

PASTORAL PRAYER: November 25, 1984

Lord, there are times when all that keeps our faith afloat is a sense of gratitude toward Thee.

The headlines of the day beat us down, and temptation within us and wrong-doing around us lay us open to paralyzing doubt. Then we recall Thy gifts of nature and of grace, and in that recalling, we find the power and perspective to go on.

We thank thee for reason and affection; for our unity with everything that lives and breathes; for friendships of long standing that multiply our joys and temper our disappointments.

We thank Thee most that we live in dialogue with Thee; that we have proved prayer real and known the strength of supporting love in our own private seasons of doubt and discouragement.

It is good that men should praise Thy name, O Lord, and we would do it now. Move us to speak the thanks we feel, and forgive us our much complaining.

Hear us now, O Lord, as we pray for this city and its many needs and its many peoples - pray for it, not from without, as though its dust and noise and pain were somehow beneath us or beyond us, but from within, as those who know all too well its hardness, its cruelty, its frustrations, its squeeze and take to heart its fading hopes as well as its great potential.

Grant that fences that keep potential friends apart may be fashioned into bridges so that the hurts of any may be the concerns of all.

Help us to look for thee and to find thee in the life we live and the work we do as we go about our way.

Our prayers are faint, O God, because our faith is weak. Strengthen us in the same lest our religion be in word and form alone, and not in power and inner peace.

Let that mind be in which was in our Saviour, Jesus, that relationships may matter more to us than possessions, and the Kingdom of God count for more than the kingdoms of this world.

Give us sight to see our sins, the grace to confess them; the will to forsake them, and the wisdom to learn from them....that we may grow into the likeness of Christ.

ANTHEM: "O Salutaris Hostia"

"O saving health of hosts on high, who doth guard the gate of heaven, enemies wage war against us. We pray Thee, O Lord, send Thine aid".

ANTHEM: "Serenity"

"O, Sabbath rest of Galilee! O, calm of hills above, where Jesus knelt to share with Thee the silence of eternity interpreted by love.

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."

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 Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm in the downstairs Choir Room.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND HOLIDAY PECANS

Three Sundays now remain to place your order for Christmas cards from our card selection as well as to purchase your own one pound bag of delicious holiday pecans.

TODAY'S PREACHER

We welcome Kenneth Halcott to our pulpit this morning. Kenneth - an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church - worships with us regularly. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Ken is Director of Health, Safety and Security for the SCM Corporation here in the city.

FINANCIAL CANVASS

To date, 153 pledges totalling \$70,647 have been gratefully received toward our 1985 pledge goal of \$96,000 and 250 pledges.

If you have not yet responded with your 1985 pledge, may we encourage you to do so as soon as possible, hopefully today.

"HOUNDS OF HEAVEN"

This is the name of the Tuesday evening study group that meets at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The Meaning of Prayer is the text book for the course. George Leopold is leader. New members are always welcome.

NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN

New members will be received into the fellowship of our Church on Sunday, December 9th. Persons interested in strengthening a tie with the Church are invited to be in touch with Mr. Clarke.

"Conversations in Membership" will be held on Sunday evening, December 2nd, at 6 pm. Sponsored by the Membership Committee, it's a fine way learn about this Church.

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

Those wishing to give to the fund for Christmas decorations are invited to use the envelope which will be in the pews beginning next Sunday or call the church office. The amount received determines what we are able to do in the way of Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and throughout the building during the Christmas Season.

OUR THANKS

Many, many thanks to all who worked very hard and in so many different ways to make the recent All Church Fair a great success. Thank you!

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

One of the highlights of the Adult Fellowship program for the year is the Annual Progressive Dinner of early December which helps to launch the Christmas Season in our Church.

It's scheduled for this coming Saturday evening, December 1st.

A warm and "fun" evening has been arranged by our Adult Fellowship leaders. The cost is \$8.00 which needs to be received today in order to firm up the list of those planning to attend. Space is limited so we advise you to get your name on the list today if you have not yet already done so.

See Margie Troike or Christie Anderson at today's coffee hour in order to have the time and the various apartment addresses of those who are serving as hosts for this delightful "three course" meal.

SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT

November 25, 1984

ORDER OF WORSHIP

11 A. M.

ORGAN "Rhosymedre" Vaughan Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN NO. 297 "The Church's One Foundation"

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

PSALTER "Behold I Create" No. 643

GLORIA PATRI No. 792

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 740

ANTHEM "O Salutaris Hostia" de la Rue

SCRIPTURE Romans 8: 18 - 25 Page 983

Revelation 21: 1 - 4 Page 1085

PASTORAL PRAYER

PARISH CONCERNS

ANTHEM "Serenity" Ives

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING WITH THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN NO. 513 "We Plow the Fields"

SERMON "The Vision Glorious" Mr. Halcott

HYMN NO. 470 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

BENEDICTION

ORGAN "Hyfrydol" Vaughan Williams

*** Interval for Ushering

LAY READER

We welcome Doreen Morales to the Lectern today. A graduate of William Jewell College of Liberty, Missouri, Doreen is a teacher at the Buckley School, where she serves as President of the school faculty. Here in the church she serves on the Administrative Council and coordinates the Annual Picnic.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar today are in loving memory of husband, father and grandfather Frederick Keller, given by his devoted family.

USHERS

The ushers today are Wayne Atwell, Russell Flagg, Effie French, Frank High, Rod Hoover, David Kilbride and Alan Register.

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 warm fellowship made possible for us today by Peggy Carey, Gwendolyn Cranston, Dorothy Davis, Jennifer Davis, Fran Ellison and Josefina Garcia.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY CARE

Sessions of Church School for children are offered Sunday mornings from eleven to twelve. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is also available.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

An Adult Bible Class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. The Book of Acts is currently being studied. Marianne Carlin is teacher.

