weren't mystery enough... that the clue to meaning of life is to be found in the form of a baby...

If this weren't mystery enough... we have more...

Point II: Born unto us this day, but from the beginning...

This is the gist of the passage from Colossians:

(read from Col 1:12-20)

It isn't just Bethlehem, although it's at least Bethlehem...

It's more: it's in heaven ...

or, it's the union of heaven and earth...

Said more carefully: Christmas is a cosmic event...

Something happened in the universe itself that night....

This is why we speak so much of silence -- like in "silent night" ...

or of "keeping still" like in the hymn ~~the~~ that is being sung here this evening...

"All the earth keeps silent..."

Why does all the earth keep silent? -- not just to keep from disturbing the baby...

No, but out of reverence.....

It's like Thomas Merton's description of point vierge ...

~~virginal~~ ~~virginal~~ virginal point: the time before something happens...

like the beauty and simplicity of a field of new fallen snow before anyone has made footprints there...

All the earth keeps silent...

out of reverence...

out of awe...

Because something is happened... something has happened....

What has happened: Well, as the writer of the first letter of John puts it:

What was there from the beginning has become visible...

What was there from the beginning is the root of life... the core-element of reality...

that which is at the very center of life...

the source... the energy .. the vital force of life itself...

And that has been expressed ... or made visible... or manifested....

And this is why the angels sing ... ~~the higher spirits~~ ... "Glory to God in the highest!"

This is why there is melody throughout the heavens ... *Music*

because heaven and earth have been linked together...

the beginning has been brought into time....

the invisible meaning of things has become visible...

-- the underlying, hidden root of all things has been expressed...

or enunciated ...

or made known...

(read I John 1 again)

And the implication isn't difficult to discern:

There is another dimension to human life than the
one we call everyday ...

And while we certainly don't want this everyday
world to be treated as something unreal...

we also recognize that unless we make contact
with this transcendent world...

the world the way reality really is ..

we miss the meaning of human life...

For life is not one-dimensional ...

It is at least two-dimensional ...

and possibly multi-dimensional...

At any rate, he who is born from above enjoys eternal
life...

What does it profit a man if he gains all of this
world and does not know the things of the world
of eternity ...

On Christmas night, the root-core of human life
became WORD ..

that is expressed...

made manifest....

And because of it, we have the opportunity to live
at one with all things...

the temporal and the eternal interlaced...

the beginning, and the now, at one with
each other...

And the only appropriate response is silence --

~~like the light shining in a dark place...~~

~~filling the darkness with beads of~~

For from the deep reservoirs of silence, something
has been spoken...

a sound has been heard...

And, as the writer puts it: "it is the word of life"

But there is more...

For in addition to the two themes:

(1) born unto us this day in the city of Bethlehem
and (2) born unto us this day, but there from the
beginning,

is a third:

(3) born unto us this day in our hearts...

There are at least three contexts or places in which
the event takes place...

-- there in Bethlehem, one or two years B.C., near
Nazareth...

in the locale now called Israel...

and there in the cosmos...there in the heavens...
where the eternal world makes contact with the
temporal world...

but also within ourselves...

within our hearts...

within our psychic centers...

within that place of ours where we sort
out our aspirations, our fears, our
dreads, our hopes, our longings,
our wishes...

our dreams...

our enthusiasms...

There too the Christmas event takes place...

For the disciples soon learned that what had occurred
was not simply a matter to behold from afar...
but an event which affected them deeply within...

It made new persons out of them...

It gave them a different orientation...

They said that they found they were no longer living
for themselves, but living for the one who had
brought them this new life...

For them, it was as though life had begun anew...

It was as though life had truly begun...

--like we sometimes say when we say "today is the first day of the rest of our lives."

It was a new beginning, but not just another beginning...
the actual beginning...

All things had become new...

The old things had passed away...

They had virtually become new creatures....

They were living for eternal values, and not just for that, which like everything else, passes away...

As they put it: "Christ had come to dwell in their hearts."

~~He was in~~

Through Christ, God was living within them..."

A kind of interior exchange took place...

no longer they living unto themselves...

but their life was hid with Christ's in God...

And they began to perceive one another differently now...

as persons made in the image of God...

as persons in whom God lived....

as persons living together, sharing the common life, the life that is shared with the Father and with his son, Jesus Christ...

We can't go any further tonight...but there are just two additional considerations that I'd like to offer for your ~~consideration~~ or meditation...

The first one really gets to me: it excites me like few other thoughts or ideas or recognitions: and it is this --

Something happened
But what had
happened was the only
one was disclosed

Like people ~~being~~ loving
each other, but
not yet telling ---
making it
explicit...

— like deep, deep
inner, too deep
to be expressed.

--- which, all at once,
take on the perceptible
form of

that Christmas is the night of a grand unveiling...

but everything unveiled was already there...

We know what this means: ~~that everything is there, now,~~
but ~~we don't perceive it...~~

the reality was always -
it was it perceived.. -

The life is there, but it needs to be made manifest...

Or, said more simply: we are already the children of God.
but we don't know it, or recognize it, or
live as though it were true...

In other words, Christmas gives us a more reliable
index into the way reality really is...

It's events may be foreign to our ordinary
way of viewing things,

but they disclose the world as it really is.

What is there in the deep reservoirs of human life
were expressed that first Christmas...

the invisible became visible...

the primordial became temporal ...

the archetypal ~~message~~ was enunciated...

the deep secret was brought to consciousness

And the second point is this:

We've ~~been~~ developed the theme "Born unto us this day"
in three contexts:

-- in bethlehem...

-- born unto us this day, but from the
beginning.....

and born in our hearts..."

But=the great miracle of Christmas is that we're talking
about the same event all three times...

- in a mysterious way, there there are one -

He who was born in Bethlehem is the focal point of
the occurrence within the cosmos...

and is the substance of the divine life
within...

He who was born in Bethlehem, in different form, also
comes to dwell within our hearts...

~~He who was born in Bethlehem~~ - so that, day by day, we give
formation to P. within ourselves. ~

That which was there from the beginning, in different
form, is also present within us...

And that which is born from within us is that which
was there from the beginning, and in different form,
was made manifest that first Christmas night...

It is a grand mystery --

a precious mystery --

an awesome sound --

profound silence --

but in the mystery lies the conditions of our salvation...

-- the possibility of self-transcendence --

Indeed, the occurrence in Bethlehem and in the heavens
can mirror the rhythms by which our interior life
is formed...

This is a piece, maybe just a small piece, of the
significance of the statement from 1st John:

(read passage again)

Amen

THE TIME IS FULFILLED

A clock tower becomes an architectural timepiece to remind us that all of history is in God's hands. From the beginning He has set the seasons in their cycle and determined the length of time that must elapse before the coming of His kingdom in Christ. As Jesus began His public ministry, He announced that God's reign had finally arrived. As the new year progresses, we have an opportunity to remember His call to us in the Gospel. Having received the Good News, we also live the new life according to it.



The time is fulfilled

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL
January 25, 1976
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, LCA
3869 State St., Santa Barbara
Paul Nussle, Pastor

Warren Nielsen
Intern Pastor

Brookes M. Davis
Dir. of Music

THE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

	Page
PRELUDE, "The Sending, Lord, Springs From Thy Yearning Heart"	Hillert
*HYMN, 428 "O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing"	
THE SERVICE (2nd setting)	41

PRAISE AND PRAYER

PSALM 67	
GLORIA PATRI	43
KYRIE and GLORIA IN EXCELSIS	44-49
COLLECT PRAYER	

THE LORD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST LESSON	Acts 9:1-22
SECOND LESSON	Galatians 1:11-24
ALLELUIA	
*GOSPEL	Luke 21:10-19
(9 a.m.) NICENE CREED	4
(10:45) APOSTLES' CREED	5
(10:45) ANTHEM, "Lost In The Night"	Christiansen
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	
HYMN, 515 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"	
SERMON	Dr. Walter Capps
"THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL"	

WE OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST

OFFERING, "In Adam We Have All Been One"	Gehring
*OFFERTORY	55
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH	
HYMN, 508 "Make Me A Captive, Lord"	
(9 a.m.) THANKSGIVING - The Holy Communion	58-70
BENEDICTION	
POSTLUDE, "Speak Forth Thy Word, O Father"	Beck
* * * * *	

*Congregation stands

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today were placed to the glory of
God by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Brugger in memory of loved ones.

WE EXTEND A CORDIAL WELCOME TO EACH OF YOU. We hope
you find our worship an inspiration and we invite mem-
bers and guests to sign a worship card which may be
placed in the offering plate. Give us an opportunity
to become acquainted with you following the service.

OUR THANKS to Pastor Fred Tonsing and Dr. Walter Capps
for leading our worship this morning in the absence
of Pastor Paul and Warren who are on retreat with the
confirmation classes.

PARISH NOTICES

TODAY -- HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP, 9 a.m.

SERVICE BOOK LITURGY, 10:45 a.m.

MONDAY -- RACHEL CIRCLE, 7:30 p.m. at Eleanora Milne's,
318 E. Arrellaga St.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE, 8 p.m. at Dee Melvin's, 5364 Paseo
Cameo Ave.

TUESDAY -- SEWING GROUP, 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES, 7-9 p.m.

ADULT STUDY, 7:30-9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY -- CRAFTS GROUP, 10 a.m.

ADULT CHOIR, 7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY -- BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY, 7 a.m. at Sambo's.

SR. HIGH RETREAT, in the San Bernadino Mtn. Be sure
to get your permission slips in now.

SUNDAY -- HOLY COMMUNION WORSHIP, 9 and 10:45 a.m.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL, 9 a.m. service

* * * * *

A MARRIAGE DIALOGUE--to make a good marriage better--
is being planned to be held at La Casa de Maria on
March 5-7 (Fri. to Sun.). Only 15 couples can be
accommodated. The cost is \$70 per couple which includes
meals and lodging for the weekend. For information
or to sign up call Troy & Rebecca Harris (963-9606),
Gail & Howard Bensen (964-1552), Bob & Jeannie Christ-
ensen (964-2551) or Pat & Joe Wheatley (963-7015).

* * * * *

8TH & 9TH GRADE CONFIRMANDS -- ENCOUNTER at the Salva-
tion Army, Sat., Feb. 7, meet at church at 10 a.m.
This is part of your confirmation curriculum--plan
now to attend.

* * * * *

PLAN NOW FOR JR. HIGH PROGRESSIVE DINNER, Feb. 15!!
All junior highs and friends are invited for a fun
dinner with scavenger hunt, etc.

Seeman

Jan 25 1976

... have heard before, of course,
especially on the time of Reformation Day, in
the winter, when we recount the story of Martin
Luther, and how he came to carry regarding the
preaching of the Gospel.

But we refer to *you* not to remind ourselves that
we are Lutherans... Luther's insights,
but to celebrate St. Paul, the author of the text,
to whose name the day has been established in
the Church year.

Personal Words -

- End Torsing -

- my own thanks -

- prepared for 50 minutes
preamble

point: that St. Paul
has taught us the
lesson of faith

The text for today comes from the first chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans; verses 16 and 17:

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel. It is the saving power of God for everyone who has faith -- the Jew first, but the Greek also -- because here is revealed God's way of righting wrong, a way that starts from faith and ends in faith, as Scripture says, 'he shall gain life who is justified through faith.'"

(I'll read it once more...)

This is a text all Lutherans have heard before, of course, especially during the time of Reformation Day, in late October, when we recount the story of Martin Luther, and how he came to clarity regarding the meaning of the Gospel...

But we refer to it today not to remind ourselves that we are Lutherans...

or in praise of Luther's insights, but to celebrate St. Paul, the author of the text, in whose name this day has been established in the Church Year.

You will notice in your bulletins that this is The Conversion of St. Paul Sunday. The Lesson from the 9th chapter of Acts recounted St. Paul's conversion, and the Epistle lesson, from Galatians, focused on Paul's own story as he recalled his own conversion experience....

I thought at first that I would preach -- well, preach isn't quite the right word, for I'm not a preacher by trade -- I thought I would base my remarks on St. Paul's conversion experience....

But I found certain difficulties with that.... mostly because it forces us to think about relationships between ~~Christians and Jews~~ being and Jew and being a Christian...

I think I need more time than 15 to 20 minutes for that, and I'm not sure that the pulpit is the right setting...

So, I'm going to do what a lot of preachers do when they get in spots like this... I've chosen to speak about something else...

But the topic is very much related... for it focuses on Paul's understanding of the Gospel....

But I'd like to begin not with St. Paul, or with Martin Luther... but with Mrs. Lundeen....

You don't know Mrs. Lundeen of course.....

although some of you know someone like her....

and I recognize that this isn't Mrs. Lundeen Sunday...

But Mrs. Lundeen taught me the meaning of sin...

It happened in a Sunday School class in Omaha, Nebraska...

a long time ago, well, almost 35 years ago...

And Mrs. Lundeen had us boys gathered together, sitting in a circle, there in the basement of Augustana Lutheran Church...

And she said, "Boys, tell me, how many times did you sin this week?"

It was a startling question. I know I wasn't prepared for it...

And instinctively I looked at my cousin, Kenny Olson, who was related to Mrs. Lundeen, hoping that Kenny would answer first...

Why did I want Kenny to answer first...?

Well, because I thought he'd be truthful, for I suspected that Mrs. Lundeen already had some idea of how many times Kenny Olson had sinned...

And also I suspected that Kenny had sinned more than I had that week -- perhaps because he had more courage -- and I thought I could gauge my answer according to his. Like if he said, six times, I could say five or four or something...

But Kenny said "about four times" this week....

And I thought that that was about the right number for me...

But Mrs. Lundeen wouldn't accept it.

She told us flatly that we had sinned more times than that. She just knew we had...

So we kept adding numbers, like eight or ten or twelve... and some of us couldn't count much higher than twelve...

But still she wasn't satisfied...

She told us that we sinned everyday...

even more than once a day....

indeed, many times a day...

Or, as St. Paul wrote, "while we were yet sinners, Christ
 Finally, when we could tell that Mrs. Lundeen had more
 insight into the subject than we had....
 we asked her, "Mrs. Lundeen, how many times have we
 sinned this week?"

She waited a little, looking at all of us to be sure we
 were listening.

Then, when she was sure that she had our undivided
 attention,

and knowing that once she told us we would never forget it,
 she said, "boys, you sin at least a hundred
 times a minute."

Wow, we thought. That's really sinning....

I really had no idea...

A hundred times a minute... *it sounds like a challenge*
 Even more frequently than my heart beats...

There was a point in doing it this way, for what
 Mrs. Lundeen wanted us to learn that sin is a human
 condition...

that it qualifies all that we do....

everything is ~~affected~~ affected by
 sin...

for sin describes the way we are....

But the real reason for ~~shock~~ shocking us this way
 was to help us appreciate the gospel story...

which was depicted to us in ~~throne-room~~
~~our~~ court-of-law terms...

And that came this way, that you and I are
 sinners...

We have ~~broken~~ broken the law...

and thus offended the divine majesty...

And we stand before the judge, naked and shamed
 because of what we have done...

which we have done wilfully...

Then, after learning that we deserve to be punished...
 and after we recognize that we have brought the
 punishment upon ourselves...

We are told that someone else has taken the punishment
 for our sin....

We are freed to go...

for justice has been done...

righteousness has been effected...

and the sinner has been pardoned....

Or, as St. Paul wrote, "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us..."

And this is what Mrs. Lundeen wanted us to know...

She wanted us to recognize our need so that we could appreciate the gospel of forgiveness and restoration...

"While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." - - - - -

Not until later did I begin to see the matter in different or additional terms...

and I began to learn that there were other ways to talk about the gospel....

These other ways, too, were informed by the ~~Epistles~~ New Testament Epistles of St. Paul...

And the next group of insights were clustered about a certain growing awareness of the majesty of God... not so much the God who sits in the judge's shair in a court of law...

But the God of majesty and might --- the God about whom we sang "Oh God, how wonderful thou art..."

particularly with reference to a Luther League Convention in Colorado Springs in 1952...

And coupled with this sense of God's majesty and might... his awesomeness in creating the universe...

not only in bringing all of it about... but also in sustaining the small detail... the buds of flowers...

the wings of hummingbirds...

the myriad forms of plant and animal life...

-- coupled with this ~~sense~~ sense of God's majesty and might was the

related recognition that this was a God afar off.

-- a God almost inapproahhable...

a God unfathomable ..

A God incomprehensible...

-- inscrutable....

indeed, unknowable...

-- far, far away...

-- qualitatively distinct from all of us...

-- mysteriously removed...

awesome...majestic...

Or, as St. Paul wrote, "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us..."

And this is what Mrs. Lunden wanted us to know...
She wanted us to recognize our need so that we
could appreciate the gospel of forgiveness and

We also have it in the 2nd chapter of

Philippians....

Not until later did I begin to see the matter in different

"For the divine nature was his from the

first; yet he did not snatch at equality

with God, but made himself nothing,

assuming the nature of a slave....

bearing the human likeness,

revealed in human shape,

he humbled himself, and in obedience accepted

not so much the God's throne as the Judge's chair.

in a court of law...

But the God of majesty and might ---

the God about whom we sang "Oh God, how wonderful

thou art..."

particularly with reference to a Luther League

Convention in Colorado Springs in 1952...

And coupled with this sense of God's majesty and might...

his awesomeness in creating the universe...

not only in bringing all of it about...

but also in sustaining the small details...

the buds of flowers...

the wings of hummingbirds...

the myriad forms of plant and animal life...

-- coupled with this sense of God's majesty and

might was the

related recognition that this was a God afar off...

-- a God almost inaccessible...

a God unathomable...

A God incomprehensible...

--- inscrutable....

indeed, unknowable...

-- far, far away...

-- qualitatively distinct from all of us...

-- mysteriously removed...

awesome... majestic...

Against this background, I recall seeing the figure of Christ in a new way...

-- not so much as the one who enters the courtroom
to take the punishment for our sin...
so that we can be released from our guilt...
and set free...

No, I began seeing Christ more as the revelation of God...

-- as the most reliable indicator of the nature of God...
-- indeed, the very expression of God in human form,
that is, in terms we can comprehend...

And I remember reading the prologue to John's Gospel
with fresh meaning....

"In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. The Word dwelt with God,
and what God was, the Word was....

And the Word became flesh, to dwell among us...
and we beheld his glory...

the glory that befits the Father's
only Son...

full of grace ~~of~~ and truth..."

And this was a different reading....
not the same as the first...
for the context was very different...

But the beat went on....
For it dawned on us, even those of us who come out of
Omaha, Nebraska....
that there was much more to learn...

Mrs. Lundeen's Sunday School class continued on...

What we learned was that he had to see the situation
in more than individual terms....

It wasn't enough that we come to clarity about
our own personal or individual relationship
with God...

but we had to see it also in corporate
or collective terms...

I still recall the shock of recognizing that the
New Testament addressed itself to the subject of
THE KINGDOM OF GOD....

-- the Kingdom that was to come....

-- the ideal society, but more than the
ideal society...

The point of entry is probably the awareness of lack or deficiency or incompleteness...

or absence of realization....

But as soon as one is aware of it, the insight is overwhelming for all one needs to do is look about...

Societies in want...

~~minority peoples~~ minority peoples underprivileged...

disadvantaged persons.... massive

~~minority peoples~~...

~~minority peoples~~...

massive economic inequalities...

-- exploitation of workers by capitalist overseers...

-- civilizations and societies operating
on the very principles which
insure other peoples' bondage...

and not only social and political evils...

but illness...

terminal illness...

suffering....

death... ~~slow death~~....

abrupt and startling death...

slow death...

~~slow death~~ dying by inches...but

still visible death...

As I say, the recognition is overwhelming...

really paralyzing...

-- and it is for very good reason that we
have related the ~~gospel~~ work of the
church to the needs of society...

-- for this is not simply a side issue....

-- or an option...

No, not if the coming of the Kingdom of God is the

central motif of the ~~New Testament~~ book we call sacred...

~~book~~

But here too, it was the word from St. Paul that
is significant:

"For I reckon that the sufferings we now endure bear no
comparison with the splendor, as yet unrevealed, which
is in store for us. For the created universe waits
with eager longing -- like a woman in childbirth --
the creation waits with eager longing for God's
~~children~~ children to be revealed...

The whole created universe groans in all its parts as if
in the pangs of childbirth...and we too, we groan inwardly,
waiting to be set free....

For we hope for something we do not yet see...
and in waiting for it we show our endurance...

But there is more, for the education of Mrs. Lundeen's
boys continued on...

And here I must be brief...

for it came about through ~~xxx~~ contact with a nun, a sister,
in the Immaculate Heart order, from Los Angeles...
with whom we shared many hours in England...

And as we talked, principally about friends we had in
the States,

I sensed that ^{as her} her evaluation of these mutual friends
was much ^{less} ~~more~~ ^{charitable} than mine...

She could ~~xxx~~ hardly say an uncharitable word...

And wondering how this could be,

how our evaluations could vary this much, I said to
her one day: "you must take this image-of-God idea
seriously..."

And she said, "of course, I do, don't you?"

And then it occurred to me how differently we would
relate to one another if we understood each person to
be made in the image of God...

that is, to be a reflection of God...

one through whom the life of God comes to us....

And how differently we would understand ourselves if we
would see ourselves this way...

that is, as persons made in the image of God...

persons in whom the reality of God dwells...

Again, it was St. Paul who talked about the Gospel
as being a secret...hidden for ages, and now made
known...

And the secret is: Christ in you -- that is, Christ
dwelling in you, the hope of glory...

Christ lives within you, and your life lies
hidden with Christ in God.....

Well, the education goes on....

There are additional ways to view the matter....

8

But we must draw some conclusions....

We've been talking this morning about four ways of portraying the gospel....

Each of the four ways is ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is rooted in a particular context....

~~Each describes a particular way of righting a wrong...~~

Each is a depiction, as Paul says, of "God's way of righting wrong..."

The scholars would call the first context juridical... which means that the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ language and the references belong to a court-room ~~xxx~~ scenario...

judicial -
-- here the depiction of the gospel occurred in court-room terms....

But that wasn't the only way of ~~xxxx~~ viewing the matter....

For there was a second way --

more philosophical than juridical....

It was a way that derives from a sense of the limits of human knowledge ...

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

It derives from a recognition of our own limitations... our own finiteness ---

And it speaks of the way in which knowledge of

God is disclosed for us through God's becoming

~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ human...

And this too is a way of depicting the gospel...

The third model is neither juridical nor philosophical... but more social and political ---

and it derives from a sense of what is

necessary if human fulfillment is to

occur in corporate, collective terms....

It speaks of the coming of the Kingdom of God,

and it depicts the gospel in just these...

Then the fourth frame focuses on interior order....

on the structure of our own psychic centers...

and it points to the reality of God within...

while encouraging us day by day to give formation

to the life of God which dwells in our own

hearts.....

And this too is a depiction of the gospel.....

9

Four different contexts

Four different models...

Four different scenarios....

And yet four ways of portraying the gospel,
for we can speak about the gospel in at least
four different ways....

But it is important to notice that that the Gospel
is not anyone of the contexts...

The gospel is not the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ scenario....
and not even the succession of ~~XXXX~~
scenario....

For gospel is not context...

Gospel is not way of speaking....

Gospel is not way of making sense....

But the Gospel is the power of God....

The Gospel is a vital, living force....

The Gospel is the living reality....
like life.....

life-inspiring...

life-creating....

life-influencing....

life-giving....

life-embellishing....

life-fulfilling....

The gospel is life....

or, as St. Paul puts it in our text...

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation...

~~And the power of God can be fitted to a~~
~~number of contexts...~~

And the power of God can be fitted to a
number of contexts...

It addresses itself to a number of
situations.....

to which, in every instance, it is
God's way of righting wrong...

So, on this day of celebration....

we give thanks for St. Paul, that apostle of God,
who gave us the language by which we have
come to understand the meaning of our faith...

And in giving thanks for St. Paul,

we also express our gratitude for the
Mrs. Lundeens, of our past, and of the
present....

who tried to teach us that in faith we would
also find ~~our~~ life.

if we ^{would} ~~could~~ find
faith and grace,
we'd also
find life.

Amen

LOOKING AHEAD IN 1976

- June 13 LEWIS CHAPEL C.M.E.
Rev. Frederic B. James
- July 11 FIRST BAPTIST
Speaker: Dr. Donald R. Locher
- August 8 ST. MARY'S RETREAT HOUSE - Terrace
Service led by the Sisters
- September 12 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Old Fashioned Hymn Sing and Musical
- October 10 ST. PAUL'S A.M.E.
Speaker: Dr. F. Lowell Cormack
- November 14 ALL SAINT'S EPISCOPAL (9th Anniversary)
Speaker: Rev. Paul Gammons

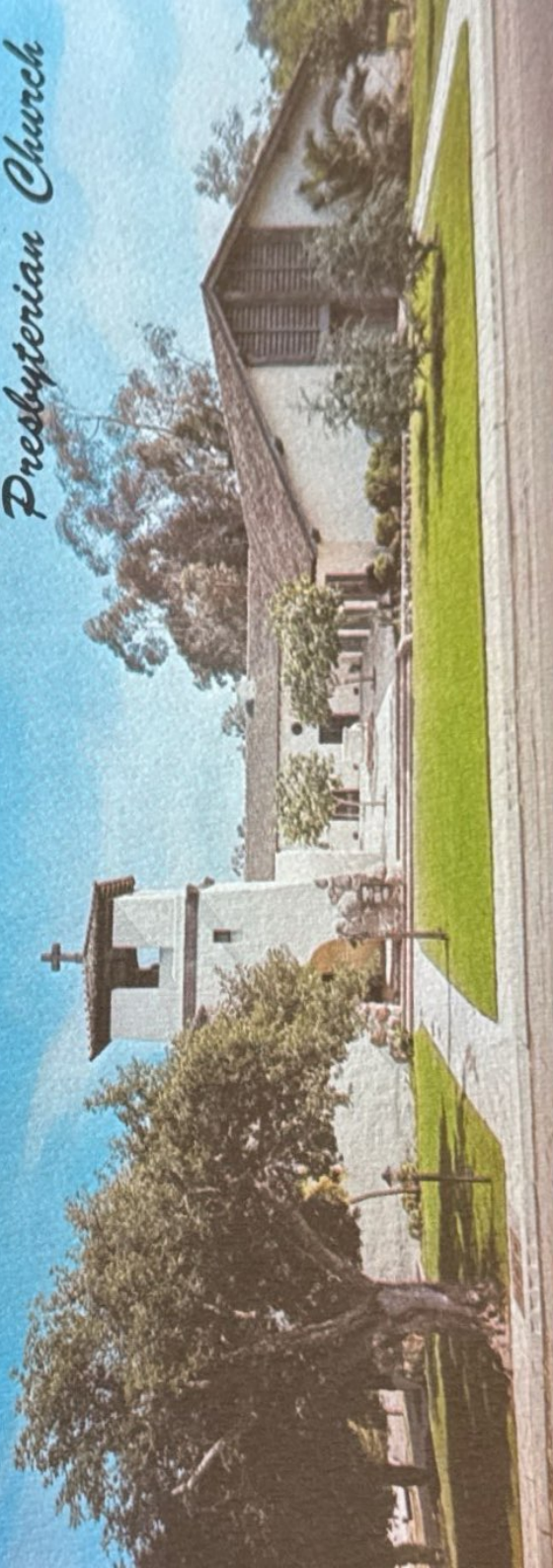
OUR CHURCH MISSIONARIES

Rev. and Mrs. Malcolm R. Carrick I, I-Chome Hanayama-cho
Nagata-ku, Kobe, Japan
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Stuck Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa,
North Carolina

A SCOTCH KIRK BLESSING

If after kirk you bide a wee,
There's some wad like to speak to ye.
If after kirk you rise and flee,
We'll all seem cold and stiff to ye.
The one that's in the seat with ye
Is stranger here than you, maybe.
All here is got their fears and cares;
Add you your soul unto our prayers;
Be you our angel unawares.

El Montecito Presbyterian Church



1455 East Valley Road, Montecito
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93103

THE REV. PAUL MACALESTER GAMMONS, Pastor
Phone: 969-1142

Church Office Hours: 9 to 5 Monday through Friday and by appointment

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."—Psalm 122:1

FAMILY TO FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENSONG

SUNDAY, MAY 9, 1976 4:50 P.M.

ORGAN PRELUDE: A Prayer for the Innocent. McKay

INTROIT: A Moment of Meditation

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Paul M. Gammons

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

. . . Ephesians 4:4-6

HYMN 100: All Creatures of Our God and King

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Great God: your Son called disciples, and prayed for their unity. Forgive divisions. Help us to confess our lack of charity toward people whose customs are different, or whose creeds conflict with what we believe. Forgive arrogance that claims God's truth; that will not listen or learn new ways. Heal broken fellowship in your mercy, and draw the church together in one faith, loyal to one Lord and Savior, who taught us to pray, "Our Father. . . . (use "debts")

DECLARATION OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI

RESPONSIVE READING: Sel. 22, p. 492 (Psalm 95:1-7a;96)

Rev. Lee Norris May, St. Paul A.M.E. Church

ANTHEMS: For Those Tears I Died

(It's) A Small Planet

Alex McDavid

Junior and Senior Youth,

First Christian and First Congregational Churches

GREETINGS FROM THE HOST CHURCH Rev. Paul M. Gammons

GREETINGS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP Dr. Charles W. Cooper

ORGAN OFFERTORY: In Adam We Are One. Alec Wyton

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM: Draw Me In the Spirit's Tether Titcomb

Chapel Choir, El Montecito Presbyterian Church

EVENING PRAYER

Dr. Lyle Hillegas

SCRIPTURE: Romans 15:1-6

Rev. Gwynne Schultz

First Congregational Church

SERMON: LANGUAGES OF RELIGION, THE ACADEMY AND THE CHURCH

Dr. Walter H. Capps, Department of Religion, UCSB

APOSTLES' CREED:

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen

HYMN 111: O God, Our Help in Ages Past

BENEDICTION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "O Be Joyful In the Lord". Benoit

Fellowship time follows in the Church Hall

You are all invited to come to the Church Hall for a time of refreshment and fellowship provided by the Women's Association of the Montecito Church, under the direction of Mrs. Jan Graf.

1976 FFF Officers

President	Dr. Charles W. Cooper	Friends
Vice-Pres.	Mr. James Jones	Greater Hope Baptist
Vice-Pres.	Mrs. Joyce Grigsby	Second Baptist
Rec. Sec.	Mrs. Judy Ferrell	Christ the King Ep.
Corr. Sec.	Mrs. Phyllis Bowden	Cambridge Dr. Baptist
Treasurer	Mrs. Ethel Arnold	First Christian
Ex-Officio	Rev. Robert M. Harvey	Christ the King Ep.

Director; Junior & Senior Youth: Philip Clayton

Director, Chapel Choir: Louis Welcher

Organist: Martha Bowlus

Ushers: Al Graf, Ralph Olson

Meister Eckhart:

Not a
Clergyman

"Under God the father
is father of the
soul, the soul
cannot become
mother of God."

///

"Reflections on
Mother's Day"

"And God created man in his own image,
male & female, he created them."

Family - A Family Fellowship organization are
very efficient & all this possible
- type Fatherless - Fatherless
1) husbands & the Brotherhood - Father and
of the Church, the church - our home
little multitudes / young cells

Mother's Day - Each more & more
complicated to keep track this.

There been training to work comment about
Mother's Day. In the address - important between

1) Christianity Today - Mother's Day

2) Conference in L.F. this morning.

"Honor all mothers"
little applause

- more like applause for motherhood

3) First speaker - CBS Program on
Mother's Day - wrote Carol Winters
and note this is very
different.

4) Rosemary Kenner - She is Rising

inward / redemptive

James Hollman - No better way to
prepare for the religious moment
than by cultivating one's own
unconscious femininity.

→ that we reach together in
moments, especially, when
we are separated -
that to heal the
wounds, to bring
them back
together, to
recreate ourselves

Flattering as it may seem - that a broken world -
Mother's Day = a product of a deep ^{desire in a child - breakfast}
unconscious desire - that we don't ^{understand} anything

It's been said - Mother's Day is Protestant
- in Spain? in England?

Something deeper regarding Mother's Day -
two statements I used:

First: that we can with much more
clarity about Mother's Day when we
recognize that we are made - the
mope / fool...

Second: to come to know with Mother's Day
requires that we come to know with a
search Part of ourselves...

Third:

something waiting to be born
re-socialization of our inner lives

Step by Step - Image

(3)

The text says it: God made man in his
own image - male & female he created him.

means: (1) That human beings are of two
kinds - male & female -
& that is the way God intended
the Creator intended it.

(2) That the image of God is male/female
simultaneously - that God's image
is within us as male/female
simultaneously.

Question -

That our maleness / femaleness are
also part of God's plan for our salvation.

Suffering: one time the two stood
together in harmony - one man
task was to put them back together

- What was joined together in oneness
originally, has become separated -
- task is to create oneness

Mother's Day - symbolically - point to (4)
this uninterrupted process. -

What was born of woman can become
be made divine.

Pattern:

- What was born of our woman. Mary -
was divine -

Thus, you had. refers to having a
"The Mother of God."

Reminders:

- That we are bearers of the most
good. -

That, within us, there is a way in
which good is unhindered -

- brought into being -

- given form -

made articulate -

- given expression -

8

Finally — the way would be to
visit mother —
as person who was
nurtured the birth of
God within us —

Finally —
— we tend to stress redemptive —
service — —
— We don't then celebrate eph
celts
— the power that we have
for granted —

Mother's Day helps us become more
aware of this — Leads to a deepening of

ourselves — + a clearer sense of the
presence of God in our lives —