

TORRE GRAY UNITED CHURCH DEC 14 1958 11 AM

# Holy Communion, 3rd Sunday in Advent

I want to do two things this morning:

I want to say a word on the United College affair, I want to bring a Communion message. These seem unrelated. It may be they are not.

and the epistle ~~scripture reading~~ for 3rd Sunday in Advent may be the key to how they go together. 1 Cor 4 ... Ministry of God's salvation we have to one another.

The compulsion to say something on the College affair is overwhelming.

because the note of artificiality in all the relationships of the Church is rising all the time the question is ignored in the pulpit. This is part of the tragedy. So long as the pulpit appears to pretend that the College crisis doesn't exist there grows a great gulf between the ministry and reality.

Hill the clamour Why doesn't the Church say something raises its own profound problem.

Who is the Church? every member. there has been no great lack of acting and uttering by Church ~~members~~

But who is to speak in the name of the Church.. You? I?

Straw vote of all the members, the majority of the members present in any Court of the Church?

What is the WORD to be spoken in the name of the Body of Christ?

Who decides that? ~~Who is?~~ How do you decide?.. by an every member vote? *Who can presume to speak for Christ?*

In spite of this the compulsion to speak is overwhelming.

How can you not mention that is on your mind and heart from morning to night?

I have never known anything like it for totally occupying the energies of the clergy.

the same is true of the flock.

But what can be said? What can be done. ?

Let's remember first that much is being said and done. Every time a Churchman raises his voice or enters the fray... the Church is doing something.

But this also must be said. The Church is not being the Church, supremely or fully when it is being indignant.

The Church is being the Church supremely and fully only when it is suffering.

and The Church is not being the Church at all when it escapes suffering.

What has the Body of Christ been doing? It has been suffering.

What else can it do when its fellows in Christ have entered upon a righteous war?

Our fellows in Christ will not be reconciled, because they have entered upon a righteous war. They risk reputation and health and grasp destruction itself, because in their human way they believe themselves to be defending righteousness.

This is the depth of the bitterness, mistrust and the recriminations.. the cost is terrible to behold. In hours alone

Careers are destroyed .. health threatened

precious friendships cruelly torn to shreds

A noble institution, enjoying the peculiar love of its students and graduates, is disintegrating

I have been sounding ~~all~~ this was happening between THE

between US

Between fellows in Christ.

It is too soon to unwind the tangled threads, or plot the tortured march of this great Canadian tragedy.

Can the Body of Christ do but SUFFER?  
It hasn't the luxury of escaping into indifference, indignation,  
imputing motives false labeling.

This I take to be a fitting introduction Communion meditation on the  
3rd Sunday of Advent 1958.

We are Celebrating that our Salvation is accomplished by ~~XXXXX~~ Suffering.  
By God's Suffering.

And we celebrate how this is accomplished.. by our partaking of that  
Suffering.

The Reading and Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent is about the Ministry  
The Ministry we have to one another  
Stewards of the Mysteries of God.

One of the profound insights of the Reformation into the Gospel of Jesus  
Christ was that we are all priests to one another.

Every believer is his neighbors priest.

We minister the reality of God's Salvation to one another.

*we are stewards of the mystery & love!*

We celebrate this in our practice of passing the elements to each other.

Each member is the means whereby the real presence of Christ  
is mediated to his neighbor

What is this reality,, unless you partake of it?

.. This person to whom you pass the elements.. you are his priest  
as you suffer for his sin. . This person who passes  
you the elements is your priest, because he suffers for  
your ~~sin~~ sin.

The members of the Body of Christ cannot escape suffering  
Nor is it just that they have suffering thrust upon them  
but that they take up suffering for the sin of the world..

Because this is Love's role

Love has made us His.

The Sacrament of the Lord's supper is a celebration that we are  
Stewards of the Mysteries of God.

This is the Word of God to the reluctant Sufferers of the earth.