

PASTORAL PRAYER: December 30, 1990

LORD, the spirit of this Holy Season is all too short!

We have our "high moments" of celebration...and then - it's all over!

The gifts are quickly unwrapped.

The family meals are over.

The last flash bulb is burned out.

The friends depart.

Soon the tree gets taken down and thrown out.

The children and the students prepare to head back to school.

The decorations are packed away 'till next year.

Suddenly - Christmas is over for another year.

WE MIX the secular customs with our spiritual celebrations. And when the customs of Christmas are over...the spirit seems to die and those warm feelings of Christmas are forgotten.

LORD...WE need to find ways to keep Christmas alive all year long.

Help us to continue expressing our good wishes to other.

And from the custom of wishing others a "Merry Christmas", help us to continue wishing others joy and peace and good health.

From the Christmas custom of sending beautiful cards with a message of hope and cheer, help us to continue to send greetings of good will.

Help us to continue, too, in the giving of gifts...the giving or ourselves to others. For it is in giving that we ourselves are blessed...it is in giving that we show interest in others.

LORD...this morning we would remember how the shepherds went away from the manger glorifying and praising You for all they had heard and seen...we remember how the Wise Men returned home by "Another way". Help us to do the same.

We have reason to praise You every day of the year, because You were born to live forever.

We give you thanks, O God, that you are not only in the past, but also in the future. May we remember this as we prepare to walk into a New Year...to know that even there You are present to lead us and to guide us.

All this we now ask and offer in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ. Our Lord, Master and Saviour.

ANTHEM: "Susanni"

"A little child is y born, Eia, eia, susanni, susanni, susanni. And he sprang out of Jesse's thorn, Alleluya, alleluya, to save all us that were forlorn.

Now Jesus is the childes name, Eia, eia, susanni, susanni, susanni. And Mary mild she is his dame; Alleluya, alleluya, and so our sorrow is turned to game.

ANTHEM: "A Christmas Carol"

"Little star of Bethlehem! Do we see thee now? Do we see thee shining o'er the tall trees? Little Child of Bethlehem! Do we hear Thee in our hearts? Hear the angels singing: Peace on earth, goodwill to men! Noel!

O'er the cradle of a King. Hear the angels sing. In excelsis gloria, gloria! From His Father's home on high, Lo! for us He came to die. Hear the angels sing: Venite adoremus Dominum".

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The organ postlude - a final offering of our praise to God - is played after the Benediction. Time permitting, we invite you to share in the beauty of it.

FOR THOSE WHO SING

New members are always welcome to audition to sing in the Choir. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

NO MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Neither the "Hounds of Heaven" nor the Aldersgate Class will be meeting this week due to New Year's. Both study / growth groups will resume their regular weekly schedule next week.

A CONFIRMATION CLASS FOR TEENAGERS

A Confirmation Class for teenagers will begin meeting on Sunday morning, January 6th, at ten o'clock, in the fourth floor library room. Mr. Clarke will be leading it.

PLEDGE CARDS STILL COMING IN

The 1991 Financial Canvass continues with 183 pledges totalling \$127,264. gratefully received. The goal is 225 pledges and \$140,000. We can reach it if all members do their share. Be a "committed member" and turn in your pledge card today, if you have not already done so. We'd like to complete it today!

1991 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The boxes of offering envelopes for 1991 will be available next Sunday. You'll find them on a table in the rear of the Russell Room. Please pick up the box that has your name on it and save the church some postage expense.

TRUSTEE MEETING

The Trustees will meet on Monday evening, January 7th, at 6 pm in the Ryan Barry Room.

PARK AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

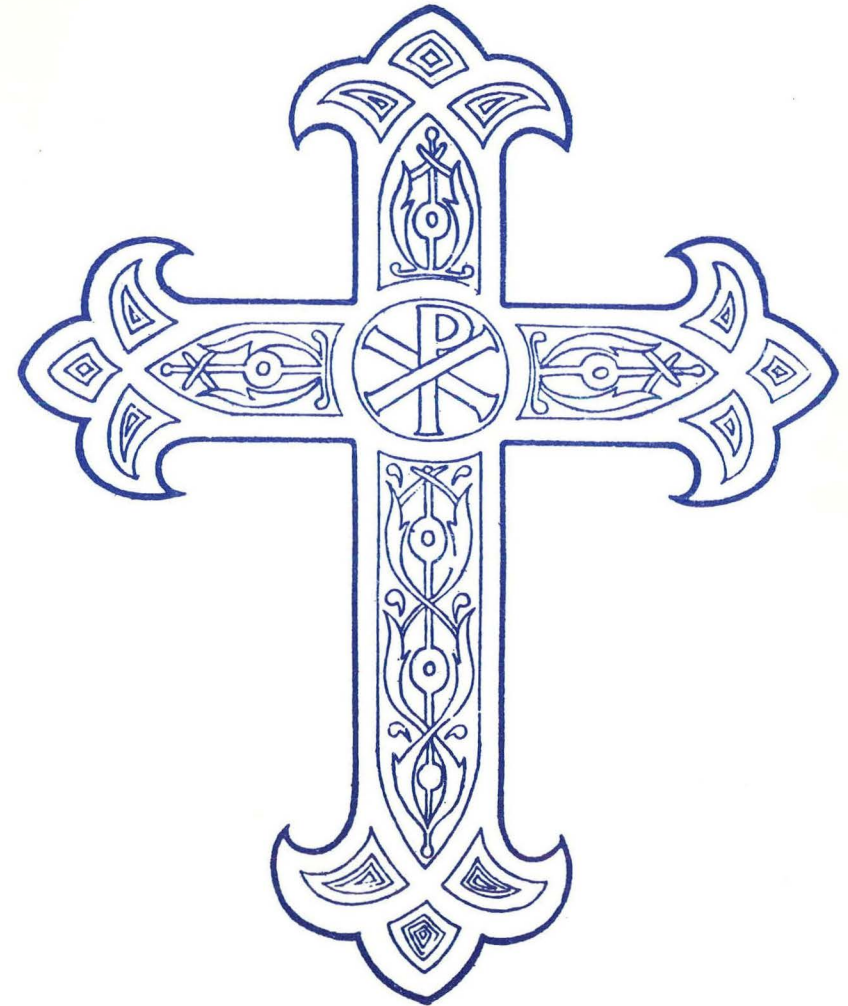
106 East 86th Street
New York, N.Y. 10028
AT 9-6997

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Philip A. C. Clarke Minister
Mr. Lyndon Woodside Organist-Choir Director
Mr. Jack Schmidt Business Manager
Mrs. Judy Ferland Secretary
Mrs. Judith Keisman Day School Director
Mr. Roberto Meriles Custodian
Mr. Gabriel Salcedo Custodian

GENERAL OFFICERS

Lay Members, Annual Conference Mr. Edward J. Brown
Mr. Duane Thompson
President, Board of Trustees Mr. William Bell
Chairman, Administrative Council Mr. George Leopold
Chairman, Education Committee Mr. Duane Thompson
Chairman, Finance Committee Ms. Jacqueline Paige
Co-Chairmen, Membership Committee Ms. Dee Schafffield
Chairman, Outreach Committee Mr. Richmond Bates
Chairman, Worship Committee Mr. Michael Schafffield
Chairman, Day School Mrs. Anette Lewis
Chairman, Ushers Ms. Effie French
Mr. Len Williams
Superintendent, Sunday School Mrs. Brenda Thompson



PARK AVENUE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 30, 1990

ORDER OF WORSHIP

11 A. M.

ORGAN "In Dulci Jubilo" Bach
CALL TO WORSHIP
HYMN NO. 384 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
PRAYER OF CONFESSION (seated)
God of our life, we confess in company with one another and before Thee, that we are wayward and less than faithful servants. We have loved things and used people; remembered slights and forgotten kindnesses; called on Thee in trouble and ignored Thee at other times; praised Thee in word and failed Thee in deed; allowed the present age to mould us and left untapped the power of the age to come. Deal with us after Thy mercy for we are sorry for our sins and earnestly seek Thy pardon through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
SILENT MEDITATION - WORDS OF ASSURANCE - LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSIVE READING "Canticle of Hope" No. 734
GLORIA PATRI No. 71
AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 885

ANTHEM "Susanni" German Traditional
SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9: 2, 9: 6 - 7 Page 593
Romans 8: 31 - 39 Page 983
PASTORAL PRAYER
PARISH CONCERNS
ANTHEM "A Christmas Carol" Ives
PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY
HYMN NO. 209 "Blessed Be the God of Israel"
SERMON "What Are We To Say of These Things?" Mr. Halcott
HYMN NO. 157 "Jesus Shall Reign"
BENEDICTION
ORGAN "Rejoice, Now Ye Christmas" Bach

*** Interval for Ushering

TODAY'S PREACHER

We welcome Mr. Kenneth E. Halcott to our pulpit this morning. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, a member of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Ken is a long time friend and worshipper with us. We're delighted to have him bringing the sermon today and are grateful for his help once again.

LAY READER

We welcome Ann Cavallaro to the lectern today. A native of Beaumont, Texas, Ann studied at both Lamar University and the University of Texas and pursues her interest in human behavior through her career in marketing communications and international trade. A ready assistant in Church activities, Ann is a member of the "Hounds" on Tuesday evenings.

GREETERS AND USHERS

The greeters today are Eric de Freitas and Anna Delson. The ushers are Bruce and Donna Evans, George Crawford, Fran Ellison, Effie French and Nancy Nyquist.

AN INVITATION

Coffee and tea will be served in the Russell Room following the service. Members and friends are invited to share in these moments of warmth made possible for us today by Bruce and Donna Evans, Don Douglass and Judy Pena.

CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERY CARE

Sessions of Church School for children are offered Sunday mornings from ten-thirty to twelve. Nursery care for infants is available on the fourth floor.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

The Adult Bible Class meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Duane Thompson is leading the class in a study of I Corinthians. All are welcome.