

GREETING We greet the visitors in the congregation this morning. We're delighted to have you with us and we hope that the opportunity will be ours to greet you in a more personal way...either at the door following the service, or downstairs in the Community Room where tea and coffee will be served.

Be free in the sharing of your name with us. Sign one of our Guest Books. Join us on other Sundays in worship and fellowship. You worship in a church that has been ministering to the needs of people in this city since 1837; it is a house of worship for all people and all who come here and pray with us in a spirit of love are most welcome here in this House of God.

CONCERNS You would want to know that our dear friend and member of many years, John McKeand, passed away on Friday morning in Boulevard Hospital, Queens, in his 83rd year. For John, it was a triumphant going home, for he had "fought the good fight, kept the faith, finished the course". Our thoughts and prayers reach out to include his two daughters, and a son, and their children.

The funeral service will be this evening at seven o'clock, Woodside Memorial Chapel, Woodside. I have room for two or three in my car in the event any of our "old-timers" wish to drive over to Queens with me.

Please note that the Education Committee has an important meeting set for Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm in the Community Room.

Also, note the word regarding the Financial Canvass. To date, the results have been very good. 119 pledges and over \$39,000. We still anticipate hearing from about 60 more people and hopefully they will take us up to our goal of \$49,500. If you haven't turned in your pledge of financial support for 1978, may we encourage you to do so today. Follow-up letters will go out this week and a second meeting of our canvassers is "in the works" for next Sunday.

Any news items for the December issue of "A Word In Edgeways" should be in to the Church office by Monday or Tuesday of this week.

TODAYS' PREACHER We welcome Reverend James Nicholls, Director of the Yorkville Counseling Center, to our pulpit today. This is not Jim's first visit to our church. You may recall that he was with us back in January of last Winter. He is a friend, and I am grateful to him for coming to us today. (Brochure...available)

JESUS SAID: "It is more blessed to give than to receive". In this spirit, let us worship God with our morning offering.

ROSE ON THE ALTAR In honor of Sheldon Stewart Browne, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Browne, born October 20. Warmest wishes to Bettie and St. Clair.

Lord, that we are alive,
that the ground is firm beneath our feet,
that rest can compensate for toil,
that food is plentiful and delicious to the taste,
that earth might be fair and all her sons be blest,

Your Name be praised!

Lord, we thank You for dear friends who really care,
for ways that open when doors seem shut,
for the reality of forgiveness - human and divine,
for major purposes that make life's minor
irritations bearable,
for the assurance that more things are wrought by
prayer than this world dreams.

We thank You for Yourself - the ground and the source of every good - and
especially for Your love that no resistance can diminish, no need
exhaust. With all your people in every corner of creation, we count it
joy to praise Your name and to give You our thanks for all our blessings.

Lord, whose will it is that people should pray and not faint, hear us as we
pray for those who are finding life to be hard. Make us sensitive to
those who feel pain, who know stress and strain and pressure and deep
anguish, knowing that it is a matter of grace and not merit that we
ourselves are not there.

We pray for ourselves, ashamed that we have done so little with so much,
yet struggling to offer You a more obedient service.

Give us keener self-understanding - as keen as we can bear
at one sitting, lest we think of ourselves more highly, or
lowly than we ought to think.

Give us a sense of what is truly important in life, lest we
squander our time and waste our energies and our money on
the tinsel of life.

Give us a due regard for our unity with all people lest we
think in small patterns and forget that You are the Lord of
all the earth, the Lord of all people.

We ask for ourselves the most meaningful Advent Season we have ever had.

Drive us to our knees. To the Book. To an awareness of sin.
To a careful searching of our virtues. To a serious examina-
tion of words and terms so glibly sung or spoken. And grant that
when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have
something more to show for our much running about than tired
feet, wrapped presents, grumpy spirits, and regrets for cards
not sent. In the spirit of Christ, we ask this.