

GREETING TO THE CHILDREN: Sunday, March 25, 1990

INTRODUCTION

Friends...for a number of years now we have been "building a tradition" here in our Church by inviting the boys and girls of our Sunday to join us down here for a few minutes at the beginning of our worship...always on the fourth Sunday of the month....as well as during Advent and Palm Sunday.

It's good to have you down here with us. I understand that you'll be singing in the service on Palm Sunday...two weeks from today. Be sure to bring your little "love loaf" with you and we'll be giving each of you a palm leaf for Palm Sunday.

NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday - April 1st - we're going to try something a bit different...something new.

We're going to have a HYMN "SING ALONG"....on the third floor near the piano before church. Mr. and Mrs. Klein are going to lead it. And it's for young and old alike to come together before church and sing some of their all time hymn favorites.

That's next Sunday...and this is no April Fool...come early... around 10:30 and bring mother and dad with you. If it works, we'll plan to do it again on the first Sunday of May and in June.

A GUEST TODAY

We have a guest with us today. It's our District Superintendent, Rev. Randy Day...and I hope you'll make him feel at home. Go up to him at the coffee hour and tell him how pleased you are he's here.

He's here to help us celebrate our church's 153rd BIRTHDAY. Can you believe that this church got started 153 years ago this month...way back there in 1837.

Mr. Day's sermon title is "GOD OF THE AGES" and there's a hymn in our hymnal that has the same title. It's number 698 and I'd like us to sing that hymn together here this morning.

I'm going to tell you a little bit about this hymn. First-off, it happens to be one of my favorites. You know when I was in 5th grade my parents made me take piano lessons. I remember learning how to play two hymns...this one and "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today". I especially liked this one because I could really play the sound of the trumpets at the beginning of this hymn. Secondly, in the old hymnal this was the last hymn. If ever I got caught and had to think of a hymn to sing I knew I could always say "turn to the last hymn"...it's a winner!

Let's ask Mr. Woodside to play it through and let's turn to it... number 698 and sing the first two verses. Listen for those trumpets and sing out.

PASTORAL PRAYER: March 25, 1990

LORD....we are people who like to celebrate -

YOU have made us to sing and to laugh and to dance.

We have our rituals...our anniversaries and birthdays,
our festivals, homecomings, high "Holy Days"

We often remember YOU, LORD, as the ONE who came among us one day long ago at a wedding party in Cana of Galilee and turned the water of life into wine. Bring new richness and deep joy into our worship and fellowship on this our Anniversary Sunday in March of 1990.

GUIDE US, LORD, in finding ways to celebrate our past,
to rejoice in Your hope,
to be glad and thankful in Your Presence.

SOMETIMES, LORD, we find ourselves forgetting about those who have lived before us. We forget about the many "good works" of those who have prayed here in these pews in other years, who have sung hymns of great faith before we were born, before some of us came to this city.

SOMETIMES we easily commit the sin of assuming that everything begins with us.

We drink from wells we did not dig;
We eat food from farmlands which we did not build;
We worship in Churches we did not construct.
We enjoy freedoms we did not earn.

Make us grateful for the heritage of faith that is ours. Help us to feel our oneness with those of other years who have worshipped here, found meaning for their lives, given of themselves generously. Help us to "pass this on to others" through our talents and gifts.

O GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, we look ahead with joy and enthusiasm to the days of this new Spring season, to the adventures and tasks of helping to build Your Kingdom of Kindness in the days ahead.

Bless us in that which we attempt to do here in Your name. Renew that right spirit within us. Deepen our commitment to Christ.

Give us the wisdom to see those wonderful ties of love and faith that can unite us all...whatever our race, background, culture may be. Lengthen our reach and broaden our sympathies. And help us to love this city that we call home...even as Jesus loved Jerusalem - the city of His fathers - for it is in His name we pray.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, March 25, 1990

I. GREETING / VISITORS

- A. We take this moment to welcome the visitors...delighted.... make yourselves known to us. Fill. Sign one of...join us downstairs...worship with us on other Sundays. Come and work with us, too...in the programs.
- B. We've been doing the "Lord's Work" here at this busy corner... Roots deep in soil. We minister in the name of Christ and it is in His loving spirit...
- C. Membership Committee reminds you to wear your tag...name tag. Make two new friends here this morning. And remember, "there are no strangers here...only friends who have not yet met".

II. PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns are listed in the bulletin. Review them in these moments noting (1) the scheduled meetings for this week, (2) study and spiritual growth opportunities..."Hounds" and the Aldersgate Class, and (3) Fellowship activities coming along...fellowship gatherings...
- B. Note, too, the pamphlet in today's bulletin which, with the strong encouragement of our Trustees, is lifting up wills and estate planning with the Church in mind. We do this once a year... usually at the time of our Annual Meeting and Church Birthday. More on this at the annual meeting this afternoon. We like to plant the seed in your thinking and hope it may someday bear fruit. Additional material and pamphlets are downstairs. Look them over.
- C. Yes, today's is our 153rd Birthday and here to help us celebrate it is our dear friend, colleague, District Superintendent, Rev. R. Randy Day...whose term as our DS will soon be ending. Randy is here to preach and I'll be presiding at the annual meeting at one o'clock. Good to have him back with us again. One of our strong leaders of the UM Church, locally and nationally. Came close to being elected a bishop two summers ago.
Good man to know!

III. ALSO

- A. Lunch will be a part of the coffee hour...provide you with some "staying power" for the meeting. Stay for it...exciting....and interesting.
- B. "Sing Along"...next Sunday....10:30 to 10:55. Gary and Julie Klein. Children included....third floor.

(over)

IV. OFFERING

- A. Again today we are lifting up the ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING appeal. Envelopes are in the bulletin...we had them in last Sunday and close to \$100 was received. Our goal is \$300... envelopes will be "in" again next Sunday as well as our Easter flower envelope

- B. Jesus said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive". In this spirit, let us worship God with our morning offering.