

Ministers
Rev. Art Griffin
Rev. Jack Shaver

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
320 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, B. C. V6A 1P4

10:30 A. M.

"COME IN TO WORSHIP"

The Praise of God

The Call to Worship

Hymn: 35 (44) "Ye servants of God,"

Prayer of Invocation

Responsive Reading: Psalm 23 "The Lord Our Shepherd"
(from "Psalms for Modern Man")

The Gloria

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

The Word of God

The Reading from Scripture: Jeremiah 23: 1 - 6
Mark 6: 30 - 34

Hymn: 133 (662) "O God, our help in ages past"

Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: 253 (336) "Be thou my vision,"

Sermon: Mr. David Vipond

Our Response to God's Word

Prayer

The Offering: Prayer, Organ Voluntary and Doxology

Announcements: The Life and Work of The Church

Hymn: 306 (306) "Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go"

The Benediction and Choral Amen

Organ Chimes and Postlude

"GO OUT TO SERVE"

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WELCOME -- We extend a sincere welcome to all who are visiting with us today. An informal Coffee Hour will be held immediately after both Services, and all are invited.

"A Smile costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever."

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 1976

CHAPEL SERVICE

An informal Service will be held in the Chapel tonight at 7:00 p.m. **It will be led by David Hodge.** The theme will be "Closeness To God In Nature's Wild Places". Part of the Service will take the form of a discussion and everyone is invited to share a personal experience.

THE HEREM BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless us, and keep us:

the Lord make His face shine upon us,

and be gracious unto us:

the Lord lift up His countenance upon us,

and give us peace.

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FIRST CHURCH BROADCAST will be heard from the radio station, CKWX (1130 KC), throughout the summer months. Tonight's Service will be conducted by Rev. Jack Shaver whose sermon topic will be "Crisis In Faith".

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NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 25th, we will have as guest speaker at the Morning Service Mr. Eric Stephanson, student minister at Ryerson United Church. The Chapel Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. The Evening Broadcast Service will be conducted by Mr. John Tupper.

STAFF SCHEDULE: Rev. Art Griffin and Mr. Bill Hennessy are currently on holidays; Lynn Phipps has just returned from hers. Jan Sansalone is on leave of absence. Mrs. Ann Farrell of the office staff has also just returned from holidays.

Organist Harry Stothers is away for the rest of July. Joan Birchall is supplying today.

Organist
Harry Stothers

7:00 P. M.

Yet O Lord

what we know of you, reached us
through this human story,

what we know of you came because
the God of History confronted people in the
disordering of the human story,

We need a glimpse of your mighty acts
in the midst of our tortuous history

We need to see the indications of your handwork
in our life & times,

We need to know our part in the hastening
of your Kingdom

We need to hear your word to the spirit
of our age.

Now as our Saviour has taught us

We say

Our Father - who art in heaven

Hallowed by thy name

Thy Kingdom come

Thy Will be done ~~on earth~~ as it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread and

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but

Deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom

the power

and the glory

For ever

Amen

3:30

① Read Psalm 42

The psalmist is lamenting his downcast of soul
 He is having trouble hoping in God
 all this in the middle of worship
 all this when he goes with the multitude to keep
 HOLY DAY.

One thing about having faith trouble —
 we've got lots of excellent company —
 going back for a long time.

When DOUBTS trouble us
 it MAY be that they should
 it may be that what is being presented —
 what is being heard
 or what we have been trusting
 is unworthy — or even Fake

It may be — GOD IS SHAKING OUR FALSE GODS
 from their pedestals.

Doubt often arises from the fact that we are taking
 something else with greater seriousness &
 — that we are being gripped by a higher faith
 more wholesome

more whole • more inclusive

— Some integrity deeps within us is calling into
 question a less adequate integration.

— an integration that leaves lots of people out

— an integration that is small & narrow.

When your God is too small — the nudging of
 the Living God prompts your heart to doubt

Your faith Crisis may be caused by God
 Doubt can be the road to a higher faith —

The only trouble is — it isn't
 necessarily so —

We'll talk some more about it after
 the Solo : — Bob & Charles Version of — There is a Better
 Spiritual

Talk 2

5

7

In the third chapter of John's Gospel some of the Best known lines of the Bible appear — We will start reading at John 3:16 and read on to include a familiar theme of this ~~gospel~~ ^{gospel} ~~chapter~~ ^{chapter} —

One of the reasons we get to feel that we are without light is that we prefer darkness.

Real Scripture: —

It certainly ~~agrees~~ ^{find} that it ~~to be a~~ ^{is} wide-spread experience today — to be in a crisis of faith —

+ to find it hard to believe

+ to find it hard to know what to believe

+ to feel that God isn't very real

that all we hear promised about him turns out to be false promises

+ to feel that prayer doesn't do any good

reach anywhere

+ to find it ~~an empty meaningless exercise~~ ^{the universe is empty & meaningless}

Faith can seem in specially bad crises

when we're told God is Love!

Underneath are the everlast-
arms

The WORD became flesh —

Extremely good news — if you could only believe it —

What's More — They tell us Faith is a gift. you have only to accept it —

Faith — works of Holy Spirit —

you have only to let him do his work

IF that's true — Some of our devastating doubt is due to the fact that we are rejecting a gift.

That we don't want it.

That we prefer darkness to light

That we look at God's Salvation and
call it something else

That God's Salvation ~~is~~ is right in front of us - see it as foolishness
or a stumbling block

While I was in a parish in Winnipeg I came to have a
~~rewarding relationship with~~ ~~a few~~ ~~members of the group~~ ~~of an A.A. Group~~

a few ~~members~~ ^{members of the group} met regularly with ~~some~~ ~~clergy~~ to do God-Talk

Sometimes members brought other members to see me.

One night a close friend brought a potting member to see me with hot drink

Spilled coffee, lots of cream - New Reg in the house

Testing + Testing

Familiar Biblical ~~text~~ text + Thought
God supposed to love me - why isn't he helping me?

- I just can't believe in him

I pray & I pray - nothing is better
I know faith is a gift

needs must tell Jesus I don't want it -
Marriage in trouble

God was a loving God - Go back to a mess
for marriage

Would he want you to go back to a Redeemed
Marriage?

one given to you
you don't believe

~~He can't~~ redeem your Marriage?
restore you to a redeemed marriage

I guess, Not in don't believe he can
I don't want it

We Sorted & Sorted { Through The Bluff | clear where he was rejecting Gift
SOME OF OUR FAITH TROUBLE

3rd Talk

Friday 11.6.30 9

No person is a private believer
anytime the True God becomes real to us
it is because he has been mediated to us by another

If we are in faith trouble to ~~be~~
we are likely also in community trouble
we are having trouble getting churched
The groups we test don't seem to feed us.

Our third Scripture lesson is found in the 15th
chapter of Romans - verses 1-13

I selected this passage because it
throws indirect light on the work of the community
in which believers are created
as the text verse ~~puts it~~ ^{community which} provides the joy and
peace of believing

Our Churching crises - like our faith crises
can be for good or Bad reasons

People say Church let them down { I think
- full of hypocrites } That's a
- community betrayed them - not perfect } Bad reason
for having
a Churching
crisis

Perfect Community -
even if it were possible - wouldn't
mediate anything by itself
+ Community there at itself perfect
would have an evil mediation

INDEED What is supposed to be a community of Faith
can be a poor mediator of that Faith -
Bad - not ~~being~~ imperfect

42 The community which is capable of providing the ^{joy + Peace + Liberty} ~~it~~ bear a peculiar mark — 10

A community ~~which~~ will maintain the Faith, unless ~~it~~ members bear sin of one another

— the reproaches of those who reproached you fall on me

Romans Reading

all the sentences flow along in conventional sequence
Except that sentence —

comes out of no where ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~literal~~ ^{literal} ~~sentence~~ ^{sentence} is ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~Ps 69~~ ^{Ps 69}
meaning - doesn't ~~come~~ ^{come} ~~out of~~ ^{out of} ~~Psalm 69~~ ^{Psalm 69} —
~~the~~ ^{the} ~~meaning~~ ^{meaning} in Ps. twist the meaning it has ~~that~~ ^{that} in the psalm

God's own sentence Repeat

you find a community — where even a little bit
of that is going on —
where even you do a little bit of that.
you are among the people of God
you are in the midst of means whereby GOD
makes himself known

Sometimes we miss out on the People of God —
because we hold a mistaken notion of what the
people of God are like — must be a people without
Romans Passage ~~where~~ — Mark of the people of God
— People - broken way — bearing another's sin

It is what God has called his people to be —
That makes them the people of God

That's how come we can be members one of another —
— because of Jesus who is able to present us to
himself without spot or wrinkle or any such
thing —

We can
be the
people that
provide the
joy + peace
of liberty