

"A QUESTION FOR LENT"

INTRODUCTION

We are told that there is a law of resonance and sound vibration.

All sound is vibration and everything that moves has its own particular keynote, for the simple reason that it vibrates as it moves. There is not an atom or molecule anywhere that doesn't move - vibrate, create sound. And it will respond to anything that vibrates in the same key. Strike a note on a piano and you will find that the note an octave above or below it, if the felt is lifted, will vibrate and respond to it.

Now the operation of this law of resonance is far reaching. In our time, it has made possible the radio, the television, telephone and all of the rest of the wonderful tele-things. You set up sound vibrations in what we call a transmitter which transforms them into electrical impulses that travel, not with the speed of sound, but with the speed of light, and half way around the world some receiving set, tuned in on that particular wave length, transforms them back into sound waves for the human ear, which itself is a receiving set. It's all very wonderful.

A QUESTION

Now I've started out this way because I want to ask you a question: what do you vibrate to? For not alone in this matter of sound but in matters of mind and soul this law of resonance operates. What are you in tune with? What is your soul set to receive? Nothing is more certain than this, that whatever it is that molds your life, shapes your thinking and your moral character, depends almost entirely on what you respond to, or what you are in tune with. Someone has said that life is what we are alive to. ~~Lent has been a time when Christians have searched their hearts and sought to draw nearer to God and His will for them.~~ What are you in tune with? What is your soul set to receive? This is the question I want you to consider quietly here this morning.

DEVELOPMENT OF IDEA

All around us is this wonderful world of reality and we are equipped with certain powers of reception. Our senses are receiving sets. Through our senses the world outside comes into our consciousness. And yet, we're all quite aware, I'm sure, that what we get with our limited instruments of perception is only a small fragment of what there actually is. The radio helps to make this clear or the television. All around us the invisible ether is vibrant with reality - voices, music, sights, sounds - many voices trying to break through and tell us things and every day we take what we want from it. We can get a speech from the United Nations if we wish to tune in on that. Or we can get a choice selection from the opera. Or if we are particularly fastidious in our taste, we can bring in the Beatles. It's all there and when we turn the knob on the little box - radio or television - we don't shut it off; we just shut it out. We get only what we ask for. None of it makes any impression on us except as we bring our receiving instruments into tune with it.

MENTAL PERCEPTION

Look at this, if you will for a moment, in the area of mental perception. What we receive with the mind depends on what we respond to with the mind. This is, first of all, a thought world. It was created by the mind of God and therefore our minds can read it and in a measure, take it all in. All since is built on the assumption that the world is intelligent, therefore intelligible. The human brain is a receiving set far more fascinating than any radio. Through it, every day, pass millions of thoughts and ideas as though all creation were a broadcasting station sending out messages trying to tell us things through the mind. Yet none of it gets in until we say, "Stop. I want to tune in with this idea" So that which we call education is mostly a matter of tuning in - receptivity, response. No one can give you an education. You have to take it. You have to vibrate to it else it will float by in the

ORGAN PRELUDE
CALL TO WORSHIP

Coming into the Presence of God

*HYMN #4 "O Worship the King"

PRAYERS

INVOCATION Page 510 "For the Spirit of Worship"
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Most merciful Father, we have done little to forward thy kingdom in this world, to foster the brotherhood of man, and to establish love as the law of life. We have allowed self to blind us, pains to embitter us. We have forgotten that whatsoever is done to one of the least of thy children is done unto thee. Pardon our shortcomings; forgive our neglect; give us a pure heart intent on pleasing thee. Help us in all our seeking to seek first thy kingdom and thy righteousness. And make us to come, as came thy Son Jesus Christ, not to be ministered unto, but to minister. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT MEDITATION THE LORD'S PRAYER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The Affirmation of Our Faith

RESPONSIVE READING "God's Measureless Mercy" 597

*THE GLORIA PATRI

*THE AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH - p. 512

OFFERTORY

ORGAN MEDITATION

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER "Accept these gifts, O God..

Guidance and Prayer

SCRIPTURE LESSON

MORNING PRAYER

INVITATION TO PRAYER (responsively)

O God, make clean our hearts within us

AND TAKE NOT THY HOLY SPIRIT FROM US.

The Lord be with you

AND WITH THY SPIRIT. Let us pray.

PERSONAL PRAYER ORGAN RESPONSE

PRAYER HYMN (seated) (Hymn 173)

Dedication and Commitment

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

SERMON

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #297 "Draw thou my soul"

PERIOD OF MEDITATION (seated)
BENEDICTION AND ORGAN RESPONSE

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

(* - the people standing)

+ + + + +
+ "The highest moment in the church service is +
+ the moment when God's people - strengthened by +
+ preaching and sacrament - go out the church door +
+ into the world to be the church. We don't go to +
+ church; we are the church."
+
+ -Canon Ernest Southcott +
+ + + + +

SUMMER PREACHING SCHEDULE AND SOLOISTS

July 4 - Rev. John W. Neff

Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon

Soloist - Mrs. Clifton M. Pike

July 11 - Rev. John W. Neff

Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon

Soloist - Miss Virginia Hagen

July 18 - Rev. H. Travers Smith, former Pastor of this church and now Superintendent of the Portland District.

Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon

Soloist - Mrs. Myles A. Cambridge

Coffee Fellowship in the Parish Hall served by the Makaria Circle.

July 25 - Rev. Charles Parkin, formerly Pastor of this church and Director of the Advance Dept. for the Methodist Board of Missions, now retired.

Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon

Soloist - Miss Elaine Pike

Aug. 1 - Rev. Philip A. C. Clarke, Pastor of the Park Avenue Methodist Church in New York City.

Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon

Soloist - Mrs. Myles A. Cambridge

Aug. 8 - Rev. Charles B. Rodway, former Pastor of Seaman's Mission Work in Portland and Boston, now retired.

Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon

Soloist - Mrs. Myles A. Cambridge

Coffee Fellowship in the Parish Hall, served by the Mizpah Circle.

- Aug. 15 - Rev. John W. Neff
Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon
Soloist - Mrs. Robert Teeter
- Aug. 22 - Rev. John W. Neff
Organist - Mrs. Allan L. MacKinnon
Soloist - Mrs. Robert W. Carter
- Aug. 29 - Rev. John W. Neff
Organist - Miss Marietta Gould
Soloists - Dr. and Mrs. Myron D. Hager
- Sept. 5 - Rev. John W. Neff
Organist - Miss Marietta Gould
Soloists - Dr. and Mrs. Myron D. Hager

Facilities for children of all ages are provided in the Parish Hall during the Morning Worship Hour each Sunday.

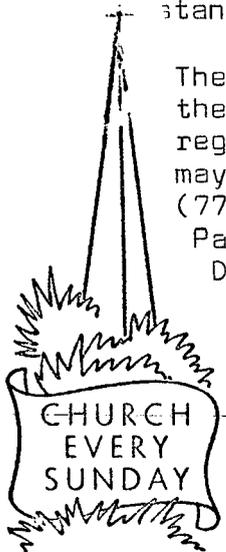
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL, sponsored jointly by Clark Memorial and Central Square Baptist Church will be held for two weeks - July 19-30 from 9:00-11:00 AM. Kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 will be located at Central Square; grades 3-6 will be located at Clark Memorial.

Registration will be at 9:00 A.M. on July 19th.

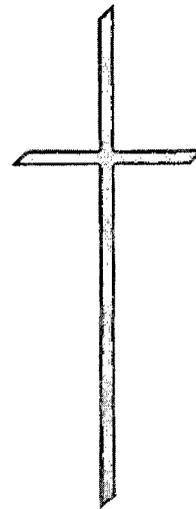
The Commission on Stewardship and Finance requests that you keep your current pledges up-to-date, as far as possible during the vacation period. Our financial obligations are always constant, and it is preferable that we keep our income constant as well.

The Church Office will be closed during the summer months and will begin on a regular schedule on Sept. 7th. Mr. Neff may be reached at the Parsonage (772-1044). In case of emergency, if the Pastor is away, kindly contact Mr. John Downes (774-8551).

Clark Memorial extends a warm welcome to all visitors and newcomers. May we ask that you make yourselves known and share with us something about yourself by filling out the card in the pew holders or by signing the guest books located on the tables in the rear of the sanctuary.

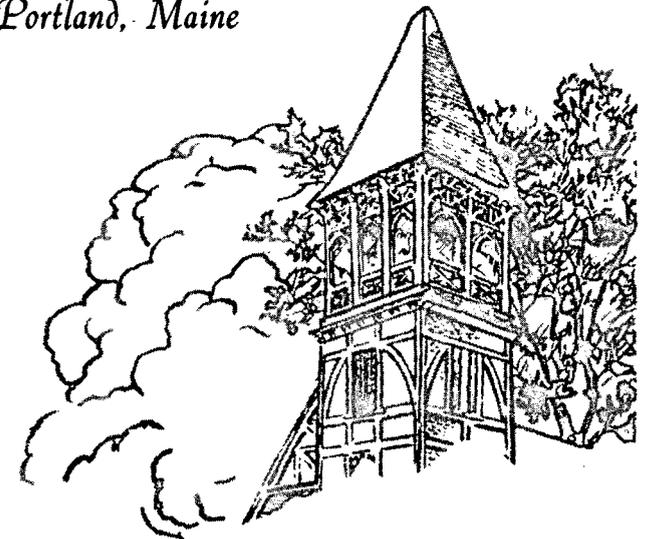


CHURCH
EVERY
SUNDAY



*"Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace."*

*Clark Memorial Methodist Church
Portland, Maine*



A Christian Fellowship for
Worship, Instruction and Service

Minister
John W. Neff

This church extends a very cordial invitation to visitors and new residents in the community to attend our services and to make this your church home. All in the church are urged to call upon our Pastor in cases of special need or whenever counsel or spiritual help is needed. You may call the Church Office (773-5423) or the Parsonage (772-1044) at any time.

Permit me to take this opportunity to say how good it is to be in your church once again...sharing in your experience of worship. My wife and I have nothing but the warmest memories of our time together with you last year. It pleases us that you wanted us to return. Your minister and I have been close friends over the year. We studied together at Boston University. And like you, I hold John Neff in high esteem and great affection.

I look forward to the moments of fellowship following the service when we may get acquainted exchange greetings...personal way.